

Before Here Through Eternity

**A Biblical investigation examining our spirit's origin,
purpose and transition in the Cosmic chessboard
conflict between God and Satan**

J. Michael Hargrave

Before Here Through Eternity is about Jesus!

Jesus Christ is God's dynamic affirmative through every negative dimension of life!

This book explains the Bible in terms every seeker and seminary student can understand. Scripture, not religion, defines our origin, purpose and destiny.

Front cover

John Bokenkamp Photography

In Appreciation

To my parents who whispered in God's ear and positioned Deb in my life. For such a time as this, she found and rescued me. We dedicate this book to God, our family, friends, and world-wide church community. May you all grow to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Jesus will walk with you through every season of existence and beyond. My goal in writing this book is for the glory of God, and the building up of God's people. If this book provides peace and brings just one more person to the Lord, God be praised!

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Preface

Chess is a board game for two players that simulates a war between two kingdoms.¹ Most people are not familiar with the game or its strategies. Neither are they aware that all people are engaged in an eternal spiritual chess match between two kingdoms: light and darkness. According to the Bible, humans are spiritual beings on the front lines of the war waged between the Family of God and the forces of Satan. It is a spiritual battle that originated in eternity and was transferred to Earth. On both sides of the Chessboard, Masterpieces line up in opposing armies.

As displayed on the cover of this book Satan, the Red King, expects his Queen, royalty and pawns to serve and sacrifice themselves for him. King Jesus, the White King sacrifices Himself for all who worship Him.

On the Chessboard we have the choice to serve God or Satan. We determine everyday what moves we make. Humans are rarely cognizant of the spiritual conflict surrounding us.

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

Humans are spiritual beings created by God for a purpose. We are His Masterpiece unless we choose to make Satan the Centerpiece of our lives. The History of this epoch contest is examined in Biblical Scriptures throughout eternity, past, present and future. Spoiler Alert: This eternal Chess Match ends in a Checkmate. Select your place on the Chessboard...it's your move! Choose wisely!

¹ Wikipedia

Introduction

“From Here to Eternity” is a 1953 movie about a torrid love affair filmed at the spectacular Halona Beach Cove in Honolulu, Hawaii. The drama unfolds just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Because of the movie’s popularity, the beach is nicknamed, “Eternity Beach”.

Imagine entering a movie theater in the middle of the film. You are confused and frustrated because you missed the backstory of the characters and context. You are unfulfilled at the conclusion vowing to see the movie from the beginning. A large majority of Christians see mankind’s journey on Earth halfway through the movie. They believe humans live and die and then eternity begins after their death. What if you could see the movie from the beginning to the end? Get your ticket, popcorn, and soda because the movie written by and directed by the Family of God is revealed in the Bible and in this book. It is about what happened before, here, and through eternity.

God and Eternity are one and the same. One cannot be defined without the other. Eternity is the story of the timeless existence and interaction of the Family of God. There are three members of the eternal Family of God: The Father, Holy Spirit, and Son. The Family of God is eternal...from everlasting to everlasting. Eternity is part of God’s DNA.

There are three aspects of Eternity: What happened before the creation of the Earth, what transpires here on Earth, and what continues to occur after this planet’s destruction. Eternity has no beginning or finish line. It encompasses the continuous heavenly war in which all creation is engaged. All life composes an orchestral theme with a pre-planned crescendo and finale. The Bible is the revelation of God’s purpose for creation and re-creation.

Before Here Through Eternity

Where do we, as God's creation, fit into eternity? The Family of God knows you as you were, are and will be. You inherited God's DNA. Therefore, eternity doesn't begin after you die on Earth. You are an eternal spirit created in the image of God with a past, present and future existence. The conclusion of this research into God's Word reveals that I was...I am...I will be. God is spirit. We are created in the image of God, spiritual beings fashioned for the purpose of living for and glorifying God.

This book will challenge you to see yourself as God sees you. He knows you as a spiritual personality. God has always known you. Your name and purpose were documented in God's registry of "Who's Who" before you were conceived. If you wish to know who you are as God sees you and what your purpose is, an adventure with Jesus is described here and in the Bible. If you want to know what your life will be like after you die and the functions of your spiritual body described by Jesus, you will find death is simply a transfer and not a finality.

When do we have our entrance and our exit? Scripture reveals both. Religion and science fail to define either. This research examines thirty Biblical references to our entrance supported by ten authors and Jesus Himself. They attest that our spirit is eternal and pre-existed our human experience.

Introduction

Mainstream fundamental religious advocates deny and discredit this evidence based on the condemnation of a 6th century A.D. religious council. Others will claim this content is based on Greek philosophy, Mormonism, Animism, or New Age thinking. Their claim is inaccurate as the Biblical testimony of Job, Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah pre-dates the earliest concepts projected by the Greeks, other cults and religions.

If you are courageous to set aside religious bias created almost fourteen hundred years ago, and seek God's Word for insights, you will discover that you are an important participant in the spiritual battle that has been waged between the Family of God and Satan throughout eternity. You will be able to embrace your purpose and comprehend God's plan. Your love for the Lord will blossom and you will know what really happens to you when you transition from this life. You will discover what God's Word says about:

- Who you are.
- When and where you originated.
- Your purpose on this planet.
- What happens to your spirit when you die.

Before processing this research, ask God to open your heart and mind to His will and Word. If the evidence presented is true and accurate, we will need to re-examine our personal beliefs about God and our eternal identity. The reader is challenged to study scriptural references and conclude if the content is false or true. Read this book with your open Bible. Passages have been included but allow God's Holy Spirit to speak to you and reveal His dynamic message of hope and purpose.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter One



The Cosmic Chess Match

To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, and now and forever. Amen. Jude 25

The King within the Pawn

Eternity

Before Here Through Eternity

Metaphorically, the chessboard is the venue for the continuing struggle between good and evil on Earth as it was in Heaven.

“The history of chess can be traced back nearly 1,500 years to its earliest known predecessor, called chaturanga, in India; its prehistory is the subject of speculation.”²

In the Biblical frame of reference, chess has been ongoing before the earth was created. The Family of God created heavenly beings (angels). A high-ranking Archangel named “Helel” ambitiously demanded to be an equal with his Creator. He rebelled against God and one-third of the angel population allied with him. The prehistory of chess is no longer speculation. This original Chess Match began before time. The struggle initiated in heaven between two kingdoms had a predictable outcome...there was war in heaven...the red Dragon versus God. Revelation 12:7

The Dragon and his demons were ejected from heaven. Earth became the new battlefield. Chaos resulted and the earth was without form and void. Then man and woman entered the chessboard in the Garden of Eden. The dragon serpent won that engagement and mankind and Satan were expelled. The chess match continues today.

This book’s cover exhibits chess pieces from a 1947 Vintage Genuine Kingsway Florentine Replica 11th Century Chess Set. The thirty-two chess pieces are made from the same substance. Sixteen are white, and sixteen are red. The size and details of the pieces project power, identity and purpose. When placed on the chessboard, they become an army representing opposing kingdoms.

² Wikipedia. The History of Chess

The Cosmic Chess Match

The Chess pieces reside in the Chess box arranged in different sized cubicles arranged for specific pieces. The King and Queen's closet is larger than those for smaller pieces. The yellow and brown chessboard covers the boxes.

On the allegorical Chessboard the White King is Jesus and the Red Dragon is King Satan, a.k.a, Lucifer, the serpent, the devil. The chess pieces are the opposing forces aligned in their proper places on the board

Each king on the back row of the board is supported by seven pieces endowed with special abilities: the Queen, Bishops, Knights, and Tower. These major pieces represent the participants in both the heavenly and demonic realms. The row protecting royalty consists of pawns who, in this analogy, characterize humans.

Many readers may be offended by the pawn analogy believing they are "free spirits". Technically, if we have a boss, we are pawns. If we live under government and laws, we are pawns. Jesus instructed his disciples to be "servants of all".
Mark 9:35

Every day we have a choice to be selfless or selfish. What we ultimately choose to do is influenced by spiritual powers. None of us are totally free from temptation. It's ok to be a pawn. Even though a king may subdue a pawn, in the game of chess, a pawn has the capability of subduing a king.

"There are times when a well-placed pawn,
is more powerful than a king."³

³ Castle, Season 4, Episode 12, Dial "M" for Mayor. Written by Christine Boylan.

Before Here Through Eternity

Humans became instrumental pieces in the Chess Match. Symbolically, every day mankind chooses who is greater...God or Satan. History is basically documentation of the fierce physical and spiritual battle that continues upon Earth today. The spiritual warfare is over the hearts and minds of every individual.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 6:12

Satan was accompanied by only one third of the angel corps when they were ejected from heaven. He needed recruits for his army. Humans are his potential soldiers. For God, humans, the pawns, are his family.

It is a rare event when a king willingly dies for a pawn

Both God and the red Dragon choose their Masterpieces, and each piece faces its equivalent foe on the opposite side of the chess board. All the pieces have a purpose. A king can take a pawn. A pawn can capture a king. The unknown factor...the pieces have freedom to choose which kingdom they represent. Imagine a match where the pieces can speak and choose their destiny.

The Chess match begins when a white pawn leaves the safety of his King and advances two squares. A red pawn counter moves, arrogantly confronting the white pawn. "You have two choices: die or join us? If you surrender and enlist in our army, we will throw you a party with real friends!"

The white pawn replies, "Why not? I'm just a pawn. Nobody cares what team I play for."

The Cosmic Chess Match

The Red King shouts to the white pawn, "If you wish to join my army, you must sacrifice something."

"All I have is my uniform, sword, and shield," the pale pawn responds.

The Red King smiles, "Oh, you have something we value more than mere weapons. To join us you must also sell your soul." The pawn hesitantly discards his sword, shield, and self-identity...his self-worth demeaned.

The Red King smirks, "That's the spirit! The pawn reluctantly dresses in the enemy's red uniform and stands in line with the other red pawns. He now faces his home team across the board. He mutters under his breath, "I think I made a huge mistake! I want to go back home!"

A red Bishop overhears the pawn. "You can't go back. You already sold your spirit to Satan. Your duty now is to betray your former friends and king!"

The pawn gasps, "What have I done?"

A red pawn standing next to the sorrowful soldier nudged him: "Eh, we all used to be on the white side, even our Red King! Now we are on the wild side! Luring your former family to defect to our side is easy. Just invite them to our party. We will even throw in a red jersey with their name stitched on the back. Better red than dead!"

Other pieces of the white army move across the board toward the red army and the traitor. One of the white pawns steps beside the wayward traitor in the middle of the chessboard and warns, "You are in danger! Come back!"

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Suddenly, a red Knight's sword strikes the rescuer before he can raise his shield. Stunned, the traitor cries out in anguish: "I have betrayed my King and my friends!" He looks across the square fields and shouts to the white king, "I have sinned, and sold my soul to the enemy. Jesus, forgive me!"

The Red King's eyes glare and his mouth sneer at the pawn. "You can't be saved unless your King is willing to sacrifice himself for you! That is the price for your soul!"

Jesus, the White King replies, "I accept your conditions, and I'll pay the price to ransom this pawn." The Red King smiles. He watches with jubilation as Jesus is sacrificed for the pawn. He shouts, "Checkmate!"

All seems lost!

Who is a white pawn? Me!

This is the symbolism of the Chess Match. There is one main difference between the pieces moved by God and the pieces driven by Helel. The White King sacrifices Himself and dies for all pieces on the chessboard.

The Red King requires that all his pawns, bishops, castles, knights, and Queen sacrifice themselves for him. He survives alone.

While it temporarily seems that the Red King has won this match, the war is not over, only a battle. This contest occurs every day throughout history. Eternity continues as all the chess pieces choose to live for or against Jesus. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit will overcome the Unholy Spirit. The King of creation lives within His pawns.

The Cosmic Chess Match

I am God's Masterpiece

At the beginning of our existence our eternal spirit was first housed in the place of our creation. Like the chess pieces, we possessed individuality and purpose. Eternity for us is what we experienced in the box prior to it being opened before, during and after our spirit was activated on the chessboard.

God knows us and specifies the time and place where we will be born and activated. He commissions us with a purpose. He positions us on the Chessboard of life on Earth at the precise time we are needed to prove that God is greater than evil. We are given distinct abilities and free-will to choose which King we will serve. We have the freedom to surrender our allegiance to God, and sell out to the Devil's army, or remain faithful to our Creator.

When our role during the Chess match is complete, we are removed from the chessboard of this life and returned to two separate destinations in the Chess box. The chess pieces loyal to the Red King will be transferred to Hades. The chess pieces loyal to the White King will transition to Heaven. After we leave the board, the Cosmic Chess match continues until Jesus' return with the masterpieces who were faithful during their deployment, joined with those currently on the chessboard.

