

Wake Up America Seminars  
P O Box 273  
Bellbrook, OH 45305  
[www.wake-up.org](http://www.wake-up.org)  
(937) 848-3322

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Webinar Series #300:15

Today's Study: "Prophecy 12"

Hello! I'm Larry Wilson.

This is Webinar #15 discussing my book, "Jesus' Final Victory."

Today's presentation concerns "Prophecy 12."

Originally, I was going to present some thoughts on Prophecy 12 and 13 today, but Prophecy 12 is so important that I have decided to address Prophecy 13 next month.

In the interest of saving some time, I assume that you are acquainted with Prophecy 12. If you do not have a copy of my book, you can download it [www.wake-up.org](http://www.wake-up.org) (click on the red button titled Topical Studies).

My motto for this webinar series is simple:

"The more you know about apocalyptic prophecy, the more you will benefit from it."

Last month, I took some time to discuss the Great Tribulation and the judgment of the living because we know that God is [both deliberate and purposeful in everything He does](#). . . . Given His plans and actions, we have to ask what does God want to accomplish and/or prove by conducting the judgment of the living as outlined in Revelation's story?

Four possible answers:

1. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that honest hearted people in every culture and religion [will ignore](#) their social setting (family, friends, colleagues, etc.) and live by faith when living by faith is required.
2. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that people who have hearts of love, regardless of culture or religion, will do right when they know what is right. Because of love, they will make whatever sacrifice is required.
3. God wants to demonstrate to the angels that there are people in all cultures and religions who love truth and they will embrace greater truth -- specifically His Sabbath -- once religious traditions and paradigms are eliminated.
4. God wants to prove to the angels that there are people in every culture and religion who listen to the Holy Spirit and they will do what the Spirit commands -- regardless of the punishment that will come from religious leaders and governments.

Why does God want to show these four things to the angels?

God will demonstrate to the angels that His judgment of the dead is no different [in substance](#) than His judgment of the living.

In other words, those declared righteous during the judgment of the dead would

do the same things as those receiving the seal of God during the Great Tribulation if they had been alive.

Why does God want the angels to see this?

God wants the angels to see **the worthiness** of those who will serve Him as priests and kings.

When sin's drama is over, God will change the order of the universe. A time is coming when ex-sinners will be glorified and exalted **above the angels!**

Why?

Going forward through the corridor of endless eternity, and the creation of life on planets and galaxies that do not yet exist, God knows that ex-sinners from Earth will be His best insurance for preventing **a third drama** with sin.

Consider a few reasons:

1. Ex-sinners know from **experience** the pain, sorrow, suffering and death that sin produces.
2. Ex-sinners know from **experience** that sinners are self-seeking, they are predators and the innocent and naive are not safe when sinners are around.
3. Ex-sinners know from **experience** that sin perverts everything that God has made.
4. Ex-sinners know from **experience** the price and struggle for redemption and they know that the price cannot be paid again. **Jesus will not die a second time to save a sinner.**

Therefore, when God exalts ex-sinners over the angels as kings and priests, He does this for **the future benefit** of the universe. Ex-sinners have a working knowledge of good and evil. "Been there, done that, and want nothing further to do with it."

Last month, we also discussed how and why Lucifer will be permitted to physically appear on Earth.

When the gospel stalls, the devil will be released from the spirit realm. His physical presence will be "a game changer." During the fifth trumpet, the devil's demons will eliminate a large number of infidels through torture.

Then, during the sixth trumpet, the devil will abolish the religions and governments of the world.

Why?

God will permit the devil to abolish the governments and religions of the world so that nothing might stand in the way to prevent a person from being saved.

When the religions of the world are abolished, the wicked will not be able to cling to their culture, traditions or "old time religion."

When the governments of the world are abolished, all existing networks of power, wealth and money will be useless. The old order is gone. New authority, new power and deadly force will take the place of previous governments.

Interesting times are ahead!

Prophecy 12 is located in Rev 14:6-15:6

Prophecy 12 contains three events:

1. Three messages from God
2. The close of mercy
3. The wicked condemned

At the present time, millions of Christians believe a Great Tribulation is coming, but few understand the Great Tribulation is designed to be a contest for souls -- a contest that can be described as [salvation through faith in Christ](#) versus [survival through submission to the authorities on Earth](#).

We have studied the seven trumpets and you know that after the first four trumpets occur, all survivors will question whether life can continue. The world will be turned upside down and inside out by God's deadly judgments. Out of Earth's smoldering ruins, a crisis government, called "Babylon" in the book of Revelation, will quickly arise with a foolish plan to appease God's wrath.

