

25- THE EMPTY EARTH

Many of the birds and animals such as the dinosaurs are not mentioned in the Bible because they lived and were destroyed before the creation of the first two humans, Adam and Eve. Of course, we need to be vigilant when we view re-created skeletons of some of the creatures in museums and other places that the evolutionist claim roamed this earth. Why? Because we have seen proof that those who want to deny that a Living God created this universe and all things in it, have in the past, taken one or two bones and built an entire skeleton out of manmade materials that they attach to those bones. Just one example is how someone took only the jawbone of an extinct orangutan that was found, built what they imagined was the rest of the body and claimed it was a missing link in the evolution of man. And students today are still taught that such missing links did exist and therefore evolution is a fact! What they are unaware of or what they totally ignore is the fact that before the Lord created Adam and Eve, a world with creatures existed but was totally destroyed when Satan and one third of the created angels revolted and were ejected from the throne room of the Creator of all things. It is our intention to explain that statement in this paper so please continue to read on.

Sometimes, however, we read in the Bible, references to creatures such as the behemoth and are not aware of what we are reading. "15. *See, besides you I made behemoth, that feeds on grass like an ox. 16. Behold the strength is in his loins, and his vigor in the sinews of his belly. 17. He carries his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are like cables. 18. his bones are like tubes of bronze; his frame is like iron rods. 19. He came at the beginning of God's ways, and was made the taskmaster of his fellows; for the produce of the mountains is brought to him, and all wild animals he makes sport."* Job 40:15-19 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

The Bible deals primarily with the history and the future of mankind. There is very little history recorded in the scriptures that describe the earth and its inhabitants before Adam and Eve were created. The original manuscripts that composed the Bible were a divine blueprint. They explained how God will one day live and fellowship with perfect people who will inherit a perfect earth after they are given their perfect, heavenly bodies (Revelation chapters 21 and 22) like the body Jesus Christ had when He was resurrected three days and three nights after His crucifixion. These residents will have chosen to return love to God of their own free will by obeying His call. They pray, repent and confess their sins and while looking in faith to Calvary,

ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross, pay for the sin debt they owe.

Of course, there **are** verses in the Bible that tell us what happened on this earth before man was created. Many of us make the assumption that the events of Genesis 1:1 and the events of Genesis 1:2 happened at the same time. **That could not be true.** We find in the book of Isaiah, chapter 45, verse 18 (printed below), that **God created the earth to be inhabited.** But because the Lord knows all things past, present and future (foreknowledge), He knew Satan and one third of the created angels were going to revolt against His exclusive lordship over all created things and He had no intention of having Adam and Eve and their descendants destroyed.

Satan And His Angels Were Cast Out Of Heaven!

Jesus Christ said to His disciples, " ¹⁶ *He who hears **you** hears **me**, and he who rejects **you** rejects **me**, and he who rejects **me** rejects **him who sent me.**" ¹⁷ *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"* ¹⁸ *And he said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven.**"* Luke 10:16-18 (Revised Standard Version)*

" ⁷ *And there arose a war in the heaven. Michael and his angels went forth to do battle with the Dragon. And the Dragon fought, and his angels. Yet they did not have the power to win out. Neither was there found any longer place for them in the heaven. And the Dragon, the great one, was thrown down once for all, the snake, the ancient snake, the one called the Devil and the Satan, he who deceives the entire inhabited earth. He was thrown into **the earth**, and his angels were thrown down with him."* Revelation 12:7 (Wuest New Testament: An Expanded Translation)

When Lucifer (Satan) and his angels were cast out of the Third Heaven, τρίτος οὐρανός (pronounced tree'-tos oo-ran-os' in English), they came back to the material part of the Lords creation and they took out their wrath on God's perfect, material creation like a spoiled child would go around kicking over the furniture because they cannot have their way. That is why Genesis 1:2 tells us that the earth lay waste and empty for a length of time (measured eternity) after it was damaged. In fact we find that according to Genesis 1:2, it was empty of all apparent life, it lay in darkness (it was not receiving sunlight) and it was covered with water. Personally, we believe that without heat, the water turned into ice. We do not know the time span between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. It could have been a year, it could have been a thousand years, it could have been a million years, or it could have been a billion years or more. Please remember the scriptures tell us that a thousand years is as a day to the Lord (Psalm 90:4; 2nd Peter 3:8).

Probably, the earth had vegetation and many living creatures that lived on this earth prior to **Lucifer's revolt** that we do not have living on this earth today just as we probably had vegetation and living creatures that died during "Noah's Flood" that we do not have living on this earth today.