We are important, key members of God's family, not just here on Earth and not just temporarily, but throughout eternity. This timeless passage does not begin after we leave the chessboard. Eternity has always existed. As Jude so aptly defined, eternity is "before all time, and now and forever."

Eternity's DNA

A considerable majority of Christians believe eternity begins and continues after we die. The existence of God does not begin and continue after we die. Like God, eternity has no beginning or end. God and eternity are the same.

Eternity is timelessness. Eternity precedes and continues through the lifetime of our planet and beyond. Infinity expands in reverse as well as forward. Forever and ever extends from pre-creation and pre-history through history and beyond Judgment Day.

Eternity prior to Earth was forever. It was the infinite, everlasting, unlimited existence of the Family of God. The Creation of Earth is finite, limited, and encapsulates time. Heaven and Earth will ultimately be destroyed and replaced with a new heaven and earth, unlimited, infinite and without end. Eternity is simply a continuum of what has always been. It is forever and ever more.

Eternity moves backward and forward.

Eternity is like a vehicle's transmission which has a "D" for "drive" as well as an "R" for "reverse". Television DVR's have a forward and a rewind. Boat motors have a forward and reverse. Lights have on and off switches, but the electricity is always flowing. We never question automobile engineers, boat captains, or the electric company for the engineering of energy movement. Too many people simply believe this life is all there is, and their reality is frozen in time in "N" for "neutral", or "P" for "Park". Eternity's past is current and relevant in the present and future because it is all the same. Motion is always progressing forward.

A Star's light proves eternity moves backward/forward

Science confirms a star's light takes millions of years to reach Earth. By the time we see a star's light, we are witnessing what happened in eternity prior to the present time. Even if a star burns out, its light continues to shine for millions of years. Just like a star's light, eternity extends backward and forward.

Eternity stretches east to west.

East and west have only a horizon and no established beginning and end poles. Their distance is infinite. There are no identifiers to distinguish between the beginning or end. North and south have poles. Their distance is finite. If we travel east around our globe in one direction we will always be going east, no matter how often we encircle the world. The distance is infinite. Psalm 103:12

Eternity comprises the essence and presence of God.

God and Eternity are one and the same. Eternity cannot exist without God. God is infinite, immortal, and forever. Eternity is the sum total of the story of the presence of the Family of God. There is NO "in the beginning" defining the Family of God!

Eternity existed long before the creation of the Universe. Eternity precedes and includes human history and extends beyond the confines of this journey. The Family of God has no entrance, just existence.

Before Here Through Eternity

God sees the entirety of the past and future in the present. Yahweh, I AM, is in the present tense. “The Greek word for “eternal” is ‘aion’ which does not focus on the future per se, but rather on the quality of the age it relates to. Thus, believers live in “eternal life” right now, experiencing the quality of God’s life now as a present possession.⁴

One can safely conclude that “eternity” does not begin when one dies. Eternity is immediate and in the here and now. Living in the presence of God does not require us to die, but to live. God is always present. When Moses asked God what His name was, the response was present tense: “I AM”. Yahweh God was “I Am” in the past. He is “I Am” today and when our life ceases on this planet, His name will still be “I Am”.

Scientists project the universe is 13.8 billion years old. Astronomer Michael J. L. Brown wrote: “We are now processing the first data from the James Webb Space Telescope. One of the key science goals of Webb is to peer back in time and observe the early Universe. Webb can do this because, like all telescopes, it is a time machine. Webb has detected a number of galaxies in the direction of SMACS 0723 and other regions that could be so distant their light has taken 13.5 billion years to reach us. We are seeing these galaxies as they were 13.5 billion years ago. We could be seeing galaxies as they were just a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.”⁵

⁴ Strong’s Concordance 166.

⁵ Expert Voices, web article, August 2, 2022

The Cosmic Chess Match

The “Big Bang” is a theory, not fact. God’s construction of the universe is not defined by time or title. Eternity is everlasting infinity in all directions. Eternity has always existed. Eternity thrusts backward before the so called “Big Bang Theory” when allegedly, something was made from nothing. God created by choice, not by chance. It takes more faith to believe the universe was created by chance than by choice. Atheists and Agnostics require great faith because for them, an art masterpiece came to life without an Artist. All that is created has no Creator.

Eternal Life is not limited by time. There is no limit to our life. We are eternal beings having a human experience.

Every human being is a spirit whose light took eternity to get to the present. Our light now was ignited millions of years ago in the presence of Almighty God, our Creator. We can shine brightly here and now because we enjoyed our existence with God there and then. Life is eternal. Time in the presence of God is eternal. Light is eternal. Your light will never burn out.

We will exit this life when our purpose on Earth is complete. Our spirit transitions back to God who created us. Our human experience is temporary. The existence of our spirit is eternal.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Two



The Chess Match Trilogy

From eternity to eternity, I am God.
Isaiah 43:13 NLT

“Preternity”

“Internity”

“Reternity”

Before Here Through Eternity

The eternal Chess Match warfare between God and Satan is a trilogy which began before time (“Preternity”), continues in the present (“Internity”), and has its conclusion in the future (“Reternity”).

Preternity refers to the Biblical accounts of what transpired in Heaven before Earth’s creation and history.

Preternity is Heaven’s story prior to human history. The key actors and their roles are revealed in Scripture: the existence of the Family of God, and the reality of Michael and his angels battling Lucifer and his demons resulting in the conflict being transferred to Earth.

There was war in Heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war. Revelation 12:7

Thirty-two biblical passages provide snapshots to the creation of spiritual beings later to become humans and God’s plan of Redemption prior to the fashioning of the heavens and earth.

Preternity reveals my existence before my earthly assignment. If we are indeed spiritual beings having a human experience, this infers that we had spiritual identities before we had physical features. Scripture declares that God knew us and commissioned our purpose before we were born. Yahweh recognized me when “I was”.

The Lord gave me a message. He said, “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world.” Jeremiah 1:4-5 NLT

The Chess Match Trilogy

Theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin stated:

“We are spiritual beings having a human experience.
We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.”

“Preternity” is the story of our life when we knew God only as our Creator. We did not know Him then as our Savior. We were spirits as God is Spirit. “Preternity” is what our relationship with God was like before we were born.

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalm 139:16 NLT

God planned for us to do good things before our earthly deployment. How could he plan lists for us to accomplish if He didn't know us before we were born on this planet?

The Apostle Paul testified...

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Galatians 1:15 NLT

Our spiritual existence in Preternity's side of existence is key to understanding God's Redemption, Satan's war plans, and our human purpose now on Earth.

Preternity is the prequel of the eternity trilogy. We cannot know why we are on Earth, or where we are going after our tenure here, unless we know where we came from.

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“Internity” is the sequel story from the creation of earth and the continuing saga of the war between good and evil throughout human history into the present.

It is the venue for my deployment, mission and journey here on Earth to fulfill God’s assignment. Humans are “interns”. An intern is a student or trainee who works in a temporary position sometimes without pay during an occupation or trade. The intern hasn’t reached proficiency and experience in their chosen field of work. Under supervision the intern gains practical work experience.

God sent us to Earth as a temporary assignment. Our life is a continuous journey to become proficient in our relationship with Jesus. Yahweh sees me as “I am...”

Our attitudes, actions, beliefs, and deeds confirm whether we deserve to live with God eternally or not. We are commissioned, trained, and expected to please our employer through commitment and perseverance.

“Internity” consists of the creation of Earth by God and Helel’s counter offensive. In terms of a chess match, “Internity” is a continuation of the battle originally fought in Heaven between Good and Evil. Mankind is on the front lines of a desperate spiritual war.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers, the world forces of this darkness, the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

The Chess Match Trilogy

Reternity” is everything that happens after I exhale my final breath through Judgment and beyond. It is the Afterlife Reality with or without God post-earth when “I will be...”

Reternity is our forever existence with God after fulfilling our life’s assignment. For believers obedient to God’s Word, it is our Homecoming Dance with our Creator! The “threequel” includes what happens to me in the future.

We are spiritual beings. God tells us in His Word “where” we came from, “why” we are on Earth, and “where” we are going. The only ingredient missing is “when”. That is resolved as we understand “eternity”. Spiritual life is unlimited by time. Our spirit cannot expire. We are eternal beings having a human experience. All cast members have their entrances and exit with a cast party afterwards.

God is Spirit. We are made in the likeness of God. We, like God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, are eternal. This idea requires us to consider if we have been in existence longer than our time span on Earth. Most of us in the Christian faith have been taught that life for us began at conception or at birth. However, the scriptures hint otherwise. Study your Bible and you will discover that your life is ceaseless. Your past did not originate with your footprints on your Birth Certificate, and your life doesn’t conclude with your Death Certificate.

Once we understand this, life will take on an entirely new meaning, purpose, and perspective. We are constantly in eternity. We are integral with it. I was, I am, I will be.

Earth is our Journey's Layover

Upon my graduation from Bible College my parents took me on a pilgrimage to Israel. We left New York and had a layover in Rome, Italy, to change planes. We were informed our connecting flight was delayed and we had time to tour several places of our choice in Rome. We visited the Colosseum, Mamertine Prison, and the statue of Marcus Aurelius. When we arrived back at the airport, I was seated in the Terminal next to a passenger waiting for his flight to Germany. In broken English he asked me where I was from and where I was travelling. I replied I was from Michigan, and I was headed to Israel. The passenger didn't ask me where I was. He knew we were in Rome.

The Psalmist painted us a picture of God: "From eternity to eternity, I am God."⁶ God is always present. Like God, eternity is in the present but also encapsulates direction, "from" and "to". God is Spirit and He created our spirit and placed it in a human body. We are "from" God. Earth is our layover. We make choices of where we want to go and what we want to do while we are here. After our layover we make the connection to travel "to" our destination. "From" and "to" are tiny words describing an infinite concept like God and eternity.

We cannot travel anywhere without our passport. Jesus is our passport on Earth through eternity. He is with us from everlasting, in our layover on Earth, and to and through everlasting life.

⁶ Psalm 90:2

The Chess Match Trilogy

If a traveler loses their passport in a foreign country, they must immediately proceed to their country's Embassy. The Passport, not the driver's license, is the lifeline to being able to navigate and travel through a foreign nation. If we choose to lose our relationship with Jesus, we have lost our identity and ability to return to our original home. Our identity on Earth requires that we have Jesus, our Creator, as our one and only eternal Passport. Without Him, we are strangers in a foreign land. We don't have our credentials to get us back home to Heaven.

Jesus provided the visa in Heaven. Without Jesus, the immortality of the spirit continues to exist. For those alive and those separated from the physical body, final events will transpire incorporating all who have ever lived...including angels and principalities of the unseen world.

Eternity does not begin when we die. Eternity has always existed and our journey on Earth is the middle of Infinity!

We must dig deeper into the scriptures to understand these concepts and to absorb the mind and design of our Creator.

Before Here Through Eternity

Before: “Preternity”



Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Three



The Chess Masters

*In the beginning God (Elohim)
created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1*

The Family of God

The Chess Masters: The Family of God

God (Hebrew: Elohim) is a **Family** of spirit beings.

The word or name “God” in the Old Testament Hebrew language, “Elohim”, is plural, which means there is more than one person in the Family of God. Hebrew words ending in “im” are usually plural. “God” is the family surname consisting of:

- God the Father or Father God.
- God the Son or the Son of God.
- God the Holy Spirit or Holy Spirit God.

Then God (Elohim) said, “Come, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” Genesis 1:26

The Lord (Yahweh) said, “Let Us go down and confuse their language.” Gen. 11:6 *The voice of the Lord said, “Who will go for Us?”* Isaiah 6:8

God is Spirit

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24

The Family of God are eternal spiritual beings. God was not created. They have no beginning or end. They are unlimited by time or space. God sees everything in the present, although He moves unrestricted through time. Elohim are all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present, incorruptible, pure, holy, infinite, self-sufficient, wise, just, merciful, gracious, majestic, and glorious. God’s spirit is supreme, unparalleled intelligence.

The Family of God’s surname

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are “Elohim”. All three have one surname, “God”. Elohim refers to the family, work, and personality of the Father (noun masculine), the Holy Spirit (noun feminine), and the Son (noun masculine). The term “Trinity” is not used anywhere in the Bible.

A biological father, son and grandson share the same last name and DNA. All three generations have different first and middle names, personalities, gifts, and characteristics, features, and purpose. They are family.