Babylon's solution for appeasing God's wrath will be legislation and punishment.

The leaders of Babylon will conclude that God's wrath has broken out because mankind was disrespectful to Him and degenerate in behavior.

The solution will be respect for God and reformation.

The leaders of Babylon will direct the bewildered nations of the world to enact and enforce a series of "sin-less" laws in an effort to appease God's wrath -- but this action will be the polar opposite of what God wants!

Yes, God requires respect, but not in the way that Babylon demands.

At first, the authorities of Babylon will defy the testimony of the 144,000 without realizing what they are doing. A great conflict will arise between the demands of Babylon and the demands of the eternal gospel (presented by the 144,000) and polar opposites will produce [a valley of decision](#) for everyone.

If a person obeys God's demands, he will be [punished by civil](#) authorities. If a person obeys the laws of Babylon, he will be [destroyed by Jesus](#) during the seven last plagues.

You can see this will be a "no win" situation -- the Bible calls it [a time of wrath](#)." It is coming and it will catch most Christians by surprise.

Dan 8:19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later [in the time of wrath](#), because the vision concerns [the appointed time of the end](#)."

Hebrew couplet:

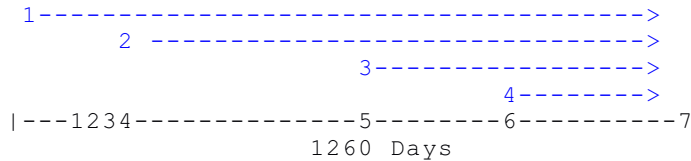
Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, [O you gates](#); lift them up, [you ancient doors](#), that the King of glory may come in.

The time of wrath is the time of the end.

Regardless of familial ties, language, culture, education, religion, or race, four simple, easy to understand messages from God will separate the whole world into two groups of people -- sheep and goats.

(Note: The fourth message, given during the sixth trumpet will complete the separation of sheep and goats. Prophecy 14.)

Consider the timing of each message during the seven trumpets:



Four messages are represented in Revelation as being carried by angels dispatched from God's throne.

Four messengers are represented as flying in midair so that the whole world (down below) can hear what they have to say.

The imagery of flying angels is used to indicate **global broadcasting** -- each message will be heard by every nation, tribe, language and people -- not by electronic means, but by divine means -- the 144,000.

Consider this:

The Bible teaches that God loves every human being the same. In terms of love, God does not show favoritism. (Acts 10:34)

Because God loves everyone the same, the Bible indicates that a time is coming when the whole world will hear the eternal gospel:

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom **will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations**, and then the end will come."

Why does God insist on presenting the eternal gospel to the people of Earth during the Great Tribulation?

God wants to see who will obey the eternal gospel and who will not!

Therefore, a testing time is coming upon the whole world.

Rev 3:10 "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you ~~from~~ during **the hour of trial** that is going to come upon the whole world **to test** those who live on the Earth."

Rev 14:6 says the first angel's message (the eternal gospel) will go "to **every** nation, tribe, language and people."

Presently, there are 7+ billion people on Earth.

The Bible indicates 25% (1.75+ billion) will perish during the first four trumpets.

Since God will empower 144,000 prophets to speak on His behalf, what will be the ratio?

7 billion - 1.75 billion = 5.25 billion people

5.25 billion / 144,000 = ~36,500 per prophet.

36,500 people / 1,260 days = ~29 people per day -- per prophet.

About 29 people per day!

I believe the global earthquake that marks the beginning of the seven trumpets will create geographical "cells" and each cell will have a prophet.

In other words, the global earthquake and first four trumpets will put the world in a "lock down" condition. Travel between geographical cells would be very difficult.

Generally speaking, where you are on the day when the global earthquake occurs is where you are going to remain.

If each of God's prophets presents the gospel to an average of 29 people per day, everyone on Earth will be able to hear the gospel in his own language and make an informed decision by the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation.

Logistically, things may prove to be different than the scenario that I have presented, but I want you to see that [the eternal gospel](#) can go throughout the world in a short period of time without TV or radio (There won't be much/if any electricity after the power grid is destroyed by the global earthquake and the first four trumpets.)

This is why God uses the imagery of angels flying in midair to deliver four messages to the people of Earth. Broadcasting the gospel to the far corners of Earth will be the work of God, not man.