One of the scriptures that describes Lucifer's revolt is found in Isaiah 14:9-15, ⁹ *Sheol from beneath is moved for thee to meet [thee] at thy coming, stirring up the dead for thee, all the he-goats of the earth; making to rise from their thrones all the kings of the nations.* ¹⁰ *All of them shall answer and say unto thee, Art thou also become powerless as we; art thou become like unto us!* ¹¹ *—Thy pomp is brought down to Sheol, the noise of thy lyres: the maggot is spread under thee, and worms cover thee.* ¹² *How art thou fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning! Thou art cut down to the ground, that didst prostrate the nations!* ¹³ *And thou that didst say in thy heart, I will ascend into the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit upon the mount of assembly, in the recesses of the north;* ¹⁴ *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High:* ¹⁵ *none the less art thou brought down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit." Isaiah 14:9-15 (Darby)*

¹¹ *Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,* ¹² *"Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.* ¹³ *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.* ¹⁴ *"You were the **anointed cherub** who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.* ¹⁵ *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, **Till iniquity was found in you.*** ¹⁶ *"By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; **Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God;** And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.* ¹⁷ *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.* ¹⁸ *"You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.* ¹⁹ *All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You*

have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." Ezekiel 28:11-19 (New King James Version)

"⁵ Now I want to remind you, though you know all these things: The Lord first saved a people out of Egypt and later destroyed those who did not believe; ⁶ and He has kept, with eternal chains in darkness **for the judgment of the great day**, the angels who did not keep their own position but deserted their proper dwelling." Jude 1:5-6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

"⁴ For **if** God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of **Tartarus** and handed them over to be kept for judgment; ⁵ and **if** he did not spare the ancient world, even though he preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, together with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the godless world; ⁶ and **if** he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (to destruction), reducing them to ashes, making them an example for the godless (people) of what is coming; ⁷ and **if** he rescued Lot, a righteous man oppressed by the licentious conduct of unprincipled people ⁸ (for day after day that righteous man living among them was tormented in his righteous soul at the lawless deeds that he saw and heard), ⁹ **then** the Lord knows how to rescue the devout from trial and to **keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment**, ¹⁰ and especially those who follow the flesh with its depraved desire and show contempt for lordship." 2 Peter 2:4-10 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

The Creation

"For this is what the LORD says -- he who created the heavens, he is God (The Hebrew word is pronounced "El-o-heem" in English and is best understood as "The Three Mighty Ones"); he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; **he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited** -- he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:18 New International Version

Genesis 1:2 tells us, however, that the earth became wastes and empties and darkness was upon the face of the deep. "¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Genesis 1:1-3 (King James Version) Isaiah 45:18 we quoted above said that when God created the earth in Genesis 1:1, He created the earth to be inhabited but according to Genesis 1:2 the earth was covered with water and was uninhabitable. Something had happened between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 to cause chaos on this earth.

Lucifer's Rebellion

To understand the event that happened, we must go back to the original creation. Jehovah (The Self-Existent Eternal One) works in an orderly manner. One of the first things God created were angels. They shouted and rejoiced as God completed His creation. *"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" Job 38:4-7 (New International Version)*

Again, " ¹ *In the beginning* אֱלֹהִים (The Hebrew word is pronounced "El-o-heem" in English and is best understood as "The Three Mighty Ones") *created the heaven and the earth.* ² *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of* אֱלֹהִים (The Hebrew word is pronounced "El-o-heem" in English and is best understood as "The Three Mighty Ones") *moved upon the face of the waters.* ³ *And* אֱלֹהִים (The Hebrew word is pronounced "El-o-heem" in English and is best understood as "The Three Mighty Ones") *said, Let there be light: and there was light.*" God has three personalities or three ways of manifesting Himself. In Matthew 3:16 (printed below) we find God is manifested as a spirit (The Holy Spirit), as a material being (The Son) and as intellect or intelligence (The Father). Matthew 3:16 is only one of the scriptures where one or more of the three personalities of the Triune God is mentioned. The Trinity is even taught in the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, those folks who actively teach that there is no Trinity but only Jehovah (please read the paper "Jehovah's Witness" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>). It is impossible for our human minds to completely understand the concept that God is three and yet He is one, but God said it was so and therefore He expects us to accept it through faith. " ¹⁶ *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:* ¹⁷ *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* *Matthew 3:16-17 (King James Version)*