The same is true with God. The Family of God has ONE name... “Elohim”.⁷ The three members of the Family have distinct names revealed in Scripture. They share the same spiritual DNA. “Elohim” appears some 2,750 times in the Old Testament.”⁸

Original Language names for the Family of God

	<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Greek/Aramaic</u>
The Family of <u>God</u>	<i>Elohim</i>	<i>Theos</i>
God the <u>Father</u>	<i>Ei, Ab</i>	<i>Abba, Pater</i>
God the <u>Son</u>	<i>Yahweh: I AM</i> <i>Adonai: Lord</i> <i>Yeshua</i>	<i>Ego eimi: I AM</i> <i>Kurios: Lord</i> <i>Iesoun</i>
The English “Jesus” was first printed in the 1638 KJV.		
God the <u>Holy Spirit</u>	<i>Ruach</i>	<i>Hagios Pneuma</i>

⁷ Deuteronomy 6:4

⁸ Biblestudytools.com

The Family: God the Father is identified as “EI”.

The Hebrew (noun masculine) has variations:

- **EI-Elohe**-Israel (God, the God of Israel) Genesis 33:20
- **Elah** Israel Ezra 5:1
- **Eloah** Israel Exodus 24:10
- **EI-Elyon** (God Most high) Genesis 14:18-19
- **Elohim-Elyown-EI** (God Most High) Psalm 57:2
- **EI Ab** (God the Father) Malachi 2:10

In the New Testament, God the Father is called...

- **Eli:** Jesus called to His Father God “Eli” (Hebrew: EI) from the cross “Eli, Eli” (My God, my God). Mathew 27:46
- **Abba Pater:** Jesus called God the Father, “Abba, Pater” in the Garden of Gethsemane. Abba (Aramaic – the common language in Jesus’ day) means “Father”, and “Pater” (Greek) means “Father”. Mark 14:36 NKJV

Jesus instructed his disciples to pray:

“*Our Father*” (Pater) Matthew 6:9 (NKJV)

Jesus’ farewell prayer:

“*Father (Pater), the hour has come, glorify Thy Son.*”
John 17:1

Before Here Through Eternity

God's son knows His father's name: El and Abba Pater. The Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to call God the Father: Abba Pater, or Father, Father!" Galatians 4:6

The Holy Spirit encourages us to call God "Abba, Pater". Romans 8:15

Followers of God can call Him: Abba! Father! We recognize His power, yet His love, for His children. When we pray to God the Father it is within the prerogative of Christians to call Him, "Abba, Pater."

The name "God" in Greek is "Theos". It is a noun and can be feminine and masculine. Properly, God, is the Creator and owner and sustainer of all things.⁹ God, the Father has always existed.

Christians struggle with understanding and respecting the Heavenly Father because they compare Him to their earthly fathers. Incomplete or poor relationships with our birth fathers naturally influence our concept of the Heavenly Father. How can we speak our thoughts and prayers to our Father in Heaven when we have difficulty communicating with our biological father?

Jesus disclosed this about His Heavenly Father.¹⁰ He knew His Father. Likewise, if we know Jesus, we know the Heavenly Father. One of the main reasons Jesus came to Earth was to reveal His Father, His name, and His love. The Chess Master is God Himself...the One sitting on the throne in Heaven. Revelation 4:2, 9

⁹ Strong's 2316

¹⁰ John 17:1-23

“Yahweh” takes center stage in Genesis

The name of the Family of God is “Elohim” in Genesis 1:1-2:3. In Genesis Chapter 2:4 there is a definitive change of focus from the plural designers (God=Elohim) to the single architect (The Lord God, Hebrew: “Yahweh Elohim”) in the creation narrative.

Then God (Elohim) blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because in it He rested from all His work which God (Elohim) had created and made. Genesis 2:3

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) made earth and heaven. Genesis 2:4

“The Lord God” is a proper name and is noun masculine. The spotlight illuminates the activities of one specific family member of God, Yahweh Elohim who created Heaven, and Earth.

Moses requested that God reveal His Name.

God (Elohim=family of God) said to Moses, “I AM Who I AM (‘eh-yeh=Yahweh: I be who I be) and He said, “I AM has sent me to you.” Exodus 3:14

Most scholars identify the Hebrew tetragrammaton, YHWH, (Yahweh) as the Biblical name of God the Father. Often YHWH is translated “Jehovah” which is derived from Latin rather than Hebrew. Conservative Jews do not pronounce YHWH. Instead, the name is substituted with “Adonai” meaning “Lord”. If God the Father is Yahweh, a significant discrepancy arises.

The Problem: No human has seen the Face of the Father

Yahweh said, "You cannot see MY face (plural), for no man can see Me (1st p. common singular) and live!"
Exodus 33:20

"My faces" is plural. The Family of God is plural. Humans have never seen El or Ruach but have seen Yahweh on numerous occasions. Yahweh is the face of the Family. Generations of human family faces may possess similar facial characteristics. Yahweh's face is the common face of the family.

Many O.T. characters saw Yahweh's face.

- Hagar *called the name of the Lord (Yahweh) who spoke to her. "Thou art a God (El-roi) who sees", for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"*
Genesis 16:13

- Yahweh appeared to Abraham.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord (Yahweh) appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before me." Genesis 17:1

- Yahweh appeared to Isaac.

And the Lord (Yahweh) appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God (Heb: anoki Elohim) of your father Abraham." Genesis 26:2,24

- Moses saw Yahweh and spoke with Him face to face.

The Lord (YHWH) used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. Ex. 20:2; 33:11; 18-23

The Chess Masters

- The Israelite people saw Yahweh face to face.

They (Egyptians) know, Lord (Yahweh), that you have appeared to your people face to face and that your pillar of cloud hovers over them. Deuteronomy 5:4

- Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy elders of Israel saw the God (Elohim) of Israel. Exodus 24:10-11
- Yahweh appeared to Solomon. I Kings 11:9

Now the Lord (Yahweh) was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

Who is “The Lord God”, Yahweh Elohim?

No one has ever seen God the Father or the Holy Spirit and lived. Yahweh cannot be the Father’s name because Yahweh was seen and interacted with Old Testament people.

Yahweh (I AM) is Jesus who existed in Old Testament times as the Lord God.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. Colossians 1:16

Jesus is recognized as the prime Creator of everything. He is the connection between the Family of God and all of creation. Through Him we can know the Father and the Holy Spirit. His coming to redeem us is secondary to the priority of realizing our designer seeks a relationship with us.

Other names for Yahweh revealed in the O.T.

EI-Olam: The Everlasting God

Abraham called on the name of the LORD (Yahweh), the Everlasting God (EI-Olam). Genesis 21:33

EI-Shaddai: God Almighty

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord (Yahweh) appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty" (EI Shaddai). Genesis 17:1; John 17:21-22

Yahweh Yireh: The Lord will provide Genesis 22:14

Abraham called the name of that place The Lord (Yahweh) Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord (Yahweh) it will be provided."

Yahweh Nissi: The Lord is my Banner.

Moses built an altar and named it "The Lord is My Banner". Exodus 17:15

Yahweh Shalom: The Lord (Yahweh) is Peace

Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it "The Lord is Peace." Judges 6:24

Yahweh Eloheka: The Lord your God is a jealous God

You shall not worship idols or serve them; for I, the Lord your God (Yahweh Eloheka) am a jealous God (qanna EI). Exodus 20:5

Both the Old and New Testament confirm that God the Father has never been seen, but Yahweh, who appeared to many, is Jesus, the son of God.

Yahweh is revealed in the New Testament

The Father's role did not include personally interacting with humans. How do we then correlate that Yahweh walked and talked with humans? Throughout Old Testament history Yahweh, the Lord God, appeared to, communicated, and interacted with many humans across different generations. Yahweh Elohim of the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.

John, Jesus and Paul confirmed the Old Testament perceptions: No man has seen God the Father, "El" (Hebrew) or "Theos" (Greek).

"No one has ever seen God (Theos) the Father. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. John 1:18

"The Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you. You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

John 5:37-38 NLT

"Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father."

John 6:45-46

***The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed.
The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.***

- Augustine

The scriptures point to Jesus

- Jude claimed that Jesus delivered the Israelites from Egypt.

...though you know all things once for all, that the Lord (Gk: Yesoun=Jesus) after saving a people out of the land of Egypt... Jude 5

- John the Immerser (Baptist) claimed Jesus existed before him.

Jesus...is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' John 1:29-30

- Jesus claimed to be the ladder Jacob saw (Circa 2000 B.C.).

Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." John 1:51

- Jesus claimed to be YHWH to the Samaritan Woman at the Well

The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!" John 4:25-26 NLT

The Greek reads "I AM, the one speaking to you." Jesus replied to her in essence: You anticipate an explanation from God. I am the explanation!

The Chess Masters

- Jesus claimed to be YHWH to the Jews.

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” The Jews therefore said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” (Greek: ego eimi, Hebrew: YHWH).

John 8:56-59

The Jews knew exactly what Jesus was claiming. This was an offense worthy of capital punishment. They picked up stones to kill Him for blasphemy. Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic or who He claimed to be...the Son of God! Jesus affirmed He was present on Earth prior to Abraham (2000 B.C.).

- Jesus verified He was Yahweh to His Disciples

Jesus sent his disciples away in a boat, so he could pray alone. A storm battered the boat, and the disciples were far offshore. At 3:00 in the morning they observed Jesus walking on the surface of the water. They were afraid and thought he was a ghost. Jesus said, “Take courage, I am (ego eimi) do not be afraid.” Those in the boat worshipped Him, saying “You are certainly God’s Son!”

Matthew 14:22-33

“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. The “I AM” is here.” Mark 6:50 NLT, John 6:20 NLT footnote

“I tell you this, so when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah.” John 13:19 NLT

Before Here Through Eternity

- Jesus verified He was Yahweh to the Roman cohort (600 men) in Gethsemane. Their response: they collapsed.

Jesus asked: "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene". He said to them "I am" (ego eimi). When he said to them, I am He, (ego eimi) they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:5-6

- Jesus confirmed He was a king to Pontius Pilate.

"So, You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king." John 18:37

Jesus did not refer to His Father as "Jehovah" or Yahweh. The Apostle Paul (a Roman citizen) did not refer to God as Jehovah (Latin). No other New Testament writers referred to the Father as "I AM".

Yahweh and Jesus are the same person in the Bible.

Yahweh in Hebrew, means: "I AM". In the New Testament the name "Yahweh" (I Am) is "ego eimi". Jesus matter-of-factly claimed to be Yahweh.

- I am (ego eimi) the Messiah. John 4:26
- I am the light of the world. John 8:12
- I am the door... John 10:9
- I am the Good Shepherd. John 10:11
- I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25
- I am the way, the truth, and the life. John 14:6
- I am the first and the last. Revelation 1:17

The I AM of the Old Testament is the same I AM in the New Testament. I AM is present tense. Jesus has always existed. He created everything.

The Chess Masters

The Roman historian Josephus wrote about Jesus in his History of the Jews in 60 A.D. “There was about this time Jesus, a wise man, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.”¹¹

Jesus ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives. If he returns the same way he left, the Mount of Olives is ground zero! The angels present at Jesus’ ascension asked Jesus’ disciples:

“Why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw him go, he will return!”

Acts 1:11 NLT

Wouldn’t you love to have the privilege of being there when Jesus returns?

Until then another member of the Family of God is active in the human arena.

¹¹ Josephus, the Essential Works, Paul L. Maier, 1988, p. 269-270

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Another member of the Family of God is the Spirit. The Hebrew words for the Spirit of God are “Ruach Elohim”. Spirit also means breath or wind. It is a noun feminine.

The Holy Spirit was involved in the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth.

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God (ruach Elohim) was moving over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:2

Other passages that spotlight the Holy Spirit and His work.

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship.

Exodus 31:3

Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit (ruah qadsaka) from me.

Psalm 51:11

Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold, My chosen one in whom My soul delight. I have put My Spirit upon Him...

Isaiah 42:1

Now the Lord God (Adonai Yahweh=Lord, Lord) has sent Me, and His Spirit.

Isaiah 48:16

The Spirit of the Lord (ruach Yahweh) God is upon me.

Isaiah 11:2; 61:1; Luke 4:18

But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 63:10

And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind...

Joel 2:28

The Chess Masters

It is surprising that the Old Testament reveals only a few pictures of the Holy Spirit. We shouldn't be too shocked at Scripture's brevity. It is God's Spirit that drives us but is rarely given the importance She deserves. New car commercials never show the engine which drives the car. From these references we can perceive:

- The Spirit is noun feminine. This implies that Son of God is the result of the union of the Father and the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit can be given to us or removed from us.
- The Holy Spirit's purpose is to rest on or upon the Messiah and all mankind.