Prophecy 12 contains three messages:

1. A demand
2. An inflammatory insult
3. A threat

The demand:

14:6 "Then I saw another angel flying in [midair](#), and he had the [eternal gospel](#) to proclaim to those who live on the earth-  
[to every nation, tribe, language and people.](#)"

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "[Fear God](#) and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. [Worship him](#) who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Whether you realize it or not, this verse contains the eternal gospel.

In a sentence the eternal gospel is this: [All created beings are required to worship Jesus Christ, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.](#)

This gospel existed before anything was created! This gospel will never end. More shortly.....

This demand from Heaven will be shocking to most of the people on Earth. It will be delivered as [a demand](#) and most of the world will find it extremely offensive.

There will be an enormous amount of ridicule, defiance and scorn.

The 144,000 will boldly declare that everyone is required to worship the Creator of Heaven and Earth by resting on Saturday, the seventh day of the week, the day which the Creator made holy at the time of Creation!

Gen 2:2 "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and [made it holy](#), because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

When you realize that most of the people on Earth do not understand the importance of God's Sabbath or even worse, the fact that Jesus Christ is Almighty

God, you can understand the scorn, defiance and ridicule which the 144,000 will face.

Consider this:

~75% of the world is not Christian.

~85% of the world denies that Jesus is Almighty God!

~95% of the world rejects the sacredness of the Sabbath which Jesus created!

Do you see a big problem ahead?

The eternal gospel will be proclaimed with power -- beginning with [Day One](#) of the Great Tribulation -- when the censer is cast down.

The demand to worship the Creator on His Sabbath day will not end until the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation occurs.

When the 1,260th day arrives, every person will have made a decision.

Going forward 64 days from [Day One](#) (the global earthquake), Babylon will rise from the sea and when it does, a second message will join with the first message.

The second message will be highly inflammatory! It will be regarded an insult by the leaders of Babylon and the clergy of the world.

Bad-Bad-Bad

The second angel's message declare that Babylon's means and objectives are false and insulting to the Creator.

The 144,000 will tell the world that Babylon's demands are blasphemous. Who determines how God should be worshiped? [Man or God](#)?

Whose worship pleased God? Cain or Abel?

Of course, the second message will make the religious and political leaders of Babylon furious with the 144,000 and all who embrace it. Thus, persecution will begin for the 144,000 and all who observe God's Sabbath rest.

About two years later....The devil will physically appear on Earth (at the fifth trumpet) and the 144,000 will then give the third angel's message.

They will warn the world, Rev 14:9 ". . . .If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented [with burning sulfur](#) in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."

Not a casual threat!

In fact, God promises awful pain for those worshipping the beast. This is astonishing!

Why does a God of love do this? Is He protecting His ego? Not at all.

The punishment for worshipping Lucifer is commensurate with the crime. It is treason.

Think about this:

When the clearest evidences of God's will have been provided....

When the impress and ministry of the Holy Spirit has been fully rejected....

If the torture of demons (fifth trumpet) has not brought a person to repentance....

What else can God do for a rebellious person?

A God of love is determined to wipe out sin and those who cling to it because sin is harmful to everyone and everything in God's house.

Therefore, if a person insists on rebellion, after God has done everything possible to bring Him to repentance, there is nothing more that God can do except to deal with open defiance which is treason against the highest authority in the universe.

I hope you can see that the three messages in Prophecy 12 are thoughtfully and deliberately designed.

Human beings have the power of choice and each person will have to make a decision as to whom he will worship during the Great Tribulation.

By the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation, everyone on Earth will either worship the Lamb or "the lamb-like" beast.

A day is coming when there will be no infidels, no wiggle room and no fence straddling.

Those surrendering to the demands of [the eternal gospel](#) will have their faith tested by the authorities and after passing the test of faith, they will have their carnal natures removed.

Then, they will receive the seal of the living God!

(Point made last month: God will use earthly authorities -- who do not know what they are doing -- [to test the faith](#) of His saints so that He can seal them!)

Those refusing to worship the Creator and obey His commandments will knowingly and intellectually reject the clearest evidences of truth.

Those rejecting the words of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit will defy the eternal gospel. They will blaspheme the Holy Spirit with their rebellion and commit the unpardonable sin.

When the sixth trumpet occurs, the wicked will have no choice but to obey the dictates of Lucifer or be killed.

Thus, "the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world" will test the living to see who will live by faith (obey God) and who will save themselves through works, obeying the devil.

By the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation, every person will have reached a decision.