After God completed His creation, He divided the angels into three groups and assigned three archangels to superintend them. Each of the three archangels was given special powers in order to superintend the realm over which they were responsible. Over the material part of His kingdom, He placed the archangel Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12). Over the spiritual phase of His kingdom, He placed the archangel Michael (Jude 1:9). He placed the archangel Gabriel over the intellect of His kingdom (Daniel 8:15-17 & Luke 1:19). After an unknown period of time, Lucifer convinced the angels under his influence to join him in a rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-14). *"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. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. (Ezekiel 28:14-15 (New International Version))*

Again, we find in the book of Isaiah, chapter 45, verse 18 that God created the earth to be inhabited. But after an unknown period of time, Lucifer convinced the angels under his influence to join him in a rebellion against God (Ezekiel 28:14-17). When God drove Lucifer and the rebellious angels from the Third Heaven, they returned to the earth and took out their anger like a spoiled, angry child would run around the house kicking over the furniture. They destroyed the perfect creation of God thinking that they were destroying God's plan to have a perfect people live in a perfect land.

Again, the original manuscripts that composed the Bible are a divine blueprint. They explain how God will one day live and fellowship with perfect people who will inherit a new, perfect earth (Revelation chapters 21 and 22). These residents will have chosen to return love to God of their own free will by obeying His call. They pray, repent and confess their sins and while looking in faith to Calvary, ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay for the sin debt they owe. Lucifer and the rebellious angels under his influence did not destroy God's plan. God's plan will still be fulfilled. ³*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."* Revelation 21:3-4 (New International Version)

Lucifer and the fallen angels became usurpers of the material part of God's kingdom after the rebellion. Lucifer temporarily rules this earth under the permissive will of God. Even Jesus

Christ recognized Lucifer in John 12:31-32, John 14:30-31 and John 16:7-11 as the prince of this world.

"31 Now is the judgment of the world; now will the prince of the world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself." John 12:31-32 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

"³⁰I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." John 14:30-31 (New International Version)

"⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." John 16:7-11 (English Standard Version)

Although Lucifer stands condemned, his momentum will not be slowed down until Christ returns back to this earth at the end of the seven years of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 19:11 through Revelation 20:3) and has Lucifer thrown into ταρταρόω (pronounced tar-tar-o'-o in English). That Greek name for that abyss is found in 2nd Peter 2:4 and was mistranslated "Hell".
"¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended." (Revelation 20:1-3 New International Version)

Lucifer (Satan) will be confined in a bottomless pit or abyss (a pit that has no boundaries and can enlarge itself as more lost people are confined in it in torments) for almost 1,000 years.
"¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time." Revelation 19:1-3 (New International Version)

According to Revelation 19:20, Jesus Christ will first cast the Anti-Christ and the false prophet into the Pool of Fire. At that time, according to the next chapter (Revelation 20:1-3), Lucifer (Satan) will be confined in a bottomless pit or abyss (a pit that can enlarge itself as more lost people are confined in it) for almost 1,000 years in torments. Near the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ on this earth from Jerusalem, Lucifer or Satan will be loosed for a short time and will organize an army of the lost people who will be born during the 1,000 years. His intent will be to attack Jesus Christ who will be occupying and reigning from the city of Jerusalem.

Please notice that there will be so many people who are born during the Millennial reign of Christ who remain lost, that when they are organized into an army by Satan, they will be as numerous as the sand of the seashore. " ⁷ *When the 1,000 years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison* ⁸ *and will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the sea.* ⁹ *They came up over the surface of the earth and surrounded the encampment of the saints, the beloved city. Then fire came down from heaven and consumed them.* ¹⁰ *The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* Revelation 20:7-10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Then, according to Revelation 20:10 Satan will be confined in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. It is important that we recognize that the White Throne Judgment will not take place until after all this happens so, therefore, this will be only the third time someone is sent to Gehenna, the Lake of Fire. Those three, the Antichrist, the False Prophet and Lucifer, will precede the lost and the fallen angels who will still be confined in Tartarus. Those confined in Tartarus must face the White Throne Judgment where each of the lost will find out their punishment, based upon the sins they committed while they were on this earth. That is why we advise those who reject Jesus Christ's offer to pay their sin debt, that they should sin as little as possible since they will pay for each sin, themselves, for eternity!

" ¹⁵ *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* Revelation 20:15 (King James Version)

" ³¹ *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.* Hebrews 10:31 (English Standard Version)

You are welcome to correspond with us.

Robert Tanner, The Living Water group on Face Book