God the Holy Spirit revealed in The New Testament

The Holy Spirit's role in the New Testament is significant. The Greek words for the Holy Spirit are "hagios pneuma".

- The Spirit of God was present at Jesus' birth, baptism and temptation.

The angel said to Mary, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason, the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.
Luke 1:35

Behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon Him.
Matthew 3:16

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted.
Matthew 4:1

Before Here Through Eternity

- The Spirit of God came upon Jesus to preach the Gospel.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor... Luke 4:18

- The twelve apostles (Acts 1:26) on the day of Pentecost were able to speak languages foreign to them but understood by the listeners.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (Greek: glossa, languages) as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:4

- Believers receive the “gift” (Greek: dorea) of the Holy Spirit upon repentance and immersion (Greek: baptizo).

Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift (dorea) of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

- The Holy Spirit “fell upon” and “poured out” on Cornelius’ household who were Gentiles.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. The circumcised believers were amazed because the gift (dorea) of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:44-45

The Chess Masters

- The Spirit will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness and judgment.

When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me, and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. John 16:9

- The Spirit knows the thoughts of God.

No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. I Corinthians 2:12 NLT

- The Holy Spirit can be deciphered by every spirit's confession or denial of Jesus.

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist.
I John 2:2-3

- The Holy Spirit provides varieties of gifts (Greek: charisma).

Now there are varieties of gifts, (charisma) but the same Spirit. I Corinthians 12:4-11

These gifts disappear when "the perfect comes". The "perfect" may refer to the compilation of the 66 books of the Bible in the second and third century or to Jesus' Parousia (2nd coming/return). I Corinthians 13:10

Before Here Through Eternity

- The Holy Spirit will guide us to all truth.

When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:13

God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24; 14:17; I Corinthians 2:14

- The Holy Spirit is our Helper.

If anyone sins, we have an Advocate (Greek: paracletos) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous... I John 2:1

The Greek word for “helper” is “paracletos”, one called alongside to help...an Intercessor. It means advocate, counselor, or comforter. Paracletos is composed of two words: pará, “from close-beside” and kaléō, “make a call”.¹²

- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

The Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but he Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

In the human chess match, it is the Holy Spirit who guides us through our chess board decisions. He provides each piece with a gift as well as a purpose. When humans move outside of God’s word, the Holy Spirit corrects us.

¹² Strong’s Concordance 3875.

Wisdom was present in Preternity:

King Solomon provided a snapshot of another character present with the Family of God prior to the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth.

Yahweh created and owned wisdom at the beginning. Wisdom (Hebrew: “chokmah”) refers to divine wisdom, skill, or expertise and is noun feminine. The Holy Spirit is the only feminine member of God’s family. Wisdom is personified throughout Proverbs 8:22-30. The pronouns “I” and “me” appear in the passage seven times. A noun can be a person, place or thing. Wisdom is usually a “thing” or ability, but Solomon characterizes wisdom as a “person”.

The Dimensions of Wisdom’s prepositions

“**Before**” appears four times in this passage (22-30) and means “to precede or come before... often in a spatial or temporal sense, i.e. the beginnings of His work.”¹³ It implies a specific time sequence.

The Lord (Yahweh) possessed (formed) me (Wisdom) at the beginning of His way, before His works of old (before He created anything else). Proverbs 8:22

Before the mountains were formed (settled), before the hills, I (Wisdom) was born Proverbs 8:25

¹³ Brown—Driver-Briggs, “Before”, 6924 2.e.

Before Here Through Eternity

“**From**” (Hebrew: olam) primarily conveys the concept of eternity or an indefinite, unending duration.¹⁴

From everlasting I was established (consecrated/I was appointed in ages past), from the beginning, before the earth began (at the very first). Proverbs 8:23

Everlasting is infinity backwards and forwards. Wisdom was consecrated, appointed and established from the beginning, before the Earth was created. Wisdom was the lead concertmaster in Creation’s orchestration. The beginning suggests a creation series and chronology. “Eternity” may not mean the absence of time but rather “unlimited time”.

“**When**” is used twice to amplify there was no water as Wisdom was brought forth. This event happened prior to the Spirit of God moving over the surface of the waters.

When there were no depths, I (Wisdom) was brought forth (born). When there were no springs, abounding with water... Proverbs 8:24

“When” is noted by Solomon eight times in these passages so the reader would focus on the time element. Eternity may be composed of boundless time. Wisdom during Preternity, according to Solomon, existed in a spatial time dimension.

I (Wisdom) was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked out the earth’s foundations, Proverbs 8:29

¹⁴ Strong’s Lexicon 5769.

The Chess Masters

Wisdom was present WHEN Yahweh inscribed our planet (the circle) into the solar system.

When He established the heavens, I (Wisdom) was there. When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep. Proverbs 8:27

Job, Solomon and Isaiah knew the Earth was not flat. It was God's Holy Spirit who spoke these truths.

He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness. The pillars of heaven tremble. Job 26:10

It is He who sits above the vault (circle) of the earth. Isaiah 40:22

I (Wisdom) was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth. Proverbs 8:28

“**While**” denotes an extension of time.

While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. Proverbs 8:26

Wisdom was present in Preternity before Yahweh created the Earth and soil, before the Garden of Eden (man was created by the dust of the Earth). Genesis 2:7

I (Wisdom) was beside Him, as a master workman. I was his daily (day by day) delight, rejoicing always before Him. Proverbs 8:30

This verse is “the smoking gun” identifying the reality of the time designation called “before” or “Preternity”.

Before Here Through Eternity

And how happy I (Wisdom) was with the world he created; how I (Wisdom) rejoiced with the human family!

Proverbs 8:31

The Lord God (Yahweh) created the Heavens and the Earth, but Wisdom was present before creation and rejoiced at and with the design of humanity.

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Summary:

There were four personalities present prior to the creation of the heavens and earth: the Father, Holy Spirit, The Lord God (Yahweh) and Wisdom. Wisdom was with God “before, from, when, and while” which highlights the reality of time and sequence in the concept of “eternity”.

Wisdom is not God, but integral to the creation of the universe. It is not to be worshipped but recognized as a vital instrument in God’s toolshed. Wisdom was also a valuable tool in Lucifer’s wheelhouse. He was wiser than Daniel. 28:3.

You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired riches for yourself...and they will draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom. Ezekiel 28:12, 17

War erupted in Heaven and the battle transferred to Earth.

The Chess Masters

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter 4



The Celestial Chess Match

There was war in Heaven... Revelation 12:7

Angels

Demons

Before Here Through Eternity

There are at least two Chess Matches occurring simultaneously throughout the universe.

1. The Chess Match venue was Heaven prior to creation

On God's side of the chessboard in preternity, participants in the heavenly conflict were spiritual beings called "angels". They were created by the Family of God.

The Major Heavenly angels

- Seraphim (plural) are heavenly angels who have six wings and stand above the Lord on His throne.
Isaiah 6:2; Revelation 4:8
- Cherubim were guardians to the Garden of Eden. 3:24
 - Michael the Archangel. Jude 9; I Thess. 4:16
 - Helel: The Shining One, the morning star, a.k.a. Lucifer, the great red dragon, Satan, the Devil, the Serpent of Old. Revelation 12:9

Helel worshipped himself.

The moment the "shining star" loved himself, more than His Creator sin entered Heaven.

How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star (Hebrew: Helel), son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, "I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High." Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead down to its lowest depths. Isaiah 14:12-15; 2 Peter 2:4

Celestial Chess Match

Helel was ejected from Heaven. The reason:

You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created. I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic (cherub) guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire. You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you. Your rich commerce led you to violence, and you sinned. So, I banished you in disgrace from the mountain of God. I expelled you, O mighty guardian, from your place among the stones of fire. Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. Ezekiel 28:12-17

H-el-el: the “shining one” is a duplication and a doubling of the name of God the Father, “El.” The name appears only once in scripture minimizing its importance. Helel was a covering or guardian cherub. He once served as one of the mightiest of all angels. Because he loved himself instead of his creator, he became an antagonist to the archangel Michael. There was conflict in Heaven.

The great red dragon swept away with his tail a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. 12:4

The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12:9

2. The Chess Match transferred from Heaven to Earth

Michael the archangel and the seraphim remain in Heaven glorifying God but also battle the fallen angels on earth. Jude 9

The dragon/serpent made his grand entry in the Garden of Eden depicted as a beast of the field. God cursed the serpent after his successful coup with Adam and Eve.

“Because you have done this, on your belly shall you go.”
Genesis 3:1,14

The Serpent is not defined as Satan in Genesis 3, but Satan is connected as being in the Garden of Eden:

“You were in Eden, the garden of God”. Ezekiel 28:12

The book of Job describes Satan’s roaming the Earth and making his presence in Heaven (Job 1:7). The notorious 1/3rd of the fallen angels were also active on Earth.

God knew the names of the traitorous third of the angel corps that rebelled with Satan. Their names were erased from the Lamb’s Book of Life. It is an eternal document that existed prior to the creation of the universe. The Book of Life recorded the names of the angels as well as all spiritual beings made in the likeness of God. Those who exchanged their likeness for God to become like Satan had their names deleted from the record and expelled from heaven. Revelation 13:8

Those who sin against God will have their names erased.

*Pile my enemies’ sins up high, and don’t let them go free.
Erase their names from the Book of Life and don’t let
them be counted among the righteous.* Psalm 69:27-28

Demons are active and misleading people today

But the spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1 NLT

Demons are definitely at work in an individual's mind, heart, actions, attitudes, politics, religion, and every category of human existence. Some demon activity is obscure. One key indicator of demon activity is indicated as law officials announce: "There seems to be no motive for this murder." Other demonic influences are reflected in dramatic changed behavior, attitudes, outbursts, drug abuse, and violence.

Jesus believed demons were real!

A man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him. This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain. Jesus asked, "What is your name?" And the spirit replied, "Legion, because there are so many of us here inside this man." Mark 5:2,3, 9 NLT

Demons work through thoughts and nudges. Demons plant ideas and temptations into our mind that cause us to ponder: "Where did that come from?" Demons insert people and circumstances that appear to be wholesome in our lives, but are coordinated attempts to distract, divert, divide, and destroy us. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 NLT

Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. It is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

Evil reinvents itself...

Before Here Through Eternity

Named “Fallen Angels” (Demons)

- Wormwood: a great star that fell from Heaven burning like a torch making 1/3rd of the waters bitter.
Revelation 8:10-11
- Abaddon (Hebrew: Destruction), or Apollyon (Greek: Destroyer) is a star (angel) fallen from Heaven who is given the key to the bottomless pit. Revelation 9:1-11

Demons believe Jesus is real!

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!
James 2:19

The Chess Match is on-going

God’s angels

Gabriel was not a Cherub, but a named angel who stands in the presence of God. He interacted with Daniel (8:9), Zacharias and Mary.
Luke 1:19, 26

An angel’s purpose was to protect God, interact with humans and deliver messages. They were nameless, yet vital in communicating God’s will with mankind.

For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.
Psalm 34:7 NLT

Angels appeared in dazzling white clothing and were described as men. (Greek: “angelos” is masculine).

As they were gazing intently into the sky while Jesus was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them...
Acts 1:10-11

Celestial Chess Match

Unnamed Angels interacted with humans

The Old Testament describes angels appearing to Hagar, Abram, Lot, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Balaam, Daniel and others.

Angels in the New Testament conveyed messages and ministered to Joseph, Mary, Jesus, Mary Magdalene and the other women at the tomb, the disciples, Philip, Cornelius, Paul, John and others.

- Angels are ministering spirits. They serve, protect, and encourage.

Angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.

Hebrews 1:14 NLT

- People have entertained angels without knowing it.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

- Every church has an angel.

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.

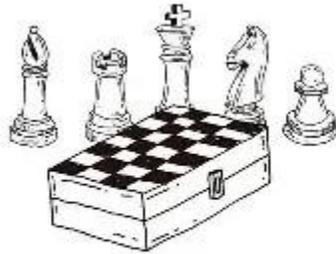
Revelation 1:20

The pieces on the chess board are not the only participants in the Chess Match. Spiritual powers wage an unseen war hovering over, in and through each move.

If you see only evil in this world, you are seeing only half of the chessboard.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Five



The Chess Box Contents

*I created you and have cared for you
since before you were born. Isaiah 46:3 NLT*

The Evidence

The Contents in the Chess Box

A Chess Box has various sized compartments that house 32 chess pieces. There are sixteen larger characters: the king, queen, bishops, knights and rooks (towers/castles). Sixteen pawns are smaller than the preceding royalty. All the pieces are enclosed in it until activated as two teams on the chessboard. The Chess Box is a metaphor for "Preternity".