When this day is reached, Jesus will conduct a special service in Heaven.

He will close the door to salvation.

This scene is described in Revelation 14:13-20. I don't have time to discuss it today, but please read it if you haven't already!

Jesus will terminate 6,000 years of mercy with this benediction: "Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." (Rev 22:11)

A few extra thoughts. . . .

The ministry of the 144,000 during the Great Tribulation is represented in Prophecy 12 as three glorious angels orbiting Earth because **the eternal gospel** will be broadcast to everyone through their lips.

Three orbiting angels (flying mid-air) indicate global coverage. Because the 144,000 will be located in every quadrant (or geographic cell) of the world on Day One, the delivery of the eternal gospel will be quickly heard throughout the world.

To level the playing field, the eternal gospel will not be presented by a religious body or organization.

The 144,000 will consist of honest-hearted men and women coming from all walks, cultures and religious systems.

Once these people meet with Jesus (as Paul did on the road to Damascus, as Ezekiel and John did when they received the little books), these people will become believers in Christ and they will be given the words that Jesus wants them to speak to their own people.

Because Jesus intends to save as many people as possible during the Great Tribulation, Jesus will have **brothers speaking to brothers**.

What could be more effective than having an honest hearted, Holy Spirit filled Muslim who has met with Jesus and believes in Jesus -- delivering the very words that Jesus gave him to speak?

An empowered and converted Muslim will know the language, culture and religious beliefs of his brothers.

Who could be more effective at winning Muslims over to the eternal gospel of Jesus?

Who could be more effective than a honest hearted, Holy Spirit filled Catholic speaking the words that Jesus gave him to speak to fellow Catholics?

Who could be more effective than a converted, Holy Spirit filled Hindu speaking the words that Jesus gave him?

In terms of saving the largest number of people possible, what could be more effective than 144,000 men and women speaking to their own brothers and sisters?

Jew to Jew  
Muslim to Muslim  
Catholic to Catholic  
Protestant to Protestant  
Atheist to Atheist  
Heathen to Heathen  
Eastern Mystic to Eastern Mystic



## The Revealing of Jesus Christ in Heaven

[Note: The following explanation on the origin of sin is to be understood as my "best guess." I have merged numerous Bible facts and some parallels from Christ's ministry on Earth to tell a story about Lucifer's eviction from Heaven. The purpose of this explanation on the origin of sin is to demonstrate how the eternal gospel could have been used to separate the angels in Heaven and of course, how it will also be used to separate the people of Earth during the Great Tribulation.]

There was a time in Heaven when the angels poorly understood the idea that Michael was God "in the feathers." The same was true when Jesus was on Earth. Most Jews did not understand that Jesus was God "in the flesh."

The idea that God lives as one of His creation is hard to understand.

The angels call Jesus by the name, Michael. He was Michael the archangel to the angels long before mankind called Him Jesus.

The angels were delighted to worship Michael whenever and wherever they saw Him.

Physically speaking, Michael looked like an ordinary angel. Even though He was the archangel, there was nothing special about His appearance. (The same was true when Jesus lived on Earth, He had no beauty or majesty in His appearance. Isaiah 53:2)

Michael mingled among the angels in Heaven with the same humility that He later displayed among men on Earth. In both cases, one could not tell or even guess by looking at Michael/Jesus that He was in fact, the Creator of the universe.

Even though the name Michael means "One who is like God," the angels did not question the origin of Michael or the natural order of their wonderful life at first. They were happy and safe. Heaven was harmonious and the angels were completely engaged with learning and doing new things every day.

God's universe is huge and full of ceaseless wonders. To make matters even better, Michael conducted classes in different parts of Heaven from time to time and sitting at His feet was a very special treat for the angels.

Michael was their favorite teacher although Lucifer was deeply loved and respected as a substitute teacher. Lucifer served as the leader of the angels when Michael was elsewhere, but Lucifer was not the archangel. For a long time, Lucifer was very close to Michael.

Michael spent a lot of personal time with Him and Lucifer was given many responsibilities and natural gifts. Lucifer was Heaven's most beautiful and extraordinary angel.

Lucifer held the highest position given to any created being.

As the second covering cherub, he stood on the left side of God's throne whenever convocations with the Father were held whereas Michael stood at the right hand of the Father.

The angels worshiped the Father on a regular basis and they also worshiped Michael wherever and whenever they saw Him. The angels always looked forward to worshiping in the presence of the Father who lives in unapproachable light.