My spirit: designed, delivered, deployed or developed?

God is Spirit. As spiritual beings the Family of God is eternal. Humans are made in God's image and likeness. We are eternal spiritual beings. The Greek word for "spirit" (pneuma) refers to the eternal part of mankind and God. It is our immortal spirit that is designed and built to love God completely. Our spirit cannot be destroyed. The spirit is the motor, generator, and engine that drives the body, soul, mind, emotions, attitudes, and self.

World religious clergy and philosophers disagree when the human body receives its spirit. Many specify the spirit arrives upon conception. Others adhere that the spirit arrives at birth. Some speculate the human spirit surfaces during the ambiguous "age of accountability" (when a person knows the difference between right and wrong).

These perspectives view the spirit as something that is developed in a human body rather than an eternal spirit being delivered into a human body. Simplified, we are spiritual beings who are deployed to Earth to experience a temporary, physical life for God's purpose as a human.

The Chess Box Contents

Our “spirit” does not originate and develop within our physical body, but rather we are spiritual beings that acquire a physical body. When commissioned by God to deploy to Earth, our spirit is delivered into our human body. Our eternal spirit acquires a physical body, heart (emotions), mind (personality), soul (breath/living being) and will. We were created for a purpose by our Creator. We were consecrated and placed on Earth to fulfill God’s purpose. When our purpose is complete, we will return to our Creator.

Humans visualize life through the lens of the natural instead of God’s perspective. We attempt to decipher life’s origination from the human vantage point ignoring our Creator’s blueprints.

Our prior existence with God

Our spirit has always existed. God knew our spirit before we were born. Jeremiah clearly confirmed:

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “BEFORE I formed you in the womb, I knew you. And before you were born, I consecrated you.” Jeremiah 1:4-5

1. “Before I formed you in the womb” implies our spirit existed prior to conception. Jesus, our Creator, knew us before we were conceived and we knew Him.
2. God knew us before we were a fetus in our mother’s womb. God could only know us if we existed in eternity with Him prior to our physical birth.
3. God consecrated us before we were born. God could only dedicate us if we had an identity and were alive with Him in Heaven prior to our human existence.

Scriptural evidence confirming our pre-existence

The hypothesis is not rooted in Ancient Greek philosophy or New Age theology. It is in no way based in Mormonism or any world religion. Science, medicine, politics, and religion cannot pinpoint exactly when the human body develops its spirit. The Bible is our source.

Direct Evidence...

- The Lamb's Book of Life: Our names were documented before we were born on Earth.
- Thirty-two scriptures provide incredible insights as to when our picture was placed on God's refrigerator.

Ten Witnesses and Jesus

The committee of writers offering testimony is stunning. Ten biblical authors plus Jesus, bear testimony that we are spiritual beings having a human experience.

Old Testament Validators

- Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah
- King David and King Solomon
- Moses
- Asaph, a Seer (2 Chronicles 29:30)

New Testament Validators

- Paul
- John
- Jesus

Their cumulative testimony is critical and pivotal.

Direct Evidence

1. The Book of Life existed before the world was made.

All who dwell on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. Revelation 13:8; 17:8

Our name was recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life before the creation of the Earth. Before Genesis 1:1, our names were documented. This could only be possible if we existed in Heaven before being deployed to Earth.

"Rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."
Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful assembly. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are enrolled in heaven. Hebrews 12:22-23 NLT

"He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:5

- Those who sin against God will have their names erased.

We have the option, by our decision to serve God or Satan, to have our names erased from the Book.

Pile my enemies' sins up high, and don't let them go free. Erase their names from the Book of Life and don't let them be counted among the righteous. Psalm 69:27-28

Old Testament Evidence

2. We are made in God's likeness.

Let US make man in OUR image, according to Our likeness. Genesis 1:26

God is an eternal spirit. Created in God's likeness means humans are spiritual entities. As such, our spirit never dies. "Resurrection" (Greek: anastasis) refers to the human body only, never to the spirit.¹⁵ Our spirit never dies.

3. "I shall return there"

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21

"There" must refer to the presence of God. Our spirit had no physical attachments in our mother's womb and will have no biological accoutrements when we depart Earth. Our spirit simply returns to the Lord Jesus who created us. "There" must refer to a pre-existence with God. The Hebrew word "אֵשׁ" (sham) is an adverb used to indicate a specific location or place.¹⁶ Job confirmed an individual's spirit was present in the mother's womb or previously created by God. John 3:4

¹⁵ W. E. Vine, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, p. 41.

¹⁶ Strong's Lexicon, 8033

4. Yahweh is our Redeemer.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives. Job 19:25

Job was likely the first book written in the Old Testament. He was aware of the sons of God who presented themselves before the Lord. Job 1 & 2

Job could only know this through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Job also knew his Redeemer (vindicator) lives (present tense). Redeem means to buy back something one previously owned or accumulated. Job understood he was previously owned (created) and redeemed by Yahweh. The Lord never disowned Job.

5. From Everlasting to Everlasting

You set me in Your presence forever, from everlasting to everlasting. Psalm 41:12-13

God placed us in His presence in eternity...forever, from everlasting to everlasting. How can we be in God's presence from everlasting to everlasting if we weren't with God in eternity before our creation on Earth? Spirits are immortal by intent of creation.

6. The Children yet to be born

For the Lord established a testimony in which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children. Asaph: Psalm 78:5-6

How can unborn children know the testimony if they don't previously exist? They are "yet to be born".

7. You have been our Home

Lord, through all the generations (of duration in the past, former ages) you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.

Psalm 90:1 NLT

According to Moses, the Lord has been our home (a) through all generations; (b) BEFORE the mountains were born and BEFORE God gave birth to the Earth. How can God be our dwelling place if we didn't live there previously? How can we go back home if we have not lived there "before"?

8. People not yet created.

This will be written for the generation to come; That a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.

Psalm 102:18

How can people yet to be created praise the Lord if they aren't already in His presence? This appears to be a reference to a future generation and implies there are people in line to be deployed in pre-existence.

9. Yahweh saw me before I was born.

Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance...

Psalm 139:16 NLT

The human embryo begins to have a substance known as the blastocoele around six days after fertilization. God saw us before our embryo was formed in our mother's uterus. This is not possible unless we were a spiritual entity present with Him prior to our human birth.

10. Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.
Psalm 139:16 NLT

How can God record “every day of my life in His book” before our human body existed if we were not present with Him? My entire life’s chronology was specified in God’s book prior to the first five days of my “unformed substance”.

11. I can remember my Creator.

“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...”
Ecclesiastes 12:1

If our Creator did not fashion us before our deployment to Earth, how could we remember him? The word “remember” is used seven times in this chapter in the NLT. How can a human remember the Creator unless there was a previous relationship between the two? You can only remember someone you have already met. That is only possible if the spirit pre-existed introduction into the human body and was present with God.

Solomon could have easily stated: remember your God (Elohim) or the Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) but instead used “Creator”, a designation sparsely used in the Old and New Testament.

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:25

12. Our spirit returns to God who gave it.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

Our spirit is given to us by God. This occurred when we were deployed from Heaven. Our spirit returns to the Giver when we die. The spirit is distinct from the dust of the Earth and not bound by it because our spirit is eternal prior to creation.

13. God spoke words to Isaiah before the world began.

Haven't you heard? Don't you understand? Are you deaf to the words of God—the words he gave before the world began? Isaiah 40:21

God spoke words to Isaiah BEFORE the world began. God questions Isaiah, "Don't you understand what I said or are you deaf?" How could Isaiah hear God's words if he wasn't already a pre-existent spirit BEFORE the creation of the Earth?

14. The Lord knew me before I was formed in the womb.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "BEFORE I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Jeremiah 1:4-5

God could only know us if we existed in eternity with Him prior to our physical birth.

15. The Lord consecrated me before my birth.

Before you were born I (the Lord) consecrated you. Jeremiah 1:5

God dedicated me to accomplish His purpose before I was born.

16. Man's spirit was formed simultaneously with the Earth's foundation.

Thus declares the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms (fashions) the spirit of man within him. Zechariah 12:1

Zechariah used the present tense to describe God's creation...stretches out, lays and forms...concurrently!

New Testament Evidence of our spirit's prior existence

17. Humans must worship God in Spirit.

God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

We are fashioned in His likeness. Our spirit melds with God's spirit. As the Family of God is eternal spirit, so are we and we must worship Him in our eternal spirit.

18. There is no excuse for us not knowing God.

For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. Romans 1:19-20; 25; 2:14 NLT

His truth, invisible qualities, divine nature and his eternal power are known instinctively within mankind. We know God's existence intuitively. How can this be unless our human spirit pre-existed our mission on Earth?

19. When I die, I will return “home”.

We prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore, we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

2 Corinthians 5:8-9

How can home be a place I return to if I have never previously lived there? I was home when my spirit was created in Heaven. Home was in the rear-view mirror when I was deployed to Earth. Once I leave this planet, I return home.

20. God chose and called Paul before he was born.

Even before I was born, God chose me and called me ...

Galatians 1:15 NLT

Paul stated God selected and summoned him to preach before he was born. How could God choose and call Paul “before he was born” if he was not present with God before his earthly commission?

21. God chose us before the foundation of the earth.

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before Him. He predestined us to adoption as sons. Ephesians 1:4-5

“Before the foundation of the world” looks back to the past eternity.¹⁷ “Predestine” means “before”. How could God know his people in advance if we were not with Him?

¹⁷ Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1996, N.T, p. 254.

22. God planned our purpose long before we were born.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 NLT

“He planned for us long ago” conveys the idea that God prepared our action plan in advance. It implies a deliberate action taken before a particular event or purpose.¹⁸

23. We are foreigners on Earth.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household. Ephesians 2:19

We are foreigners because here is not our home. Heaven is our point of origin. Our journey on Earth is not our home, but rather our testing ground. We are just passing through here with the goal of proving God is greater than Satan. Hebrews 11:13-16

24. Humans are engaged in spiritual warfare.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

We are engaged in spiritual warfare against evil in the world's darkness as well as in heavenly places. How can we fight a spiritual battle if we are not spirits? Only spirit can battle spirit. Our actions, attitudes and beliefs here assist the armies of God here and there.

¹⁸ Strong's Lexicon, 4282.

25. Our Citizenship is in Heaven.

Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20

Heaven is my country of origin, my home! We are citizens there, not here! Citizenship is acquired by birth. The actual citizenship is usually acquired automatically when the child is born. Since our citizenship is in Heaven, our spirit originated there, not Earth.

26. God called us for all eternity. 2 Timothy 1:9 NLT

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life because this was his plan long before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

God's plan extended deep into "preternity", long before the beginning of time. He did this from the get-go of eternity. When planning a strategy and purpose, one always has in mind the shareholders. Better yet, God saved us and called us according to His plan. One could not save or call someone who did not yet exist.

27. God promised us eternal life before the world began.

This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. Titus 1:2 NLT

God promised His children they would experience eternal life "before times eternal". This is the smoking gun for confirmation our spirits existed before our birth with God.

28. We are strangers on this planet.

You are foreigners and aliens here. I Peter 2:11

Peter was speaking about abstaining from sins which wage war against the soul. We are foreigners in this world because we are spirits constructed by God. Our citizenship in Heaven makes us aliens here. Sin makes us citizens of Earth. We are foreigners and aliens here because of God's holiness. The choice to sin cancels our citizenship in Heaven.

29. The Bible declares that I am a spirit.

By this you know the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this (the spirit) is of the antichrist, of which you have heard that is coming, and now it is already in the world (Greek: cosmos, world, universe). I John 4:2-3

30. There is a "Before all time".

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever (to all the ages).
Jude 24-25*

Jude demonstrates the reality of Eternity in its three dimensions: (1) Before all time (Preternity), (2) now (Internity), and (3) forever (Reternity). Eternity has three eras: (1) yesterday; (2) today; and (3) forever. Hebrews 13:8

31. The most profound evidence is Jesus Himself

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overpower it. John 1:1-5

Jesus is the Word. He has always existed as God. He is the Creator of everything. He imagined creation, planned it, designed it and sourced life as a Heavenly reality. Before creation of the Earth, Jesus' was life which was the light (noun) of men. Mankind was created to be His light (Gk: "phos", noun) in Heaven to overcome Satan's darkness. Satan attempted to extinguish the light but could not...he and his angels were evicted from Heaven. Revelation 12:7 It is impossible for the Devil to extinguish the Lord's light.

There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. John 1:9

After creation and Old Testament history, Jesus became flesh to recharge our light (Gk: photezei, verb) and remind us that we are created in God's image. Unfortunately, His creation did not remember Him, rejected Him, and embraced Satan's darkness. If we as spiritual beings did not have life (Gk: zoe) before our deployment to Earth, there would be no need to have our light reconnected upon Earth. The verb "photezei" is an action word which means our original light was unplugged when we left Heaven and can be turned back on when we follow Jesus on Earth. He is our light source. Those without Jesus are in the dark.

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32. The Lord named individuals before they were physically born.

- Ishamel (before Hagar knew she was pregnant).
Genesis 16:11
- Isaac was named 12 months before his birth.
Genesis 17:19, 21
- Cyrus was named 173 years before his birth by the prophet Isaiah (740-686 B.C.) The Persian King would conquer Babylon in 539 B.C. Isaiah 45:1
- Josiah was named 32 years before his birth. I Kings 13:2
- John the Baptist was named before his birth. Luke 1:13
- Immanuel was named 600 years before his birth by Isaiah. 7:14 Matthew 1:21,23, 25; Luke 1:30-33

God named these six individuals before they were conceived. Did they exist with Him in Heaven before their deployment to Earth? How else can you explain it? A coach can complete a roster weeks before a game but won't know who will play on the day of the game until the team players show up. The odds are infinitesimal that a Hebrew prophet could predict the name of a Gentile king and nation that would later conquer Babylon 173 years later unless they already existed with God in Heaven. God knows the names on His roster and the timing for them to enter the game.

How could God predict people's names and lives if they were not known to Him before they were born? Why is this knowledge generally hidden from God's people?

Apologetics for Skeptics

“Pre-existence, before life, or premortal existence is the belief that each individual human soul existed before mortal conception, and at some point before birth, enters or is placed into the body. Concepts of pre-existence can encompass either the belief that the soul came into existence at some time prior to conception or the belief that the soul is eternal. Alternative positions are creationism which hold the individual human soul does not come into existence until conception.”¹⁹

Origen, (185-254 C.E.), an early church father, lived about one hundred years after the Apostle John’s death. Origen was “the most learned man of the ancient church. Two-thirds of the New Testament is quoted in his writings.”²⁰ Origen believed and wrote about the pre-existence of spirits. He believed that each human soul was created by God at some time prior to conception. He wrestled with the possibility “whether souls came into existence as the same time with their bodies or seem to be anterior to them.”²¹ Origen quoted Jeremiah 1:5.

Three hundred years after Origen’s death, teachings about pre-existence were condemned as heresy by the Second Council of Constantinople in A.D. 553. The council vehemently objected to Origen’s work. The Pope and a council of the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches placed a formal curse excommunicating and denouncing Origen and the pre-existent spirits doctrine.

¹⁹ Wikipedia: Pre-existence

²⁰ Halley’s Bible Handbook, Zondervan, 1965 p. 764.

²¹ Origen De Principiis, Chapter VII—On Incorporeal and Corporeal Beings 3.

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The Council explicitly stated "If anyone asserts the fabulous pre-existence of souls, and shall assert the monstrous restoration which follows from it: let him be anathema." Origen's writings essentially confirmed that the New Testament we have today is congruent with the New Testament documents written in the first century. What was the Council's contribution?

Almost every Christian denomination that accepts the conclusions of the Second Council of Constantinople simply see Jeremiah 1:5 as another passage about God's foreknowledge. This would make rejection of Origen's doctrine likely to be the majority Christian opinion to the present day.²²

The conclusions made by this corrupt Council, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and Christian protestant reformers have negatively persuaded seekers of truth from pursuing the scriptural evidence of preexisting spirits.

Others have concluded that "The Bible says nothing about the pre-existence of souls because this is a man-made idea with no basis in truth."²³ Two questions surface:

1. Who has more credibility: Origen, who believed scripture referenced pre-existence, or the Second Council of Constantinople that condemned him for his insight 300 years after his death?
2. What has more validity: 32 verses from the Word of God or the consensus of a corrupt religious council?

²² Wikipedia "Pre-existence"

²³ Got Questions.org

Before Here Through Eternity

Greek philosopher Plato as well as some world religions and Mormons believed in pre-existent spirits. Even the Serpent spoke some truth within his lies in the Garden of Eden. Nobody knows scripture better than Satan. He sprinkles a little truth in every lie. Right is right even when nobody else espouses it. Wrong is wrong even when everyone supports it. Origen's insights cannot be dismissed merely on the consensus of religious no-name clergy or faux cults and religions.

The theology of pre-existent spirits should not be dismissed because secular philosophers or a few religions embrace it. French philosopher, scientist, and Jesuit priest, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin stated:

“We are spiritual beings having a human experience.
We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.”

Associated with the Roman Catholic Church, such a statement was obviously contrary to the edict of the Second Council of Constantinople in A.D. 553. Chardin's writings were largely rejected by ecclesiastical authorities and Jesuit leadership. It is constantly amazing how much pain and suffering has been inflicted by “The Church” over the centuries which has impeded the study and spread of the Good News.

Before denouncing pre-existence research as heretical, please allow Scripture and the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth. The outcome may give you a deep sense of freedom and joy knowing that God, your Creator, has a plan for your life. You are an integral part of God's family and creation. Scripture verifies you are a spiritual being having a human experience. God created you for just this time and place. Only as a spirit can you live eternally.

The Chess Box Contents

Potential Purpose and Sequence of Events

Before: I was created.

- The Family of God existed.
- The Lord God created spiritual beings known as angels.
- One angel (the Devil) became arrogant and defiant towards God. He convinced 1/3rd of the angels to rebel against God. Revelation 12:7
- The Family of God Created the Heavens and the Earth.
- There was war in heaven. The red dragon and his demons were thrown down to earth.
- The result: Chaos on Earth Genesis 1:2
- The Heavens and Earth were re-created. Genesis 1:3-25
- The Family of God created spiritual beings in God's image, known as humans in heaven. Zechariah 12:1
- Our name was recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- The Family of God knew us before they deployed us to Earth. Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:16

Here: Why and How I was deployed to Earth.

- Our spirit inherited our physical body. Zechariah 12:1
- Our spirit was delivered into our human body the same way we will transfer out of our body: angels. Luke 16:22
- Humans are foreigners here on Earth. I Peter 2:11
- Our mission: Earth became the new battlefield to determine whether God is greater than Satan.
- The devil needed to recruit humans to fight on his side and reinforce his 1/3rd angel corps. Ephesians 6:12
- Satan's prime directive is to capture our spirit.
- Our body is our temporary home and dies.

Eternity: Our spirit lives forever with or without God.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Six



The Chess Piece Transition

*“For I know the plans that I have for you” declares the Lord,
“plans for welfare and not for calamity
to give you a future and a hope.”*
Jeremiah 29:11

The Vin # Validation

The Chess Pieces Transition from the box to the board

There are 64 squares on the chess board. 32 are occupied by two warring kingdom chess pieces. The Chess Masters place each piece with hope and purpose.

The pieces allied with the White King are deployed with a personal plan for peace, not evil...a future with hope.

The pieces aligned with the Red King possess a personal plan for evil and chaos, not peace...no hope.

It is difficult to comprehend that Jesus came from Heaven to Earth to save mankind from our sins. It is more challenging for us to understand we came from Heaven to Earth to be part of that salvation process also. Our purpose for coming to Earth was to prove our commitment and love for our Creator. Our mission is to reach the lost who have strayed from their relationship with God.

Our journey from the Chess Box to the Board is part of God's larger plan for us and His purposes. Like Isaiah, our role is to say, "Here am I Lord, send me." No matter what chaos, calamity and evil Satan musters against us, we are guaranteed hope, a future, and a plan that is essential to God's blueprint for successfully overcoming the evil one.

The Lord's will is difficult to ascertain, but an adventure worth pursuing. During a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian athletes in the USA, Bobby Richardson, a New York Yankee second baseman, prayed: "Dear God, your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."²⁴ We are spiritual beings experiencing a human life.

²⁴ Pastorlife.com

Imagine this scenario ...

All spiritual beings who have ever lived on Earth existed previously with God. Before our history began on this planet, we had a prior existence. We were with God in the heavens...we knew nothing about time... we had identities, and duties. Our existence there was to please our Creator, Jesus. We weren't His slaves or robots. We were His children.

We were aware of the angels, God's messengers. There were a few mighty angels known as Cherubim: Michael and Lucifer (the shining one). The six-winged Seraphim angels surrounded God's throne.²⁵

We were witnesses of God's purpose for creating the Earth, the moon, the stars, and the universe. We had a grandstand view of all of Creation from the threshold of Heaven. We were present and enjoyed front row seats to God's magnificent creation of the Galaxies.

We knew many of the heavenly residents who were deployed to Earth. We also knew of Jesus' interventions on Earth in the cosmic battle between good and evil.

Everyone talked about Jesus leaving us to become human. The Creator of the Universe became an infant, the most helpless of all creation. He lived among humans so that His creation who committed sin, could be adopted back as His children again. The only way to redeem humans was to become human.

²⁵ Isaiah 6:1-8

Before Here Through Eternity

When Jesus returned to Heaven after His resurrection, many of the spirits who believed in Him returned from Abraham's Bosom. We saw Moses, Esther, Rahab, and many others who shared in the human experience. But most of the deployed spirits did not return from Sheol. They embraced Satan even after their death.

When it was our time to deploy, we were approached by an angel who said: "Report to the Cosmic Classroom for further instructions." Obediently, we attended. Our curiosity must have soared. We were all aware of the many spirits who left Heaven to go to Earth. Now it was our turn, but we had no understanding of what to expect. A different angel came into the classroom and all of us were transfixed by his words:

"You have been chosen for such a time as this to deploy to Earth. When you arrive, you will experience a transformation. Your spirit will remain the same, however, it will reside in a human body. Your body will begin to die as soon as you are born into it. Your spirit will receive a free-will card. With it comes the choice to do what God wants you to do, what you want to do, or what Satan wants you to do. Your purpose for going to Earth is to prove your commitment and love for your Creator."

"You will also experience an earthly reality called 'time'. You can use it, but it is not eternal. It is also out of your control. Live each day fully realizing time is a vapor. You are an eternal being suspended in a human body."

Another spirit in the classroom asked, "Since we have never been human before, what will we experience on Earth?"

The Chess Piece Transition

The angel responded: “Your Earthly reality will be unlike anything you have dreamed. There are concepts that I cannot define or show you. You will be introduced to family, love, truth, kindness, peace, joy, patience, and self-control. You will not be going to Earth alone, for God’s Holy Spirit will accompany you if you travel with Him. Lucifer will introduce you to some new experiences. He and his angels will attempt to test you. His purpose is to try to convince you to live forever with him. He will provide you with opportunities to sin against God. He will try to tempt you to worship him or yourself. He will entice you to live for the moment. He will whisper to you that God will never know what choices you make. He will persuade you that God doesn’t care about you. He will do everything in his power to destroy you. He will tell you that you have plenty of time on Earth.”

The angel continued: “Many of the spirits you encounter in human bodies will not remember their Creator. Many will allow free will to obstruct God’s purpose for them. Others will believe in God no matter what happens to them on Earth.”

The angel must have sensed our curiosity and fear. “Some of you will live briefly on Earth. Others will live exceptionally long lives. It is not the time that counts, but what you do with your time, and whether you choose to live for God or Satan that matters. The only thing you will bring back with you are the deeds you do on Earth, whether good or bad. What you do there will determine where you reside in eternity.” The angel then commissioned and deployed us. Our spiritual being transitioned into a physical body and we were born in a nation and race of God’s choosing.

Before Here Through Eternity

We are all Cosmic Chess pieces. We are endowed with uniqueness, purpose, and potential. "Preternity" is my relationship with the Family of God. I was formed by God in His image before I existed in my mother's womb. God knew me, consecrated me, and appointed me before He positioned me in this particular time in history and place.

It seems logical in the context of cosmic spiritual warfare, that God created us as citizens of Heaven, commissioned us to serve and represent Him on Earth, redeemed us, and will welcome us back home after our mission is complete. Eternity does not begin when we die and are resurrected. Eternity simply continues.