The angels knew the Father was the Supreme Ruler, the Most High God of the universe. His gifts to the angels constantly renewed their love and adoration for Him.

The angels also worshiped Michael whenever they saw Him because they understood by faith that He was their Creator, He had created them. They also understood by faith that Michael was the source and sustainer of life within each angel.

In Him, the angels and human beings have life and their being. (Acts 17:28)

Even though the angels believed these things about Michael, they **had no idea** how His creative powers worked.

Adam and Eve did not see Michael create the Earth because they were created last, on the sixth day of the week. In fact, Adam did not see Jesus create Eve because Jesus put Adam into a deep sleep!

Similarly, the angels did not watch Jesus create the universe. Jesus created them **after** He created the physical universe.

This assertion is important to this story because the angels **did not witness** Michael exercising His awesome creative powers before Lucifer fell.

The angels were told that Michael created them, but they embraced this truth and worshiped Michael **on the basis of faith alone**.

The angels did not see the creative powers of Michael demonstrated in the same way that all of Creation Week was hidden from human view.

As we will see, there is a reason for this!

Over time, Lucifer became jealous of Michael. His jealousy began when he coveted the higher position' of the other covering cherub.

The angels worshiped Michael, but they **did not** worship Lucifer. Michael could enter into the unapproachable light that surrounds the Father and Lucifer **could not**.

You may think it odd that Michael looked like a very ordinary angel when Lucifer did not. The problem is that fallen nature worships external beauty whereas the unfallen angels worshiped internal beauty.

Lucifer was created as a model of perfection -- inside and outside; he was more beautiful than any of the other angels and eventually, he allowed his beauty to become a problem.

Over time, Lucifer became jealous of Michael. Lucifer's jealousy began with self-promotion and self-seeking. He wanted more. He wanted worship.

Because he was far more beautiful than Michael and he knew it, Lucifer came to think more of himself than he did of Michael. Subsequently, he came to covet the worship and adoration that was given to Michael.

Lucifer nursed his envy for Michael for a long time before he made a fatal choice.

One day, Lucifer found a clever way to elevate himself over Michael. He began by using his glorious beauty and exalted position as a covering cherub to "equalize" himself with Michael.

Lucifer only did this among his closest friends. Lucifer cleverly argued that in order "to be fair," the angels "really should" worship **both** covering cherubs.

Lucifer's friends did not suspicion evil or malice. They had sinless natures and they loved Lucifer and deeply respected his leadership. As a result, Lucifer's closest friends did not see anything wrong with worshipping at the feet of -- the

other covering cherub.'

Remember, the angels were humble, trusting and unsuspecting of Lucifer.

However, there was something about this that did not "seem right" to many of the angels.

As time went by, Lucifer gained more sympathizers because he promoted those who worshiped him to higher positions and with this maneuver (e.g., something in exchange for something), the concept of [politics](#) began -- in Heaven.

Soon, two parties of angels existed in Heaven -- there were angels loyal to Lucifer "one covering cherub" and angels loyal to Michael the "other covering cherub."

Happiness and innocence began to evaporate.

Tensions displaced happiness. Attitudes and allegiances began to go in different directions and this was very unsettling.

As this drama unfolded, Michael was no longer "the archangel" for some angels. Their archangel was Lucifer.

Lucifer was careful to avoid open conflict with Michael. Rather, Lucifer preferred to present his arguments in secret meetings, using the excuse that his hushed endeavor was all about fairness.

One of his best arguments was this: "How can it be fair of God to permit the angels to worship one covering cherub -- who glory was obviously less -- and not the other?"

Unfortunately, many angels sided with Lucifer and concluded that in fact, God was unfair!

Lucifer's followers defended their decision to worship Lucifer saying that he was just as worthy and important as Michael because he was a covering cherub, "the other chief prince!"

As disaffection for the Father and Michael grew, the devil twisted everything that Michael did and said. Lucifer put righteousness in the worst possible light. He made Michael's actions appear self-serving and harmful to the angels' welfare -- although nothing harmful ever happened.

As his hatred for Christ grew, Lucifer skillfully created a number of questions and doubts about God's government which God had not specifically addressed.

(Lucifer discovered there was nothing better for creating suspicion and doubt toward God than creating arguments that cannot be answered. The devil also discovered that with a little creativity, the righteousness of God can be easily maligned so that God appears to be evil and unjust, a divine tyrant.)

In due time, Lucifer caused one-third of the angels to believe that (a) the Father was not a God of love and (b) that humble Michael was not the Creator of the universe.