*"The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who reverence Him. God's love for you is everlasting. He doesn't only love you now. He loved you before you were. He has always known you. For ages before you existed, He has known you. If He loves you now, it could not have been any different then. God has loved you, tenderly, mercifully, and faithfully...from everlasting. How long has He loved you? For an eternity! He's loved you from forever. His love for you has already lasted an eternity! It has already traveled an eternity to reach you. You can't fathom eternity, nor can you fathom His love, except to know that His love for you is greater than eternity. God's love for you has already spanned the length of eternity. It has already lasted forever."*²⁶

²⁶ Jonathan Cahn, **The Book of Mysteries** (Lake Mary, FL: Frontline, 2016), Day 219. Used by permission.

The VIN # Validation

Every automobile has a VIN #. The VIN is assigned at the time the production date is confirmed, well before actual production time. An automobile receives the Vin # when it is manufactured and remains on the car until it is scrapped. When the vehicle is produced the Vin # is placed on the driver's side dashboard at the bottom of the windshield. The VIN # is also identified on the vehicle registration for the vehicle's license tag. Used cars buyers and sellers can find the value and history of a vehicle by Googling Kelly Blue Book or Edmonds and typing in the VIN #. The number is also identifiable on the car title. The VIN # is confined in the DMV computer servers virtually forever.

The car's vehicle identification number (VIN) is the identifying code for a SPECIFIC automobile. The VIN serves as the car's fingerprint, as no two vehicles in operation have the same VIN. A VIN is composed of 17 characters (digits and capital letters) that act as a unique vehicle identifier.

Your car's vehicle identification number (VIN) contains a wide variety of information about the car. You can use your car's VIN to determine where the car was made, what kind of car it is, when it was manufactured and even what options it came with when it left the factory.

Every individual has a VIN #. Your name was identified and listed in the Book of Life before your birth on Earth. The Lord God created your spirit and placed His DNA within you. Your VIN # confirms your spirit was made in Heaven, what kind of vehicle (human body) you would possess (male or female), and your delivery location.

Before Here Through Eternity

The VIN# specifies when your body was manufactured (date of birth) and indicates what options your body is equipped with when it leaves Heaven (heart, mind, body, male or female, all made in the image of God.) Your annual birthday celebrations are an odometer reading determining how many miles (years) you have traveled.

Humans celebrate the anniversary of a child's birth on the day the child was born, not the day of conception. A person's age is calculated from the moment that child takes its first breath, not the day it begins its first heartbeat. (About 22 days after conception).

Our VIN # Evidence

Our vehicle's body was conceived from a blueprint and premanufactured. Psalm 139:16

Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Our vehicle's engine (spirit) was manufactured at a different location than the body and assembled in our physical body at a later time and place.

Car motors are manufactured at a different factory than the car body. The engine is shipped to the assembly plant and placed into the body's motor compartment. When all the components are completed, the vehicle is ready to drive.

Our VIN # is God's spiritual DNA!

Our vehicle is constructed with limited odometer mileage.

As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years...so teach us to number our days. Psalm 90:10, 12

Our vehicle's limitations are addressed in the warranty book.

Lord, make me know my end, and what is the extent of my days. Let me know how transient I am. Psalm 39:4-13

Our vehicle's blueprint was conceived by the designer. The model was constructed for safety, efficiency, comfort, purpose, and appeal. The cost of the vehicle was determined.

Every automobile has the name or icon of the manufacturer on the front or back of the body of the vehicle. All cars are branded. Every car has similar components: frame, body, motor, seats, steering wheel, accelerator, and brake. But each vehicle has unique features as well. Engines have lower or higher horsepower. The lines of the body are different. Some cars are small and others large. The upholstery is custom, or factory made.

Our body's vehicle was made by our Creator Designer. All of us are unique. No other person has a fingerprint like ours. Our spirit has the Vin number of our Creator. Like a vehicle, our spirit has a warranty from God. That Warranty guarantees us God will imprint His name on our life: "Redeemer".

"I know that my Redeemer lives. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh, I shall see God. Job 19:25

My vehicle and my Vin # can be re-purchased.

There are several cars I sold that I wish I could buy back again! My first car was a 55 Chevy with a 283 engine and a four-barrel carburetor. It is probably in a junk yard somewhere. If only I could redeem it (buy it back) and restore it again!

The Hebrew word for “Redeemer” is “gō·’ă·lî.” A goalie conjures up the image of a defender in a hockey or soccer game. The Goalie stands in front of the home team’s net prepared to deflect any missiles fired from the rival team. The goalie will sacrifice his own body to defend the team’s property.

Jesus is our Goalie. He is our Redeemer. He prevents our opposer, Satan, and his team from scoring on us. When we fall or miss preventing Satan’s team from scoring, Jesus redeems us. Our goalie justifies us and cleans us of our guilt, shame, and sin. Best of all, he wants to buy us back. Some people name their car. Jesus calls us by name.

Our body was designed, created, and formed to be a vehicle for our Creator Designer. We are equipped to drive on Earth. Every human body is equipped with similar body parts. When the body enters the showroom, it has that “new car” smell. As the automobile is driven, it needs oil changes, tires rotated, plugs changed, and unfortunately, some vehicles are involved in life-changing accidents.

The Chess Piece Transition

Over the years, parts break down needing a new starter, tires, or engine overhaul. Stains, cracks, or tears appear on the seats and upholstery. The motor becomes greasy and dirty. Rust eats through the floorboards. The paint fades. Some vehicles only last a few thousand miles, while others' odometers flip two or three hundred thousand miles. Eventually, all are towed to the junk yard.

The manufacturer's label may have fallen off somewhere along a road. But the VIN # is still on the vehicle unless someone has filed it off. The VIN # will never be reused. It is one of a kind!

The good news. God is in the salvage business. He doesn't rescue our frame, but He will rescue our spirit.

Who are we? We are God's spiritual vehicle to transport His plan and purpose for our lives. We have a VIN number. It is recorded in God's book of life forever unless we allow Satan to steal it and file it off. We are made in the image of our Redeemer who VINdicates us from the junkyards of this world.

The make and model of our vehicle: **"Infinity"**!

We are made in the likeness of God, for God is spirit. We, too, are eternal spiritual beings. Our Creator placed us here in this time and place to accomplish His purpose and magnify His love.

Before Here Through Eternity

Thirty-two Bible passages confirm our preexistence. There are more verses dedicated to its reality than popular eschatological subjects such as: the last days, the Antichrist, 666, the pearly gates, the streets of gold and the thousand years (27 verses total). God spoke through ten biblical authors to confirm our preexistence. It must be important to God for us to know this reality.

Yahweh created our eternal spirit in “preternity”. Our spirit may have been deployed and delivered into our human bodies by Yahweh, or perhaps angels for the purpose of proving whether we will bless or curse God during our earthly journey.

For He will give his angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands.
Psalm 91:11-12

According to Jesus the angels carried the deceased faithful to Abraham’s Bosom. Possibly the return system is the same as the initial delivery. Luke 16:22

The spirit will return to God who gave it.
Ecclesiastes 12:7

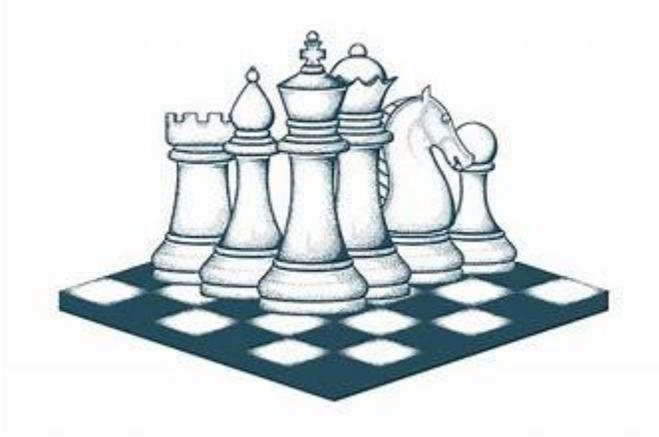
It is on the chess board that the pieces determine which side they choose. The spiritual contest and war initiated in “Preternity” transferred to Earth for humans to determine which team they choose to commit to and live for during “Internity”.

Here: “Internity”



Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Seven



The Chess Board

Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens,
lays out the foundation of the earth, and
forms the spirit of man within him.

Zechariah 12:1

Creation
Formed
Planted
Placed

The Chess Board

There are 64 identical alternating-colored square spaces on a chessboard, 32 of which are light squares and 32 dark squares. For purposes of our analogy, the chess board represents the struggle between good and evil waged in Heaven during “Preternity” and transferred to Earth throughout “Internity”.

In the beginning God...

Genesis 1:1

The Family of God: the Father, Holy Spirit and Son existed prior to time and Earth’s concept. They existed in eternity. There is no clock except by the discretion of God. His timing is exact and according to His will. God can move through time, but time cannot move without God. “In the beginning,” describes the Universe’s foundation, not just the Earth. “Beginning” denotes “unmeasured time,” a starting point.

created the heavens... (Hebrew: “shamayim” = plural)

“Heavens” refers to the visible sky or the air. It is plural, meaning more than one heaven. We can imagine that pre-Earth eternity was ample opportunity for God to unleash millions of galaxies in His Universe. God’s Spirit maneuvers through our air and space unhindered. The prophet Zechariah declared: “The Lord (Yahweh) stretches out the heavens.”

12:1

and the Earth...

The Earth’s creation had a beginning but was untethered by time boundaries. Specific time designation did not appear until “Let there be light.”

And lays out the foundation of the earth... Zechariah 12:1

Christian faith is not intimidated by science. God created science. There are many scientists who place their faith and work in the Bible's text. The Word of God explains our purpose. Science does not. God created everything by plan and choice, not by chance. Evolution is a theory, not fact. Every car built is patterned after the Model T Ford. All cars have tires, a motor, seats, and a transmission. They have changed in appearance and functionality over the decades but still have the same main components. In the beginning the Lord constructed the Earth's footer and foundation. However, someone interrupted the progression.

The earth became waste and emptiness.

The earth was (Hebrew: "hayah") formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep. Genesis 1:2

"Hayah" means "became". The Earth became disordered. This picture describes utter desolation. The Earth was formless (Hebrew "tohu": chaos, confusion, and waste). The Earth was void (Hebrew: "bohu" emptiness) *and darkness was over the face of the deep.* Darkness is the habitation of Satan. The Earth became formless because of Satan's tantrum. Light had not yet breached the Earth.

The image describes a convoluted mess. Such a description cannot be identified with the Family of God who knows no such confusion and disorder. This disorganization can only be attributed to the Commander of chaos, conflict, and confusion... Satan himself. When Satan and his angels were ejected from Heaven, chaos would be the outcome of his demon's revenge and anger, resulting in Earth's devastation.

Revelation 12:7

A Heavenly event created an earthly calamity.

Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. So, I threw you to the earth... Ezekiel 28:17

The cause and effect: Satan's eviction from Heaven resulted in Earth's demolition.

How you have fallen from heaven, O star (Helel) of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth... Isaiah 14:12

Helel, the star of the morning, caused "tohu" and "bohu" on Earth. The effect: "darkness, emptiness, chaos, confusion, and desolation". Satan was cut down to the Earth and in his revenge, he cut up this planet.

Did God create the Heavens and the Earth in seven days?

The first evidence of measured time is associated with the creation of light. It was the act of separating darkness with light which started God's Apple Watch. The family of God is spirit, not bound or limited by time. Earth's time has a start and finish. God determined what we know as time when they (Elohim) declared: "Let there be light!"

The Hebrew word for "day" in Genesis 1:5 is "yom". It denotes a separation of time. It can mean one day, one generation, or "one day is as a thousand years." 2 Peter 3:8

Viewing the various galaxies through the lens of the James Webb Space Telescope, one could easily conclude God could have created the Earth in seconds, minutes, days or thousands of years. The miracle of God's creation cannot be defined or limited by human calibration.

The Creation Account from Heaven's Perspective

To counter the devastation caused by Satan upon the heavens and the earth and continue creation, the Family of God spoke eleven times in Genesis 1:3-2:3 using action verbs. Only once did the Family say, "Let US" make man in OUR image. The words were spoken from Heaven's venue.

Then God (Elohim) said, "Let us make (Heb: asah) man in our image (Heb: tselem), according to Our likeness (Heb: demuth). God created (Heb: bara) man in his own image (Heb: tselem); in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27

The Family of God created Adam to resemble them. The Family of God emphasized four times their creation was to be in their image and likeness (tselem and demuth). Man was first "made" (Heb: asah) in God's image and likeness. Then man was "created" (Heb: bara) in God's image only. The separate Hebrew words (asah and bara) may imply similarity or a separate act. This is account of the creation of man's spirit in Heaven outlining his purpose on Earth. Our spirit was made and created in the image of God. As God is spirit, so are we. As spiritual beings, our spiritual life is eternal.