Remember, the angels had not seen Michael create anything, so Lucifer's arguments were able to gain traction with some of the angels (his sympathizers). Lucifer's campaign against Michael went on for a long time -- (maybe, seven thousand years?)

Lucifer undermined the joy of Heaven. Of course, Lucifer's complaints with God and Michael became widely known. The Father knew everything that was going on

all along. He wisely allowed Lucifer to go about his evil ways because God had given Lucifer and the angels the power of choice and the freedom to exercise their choice.

Time after time, the Holy Spirit tried to convict Lucifer and his followers of wrong doing, but they would not listen.

On numerous occasions, the Father and Michael spoke with Lucifer, they addressed his concerns -- one by one-- but Lucifer could not relent. His envy, his vanity, his pursuit of power and worship was more important than life itself! He could not relent and be embarrassed before his followers throughout eternity.

Lucifer his followers mistook the Father's redemptive efforts and patience as tolerance and indecisiveness.

They also took His threat of destruction as evidence of [divine tyranny](#).

Lucifer told his followers, "You can see for yourselves that God cannot tolerate the possibility of competition. He is not a God of love. You have heard Him say that it is His way or sudden death."

Lucifer used this propaganda to accelerate his wicked agenda and his followers became bold in their rebellion.

Lucifer and his followers were able to shut off the influence of the Holy Spirit through persistent rebellion.

The Holy Spirit could not remove the roots of bitterness that lived within Lucifer or his followers.

When the Father saw that one third of His house had joined Lucifer's rebellion, He said to Michael, "It is finished."

[[Background Note](#): Before the angels were created, the Father created a law that requires [immediate death](#) for anyone who sins. The angels knew about this law.

This law was also imposed on Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:17), but no one knew this law had been suspended. The Father chose to suspend this law until the knowledge of good and evil should mature.

Because the Father foreknew that two drama's with sin would occur (one in Heaven and one on Earth), He determined that after sin is eliminated and the knowledge of good and evil is mature, this law will be enforced throughout eternity.

In the future, if someone should willfully ignore the testimony of ex-sinners and the urging of the Holy Spirit, that defiant sinner will be destroyed on the day that he sins.

If God's sudden death law should be implemented at any time in the future, God's children will not question the righteousness of this law because going forward, everyone will understand what sin is and does.

Sin, with its ugly painful curse, will not permeate God's universe again. There will be no salvation for any future sinner after the current drama with sin ends.

Back to the story of Lucifer's fall....]

## The Demand

Lucifer's controversy with Christ came to a head at a regularly scheduled convocation.

As usual, Lucifer called the meeting to order. The angels gathered around God's awesome throne and typically, before the Father's glorious presence filled the temple, Michael arrived and took His position on "the right side" of the throne.

When Michael took His position on that day, one-third of Heaven's angels refused to bow down before Him. This had never happened before. Suddenly, the Father's glorious presence filled the temple. His presence was unusually brilliant and of course, the service abruptly stopped.

The Father spoke with authority. He commanded everyone to stand up and carefully consider His words.

The Father acknowledged the ongoing conflict between Lucifer and Michael. He described Lucifer's jealousy and his subsequent campaign to gain the adoration and worship of the angels. His report was presented with embarrassing clarity.

The Father disclosed a number of incidents and secret conversations that were not common knowledge. He also exposed many lies which Lucifer made up. In short, the Father laid bare the jealousy of Lucifer and his hatred for Michael as only God can do.

Then, the Father said, "Let everyone hear and understand **this eternal truth:** Fear Michael who, like myself, is Almighty God. Give Michael the honor and glory that you give me.

Worship Michael your Creator as you worship me, because **He made you and the Heavens and all that is in them.** Because of Him, you live and have your being.

The hour of judgment has come. Bow down and worship Him right now or you will be destroyed!"

Millions and millions of angels were caught by surprise. A clear line had been drawn, a decisive moment of truth confronted them. Their faith in Michael was put to the test was He a deity like the Father, the Creator of the universe or was He not?

Each angel was forced to make a decision that would affect his eternal destiny.

There was a sound of movement as two-thirds of the angels bowed down before Michael, but Lucifer, sensing this would be his last defense, broke the awkward silence with a commanding voice.

He spoke adamantly and with authority, "I will not worship Michael." Then, he pointed to his many followers who were still standing. He said, "We do not think the Father is fair.

You claim to be a God of love, you say we have the power of choice, but you give us no choice!

Your law says "obey and live, disobey and die!" How loving is this? Is it fair that the Father requires the angels to worship and honor Michael while ignoring the exalted position of the other covering cherub? You say that Michael is the Creator, but we have not seen any evidence of His creative powers! Many of us think that your government is based on arbitrary whim and it is secured through your mighty power.

You and your Tattletale, Michael, have conspired to keep us as your slaves and if we rebel, you threaten to destroy us. This is not right, this is not fair, this is not love and we will not bow down and worship Michael, your hand servant."

Lucifer's defiant response to the Father was shocking. The tension and silence that followed was unbearable. Heaven had never experienced anything like this! Lucifer and his followers (several million angels) remained standing. One-third of the angels had disobeyed the eternal gospel. Worse, they had disobeyed a direct order! They had been warned of the consequences of rebellion and still, they openly defied the clearest evidences of the Father's will. They refused to bow down before Michael. They refused to worship a God who lived in the form of an angel. Suddenly there was a frightening sound like the sizzle and searing crackle of nearby lightning.

A tremendous burst of light blinded the angels' eyes and a deafening crash of thunder fell upon the assembly. The ground trembled and a great crevice opened up. Lucifer and his angels were swept into the crevice and in a matter of seconds, it closed up.

Lucifer and his angels were cast out of Heaven at the speed of lightning. The drama was so overwhelming and it happened so fast that the remaining angels remained prostrate on their faces until the Father spoke again.

He said kindly, "My children, today your faith in Christ has saved you. Stand up and behold your Creator!"

This dramatic event defined Michael in a new way that the angels had not seen before. Prior to Lucifer's expulsion, they were innocent and naive.

They lived in a sinless universe and had sinless natures. The angels naturally loved one another and serving the Father, the Archangel and Lucifer in whatever ways they asked was a special delight. Angels had not seen sin or rebellion, so they could not understand the malignant effects that sin produces. They did not fully understand good and evil. But their naiveté vanished. Their knowledge of good and evil came into focus that very day.

#### Creation Observed

After Lucifer and his followers were expelled from Heaven, the angels witnessed for the first time, the awesome creative power of Michael.

They watched in awe as He created the Earth and all that is in it. "For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

After watching the creation of Earth and the creation of millions of life forms that would occupy Earth in six -- twenty-four hour days -- the angels worshiped Michael as though He was a new deity in Heaven! It was so exciting.

Job 38:7 ". . . the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy!"

Suddenly, the Michael they had known for thousands of years was so much more than the humble appearing archangel. He was astonishingly beautiful from within, His creative powers have no equal, He is awesome in all that He does and His wisdom is beyond comprehension!

Later on, when the heavenly angels saw Jesus die on Calvary, they gained another perspective on the depth of Michael's love that words cannot convey. They saw the heart of God! They saw infinite love for sinners hanging on a cross between two thieves.

At Calvary, their faith was confirmed. Michael/Jesus is not an angel. He is not a man.

Jesus is The Alpha and The Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, He is an Almighty God, just like the Father.

Prior to coming to Earth, Jesus lived as an angel so that He could show the angels how God would live if He were an angel. Jesus also lived as an angel so that He could tell the Father about the perspectives of the angels. What amazing love!

One last point. The angels did not see Michael create the Earth and all that is in it [until their faith in Him as Creator](#) had been tested.

In other words, after Lucifer and his angels were cast out of Heaven the angels saw [Michael create for the first time](#).

Similarly, the [saints will not see Jesus exercise His creative powers until their faith in Him](#) has been tested. At the end of the 1,000 years, Jesus will destroy Lucifer and all the wicked.

After destroying the curse of sin and death itself, the saints will watch as Jesus once again exercises His amazing power. Jesus will create a new Heaven and a new Earth!

And this time . . . the morning stars and the saints will sing together and all of God's children will shout for joy!

Summarizing: Whether in Heaven or on Earth, the creative powers of Michael/Jesus and other facts about Him have been hidden for a time. Why? Because the Father predetermined before life was created that faith in Jesus Christ is and forever will be -- the key to eternal life.

#### [Lucifer Permitted to Live](#)

But wait, there's more!

There was a time when the angels did not fully understand who Michael was. This knowledge was not revealed to them [until their faith in Him](#) could be tested.

Moreover, prior to the existence of sin, the angels could not know what sin was all about.

This means the angels could not know the fullness of God's love for His creatures until they saw Him resolve the sin problem!

A bittersweet thing has happened because of sin.

The Father permitted Lucifer and his angels to live after their expulsion from Heaven so that the nature, scope, and complexity of sin might mature and the universe could clearly behold and understand the consequences of sin.

The Father's decision to allow sin to mature has produced an enormous amount of questioning, pain, sorrow and death, but this outcome has been offset by two wonderful developments: First, God wants everyone to know that He has given His subjects the power of choice. In fact, sin and rebellion only exists because Lucifer and his followers could chose to sin and rebel.

At the end of the 1,000 years, Jesus will destroy Lucifer and his followers not because He dislikes them or they offended Him.

In fact, Jesus loves the wicked angels but He must destroy Lucifer and his followers because [sin turns sinners into predators](#).

Consider the process: Lucifer became jealous of Jesus, he wanted the adoration and worship that belonged to Michael.

Lucifer was moved by envy and jealousy to seek sympathizers. He [preyed](#) upon innocent angels with lies and propaganda.

After he was kicked out of Heaven, Lucifer [preyed](#) upon Eve and Adam. Cain was motivated by jealousy to [prey](#) upon Abel.

Throughout the ages, history proves the wicked are [predators](#), they always end up preying upon the weak, the innocent and the righteous. This is why God destroyed the world with a flood in Noah's day.

This is why God burned Sodom and Gomorrah to the ground. Given enough time and the right circumstances, [all sinners will exhibit predatory behavior](#). Predatory behavior stems from selfishness and self-seeking is the result of sin.

Predatory behavior occurs because it offers [the shortest path to fulfilling some selfish desire](#) and this natural orientation within fallen man is inescapable.

This is why the removal of the carnal nature -- the sealing -- is so important.

A sinless selfless nature is what sinners need.

A sinless nature [naturally](#) conforms to the two laws of love. Predatory behavior is the result of sin and this is why those who refuse to repent and forsake their sins must be destroyed.

God is willing to give us the strength to subdue our predatory nature if we are willing to confess our weakness and receive His strength.

Eternal salvation is as much about eternal life as it is freedom from the predatory tendencies that comes with the sinful nature.

Every born again believer can taste the joy and peace of eternal life which will come in due time. Strength and grace from God transforms sinners so that they can overcome passion and the power of sin each day! (See Appendix D.)

God also allowed Lucifer and his followers to live for a second reason.

By allowing Lucifer to live and flourish for a time, God chose to use the curse of sin to reveal the depth of His love for His creation.

Because of sin, many aspects about the Father and His government have been revealed that would have otherwise remained obscure for billions of years!

But the final and best reason that the Father permitted Lucifer and his followers to live is this:

The Father has wisely permitted sin to exist in the universe for a period of time so that once it is destroyed, sin will never permeate the universe again.

Once the drama of sin is completed, everyone in the universe will have the knowledge of good and evil and all future creations will have a perfect history of sin to study.

No one who has been freed from sin's curse will ever want a repetition of sin's curse.



Our Heavenly Father predetermined long ago that the capstone for resolving the sin problem was a full disclosure of the power and heart of our Creator, Jesus Christ!

The sin problem started when Lucifer (a created being) wanted to be an equal or better than Jesus (the Creator). Of course, when Lucifer became jealous he did not know everything about Jesus.

Lucifer did not see Jesus create life. Lucifer thought that Jesus was not as beautiful as himself. But Lucifer did not know the power and heart of Jesus. Lucifer could not know that Jesus was "God in the feathers" and this led to his assumption that he, a mere created being, should be respected with the same adoration and worship.

Little did Lucifer realize that the humble, ordinary looking archangel was none less than an Almighty God.

Today, we know much more about Jesus than ever before. The Bible declares that Jesus is the Creator of Heaven and Earth. (Colossians 1:16) He is Almighty God. (Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 1:8, 17,18) And He is the only antidote for sin. (Acts 4:12)

Our humble Creator is the Savior of mankind and a perfect mirror of the Father's character. (John 14:9) It is ironic that Lucifer and his angels were created with sinless natures, yet they chose to rebel.

On the other hand, all of the offspring from Adam and Eve have been born with rebellious natures, but many have chosen to surrender to the Holy Spirit and be saved!

All who obey the Holy Spirit will be saved and soon, the redeemed of Earth will repopulate Heaven! God will restore Heaven to three-thirds again and this time, Heaven will be better than before because one-third of God's house will be conquerors over rebellion!

They lived in sin and overcame it through Christ's power!