The Creation Account from Earth's Perspective

In the Genesis 2:4 account the Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) is the singular Creator and formed man (Heb: yatsar) man from the dust of the ground. This is the physical creation of the human body and man's purpose.

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being (soul). Genesis 2:7

Our physical body was “formed”, not made.

In Genesis 2:5, there is no foliage yet on Earth. There were no plants. This account predates the results of creation on the third day (Genesis 1:10-13). Adam was formed in the dust of the ground. Man became a living soul (Heb. nephesh) when God breathed into his nostrils.

It was the Lord God (Yahweh Elohim) who fashioned man. Adam’s spirit originated in Heaven. On Earth, man became a living being or soul, not a spirit. His soul was the result as the Lord’s breath surged into man’s body. The first man with a soul was created in ground watered by a mist, but no foliage had sprouted (2:5). Man was created on barren land.

Yahweh Elohim Planted a Garden...

The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden... Genesis 2:8

In the Genesis One creation account there is no Garden, but there are plants and trees. The Family of God created vegetation that produced seeds. In Genesis Two, there is no foliage when man was created. The Lord God planted a Garden toward the east in Eden. When and where did the Lord God get the seeds to plant the garden? Even Kindergarteners learn that seeds precede vegetation! Theoretically, the source of the seeds may have originated in Heaven during Preternity. God’s family transported seeds from one location to another. He transplanted the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil into Eden.

The Chess Board

“Placed” and “Put”

And there he placed the man whom He had formed.
Genesis 2:8

Then the Lord god took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it. Genesis 2:15

Adam was made from the dust of the ground, and then God placed him in the Garden. He was fashioned from dust in one place. Man became a living being and was deposited in another location where he had a purpose and partner.

The Lord God excels at creating something in one place and transferring it to another! He took seeds and Adam from one place and deposited the seeds and Adam in another location. In essence, Yahweh Elohim's resources for seeds were developed in Heaven. Seeds and human spirits came from the same source.

When chaos ensued after Satan and His cohorts rebelled, the battlefield was moved from Heaven to Earth. The outcome...humans became instrumental in the design of the blueprints and process. Yahweh Elohim is in the moving business!

“Placed” and “put” are important verbs. Moses emphasized the man's transfer twice! (Genesis 2:8, 15)

Genesis and Revelation reiterate this concept. The Tree of Life transitions from the Garden of Eden to the new Jerusalem. The same is true with chess pieces. Their origin is the Chess box until they are removed and placed on specific spots on the chess board by the Chess Masters. After their purpose is fulfilled, they are relocated again.

Is there life on other planets?

If the Family of God created life on other planets in other galaxies, their interaction with God would also have been contested by Satan. This scenario would require that God sent Jesus to redeem those who accept Him as Lord and Creator. If other world aliens interact with humans on this planet, the most important communication with them would be to inquire about their Messiah. When humans can travel to other planets and contact life there, the first question would be to inquire about their Savior. God would not create life on other celestial bodies without providing a hope and means of salvation.

Dinosaurs and prehistoric man?

Dinosaurs and prehistoric man do not contradict or challenge the Genesis account. The Bible hints to their existence and demise. Prior to the great flood, giants and the sons of God roamed the Earth. *“They were the mighty men of old, men of renown.”* Genesis 6:4

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face (presence) of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the heaven; for I am sorry that I have made them.” Genesis 6:5-8, 11

The wickedness of dinosaurs and prehistoric man resulted in their extinction. The Lord blotted them from the earth. Both Genesis 6:1-7 and Revelation 12:1-17 predate documented history. Dinosaurs and man coexisted.

The Chess Board

How do Chess Masters choose their pieces?

Not by color. The Spirit of God has no color. Our spirit has no color. God does not see white, black, red, yellow, brown or any other exterior human body on the color spectrum. As spirits, we were bright light. On this Earth, the more we play in the shadows, the more our light fades. Darkness of spirit is a result of collaboration with Satan and sin. This creates “a hole in the soul”.

We have a “whole soul” when we are deployed to Earth by God. Once we choose to sin and continue destructive behaviors, the “whole” becomes a “hole”. Wisdom, common sense, health, God, family and purpose siphon through the bottomless hole and our relationships and the meaning of life is ultimately sacrificed. Most “sin addicts dig a hole and don’t throw away the shovel.

Jesus is the answer! He filled that hole by His sacrifice on the cross. God does not see your skin color. He sees your spirit. He does not have a SKIN problem with us. We have a SIN problem with Him. We do not have Race problems on this planet. We have GRACE problems! We need God’s grace, not mankind’s discrimination. Our spirit is housed in a clay container, but our spirits are all the same...no color, just vibrant light in the Chess Box.

I asked a friend to draw a picture of what he envisioned eternity looked like. He sent back a blank white sheet of paper. This was uncharacteristic, so I responded, “The page doesn’t have anything on it. Send me a picture of eternity.” He replied, “Eternity is pure light. How can I illustrate pure light but send you a blank, white paper?”

Humans choose to be filled with light or darkness.

The Chess Master lines up the pieces on opposite sides of the board facing one another based on their choice. As demonstrated by Adam and Eve we have a choice to listen and obey the serpent or our Creator.

We are empirical evidence that life is everlasting. Our temporary home is a collage of the choices we make between living in light or darkness. We experienced Heaven. We are now experiencing Earth. We lived in harmony and perfect immortality with God. Pure light! We live in an imperfect world filled with chaos and disharmony. Pure darkness! Satan's prime goal is to destroy God's people and creation. When we love ourselves, like Satan loved himself, we have no room left in our heart to love God our Creator. In essence: the created product no longer wants or needs to identify with the Creator. We choose which side of the Chess Board we commit to defend.

All the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the one whose names were not written in the Book of Life which belongs to the Lamb who was killed before the world was made. Revelation 13:8; 17:8

The Family of God (Elohim) made, created, fashioned, patterned, and shaped Adam in their image. Adam and Eve had no belly button. Their choice to sin against God required their exit from the Garden of Eden. Afterwards, humanity was then made in Seth's image.

*Adam became the father of a son in his own likeness (Hebrew: demuth), *according to his image* (Hebrew: teselem) and named him Seth. Genesis 1:27; 5:3*

The Hebrew words in both passages are identical.

The Chess Board

Our human spirit chooses whether the Holy Spirit or Unholy Spirit powers our emotions, physical body, mind, heart, soul, and choices.

We are spirits deployed into physical bodies. Our body is like a condo. Our spirit rents our body. We don't own it. It belongs to the Condo owners. We must pay fees for upkeep. We may have good or lousy neighbors. We come and go as we please. Our bodies have amenities. We can fix it up or let it go.

Our spiritual life is eternal. One's spirit has endless existence. Eternity precedes and includes human history and extends beyond the confines of this journey. All humans are merely players on Earth's stage. We changed our costumes prior to our entrance. We perform on stage. We change our costumes as we exit and leave the auditorium. Eternity is the substance and duration of spiritual life.

Car advertisements are amazing. Manufacturers show the exterior of the car and its beautiful features. The interior and technological amenities are often highlighted. The value of the vehicle is presented in the context of how it impacts human desires and status. What is never photographed is the engine...the power source.

Humans without a spirit or consciousness of God are like cars without an engine. People fill their tanks with all sorts of fuel except God's word. The spirit within us is the only aspect of eternal power. Without God we are filling our gas tanks with sugar. Instead of being preoccupied with the beauty of the vehicle, we should be focusing on the source of our power and how far we can travel.

Before Here Through Eternity

Our physical life began in the dark.

In the womb there was no color. Darkness enveloped our total environment. Everything surrounding us was warm, wet darkness. The only clue that something more existed outside of our cocoon was the sound of the familiar voices of our parents and the gurgling sounds of our mother's body. There was no connection with our heavenly experience with God. There was no understanding of what we would experience on Earth after our birth.

The proof that more existed beyond Water World was the internal development of the fetus. In the darkness, our eyes were maturing so that after we were born, we could see the colors and magnificence of this planet. In darkness, our nose was forming so that in the light we could smell flowers day or night. Our lungs in the womb were expanding so that we could sing and breathe the aromas not yet defined. Our mouths and feet were evolving in the dark so that we could talk and walk once we came into the light. Our hands in the world of water were developing so that upon birth we could touch the face of our mother.

We were created to live in the light. Therein is our home...the presence of God. What we do for the light or darkness here determines our afterlife location. Heaven with Jesus is the light. The Lake of Fire with Satan is darkness. The real purpose of our life here is to determine whether we go back home to live with God or choose to live in the absence of light forever with the Accuser.

“Some people will never like you, because your spirit irritates their demons.”
Denzel Washington

The difference between “soul” and “spirit”.

“Soul” or life and “spirit” are separate entities. A person’s spirit and soul are not the same. Mary, the mother of Jesus made the distinction between soul and spirit.

Mary said: My soul (Greek: psuche) exalts the Lord, and my spirit (pneuma) has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Luke 1:46-47

The spirit (pneuma) is indestructible and eternal.

The spirit (Hebrew “ruach” and Greek “pneuma”) is connected with God.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

God is eternal. Worship connects God’s Spirit with our spirit. An individual’s spirit is delivered or developed within the physical body. The spirit continues to exist beyond this life into the afterlife.

God forms the spirit (ruach) of man within him.

Zechariah emphasized that it was Yahweh, who was the Creator. Then Zechariah underscored the timing of the sequence using present tense verbs. The heavens, foundation of the Earth and man’s spirit are simultaneous in the present tense and chronological. The Lord is “I Am”. He is always in the present tense. The focus is also on the description that the spirit is formed within man. “Within him can be translated: “inward parts” and does not suggest that the spirit is distributed during conception, but intimates when the organs begin development. The heart develops between five and six weeks of pregnancy.

Elizabeth's baby leaped in his mother's womb

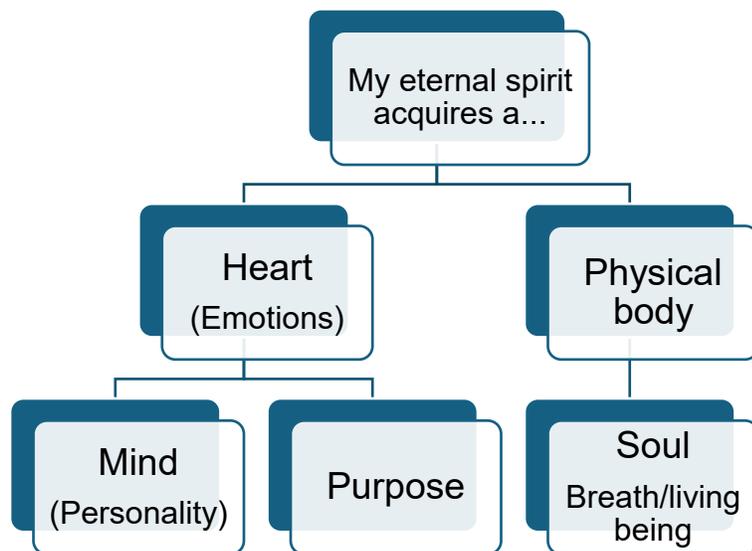
Life (the spirit) is in the womb as evidenced by the fetus within Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. Six months after conception she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:41, 44

This was not just a biological phenomenon. It was evidence of spiritual recognition and connection.

Components of our eternal spirit



It is human nature to focus on the external body rather than the unseen, eternal components. Our inner being is eternal. Our physical body is temporary. We focus on what other people say about the way we look instead of prioritizing how God sees our heart, mind and spirit. We are not the skin we wear. Our spirit within our skin is forever.

Components of our Human Body

The “soul” is the breath of life essential for human life. It is of extreme importance to delineate the difference between the “spirit” and the “soul” as many Christians believe they are the same entity.

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath (soul) of life (nismat hayyim), and man became a living being (nephesh=soul). Genesis 2:7

“Life” and “soul” are two identical entities. “Living being” (Heb: “nephesh” means “soul”, not spirit (Heb: “ruach”). This passage does not apply to when an individual receives their spirit. Soul and spirit are not the same. A person’s soul (Hebrew: “nephesh”, noun feminine; Greek “psyche”,) is associated with the natural life of the body, personality, emotions, desires, will and natural life of the body.²⁷

The soul is also connected with blood.

For the life (nephesh=soul) of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls (nephesh). Leviticus 17:11

The spirit is the engine of an individual. The heart is the transmission. The Heart begins to pump fluid through blood vessels on day 20. The first red blood cells appear on day 21. The heart develops and adapts. Moses claimed the soul begins with the blood flow. Genesis indicates the soul begins during one’s first breath.

²⁷ Ibid. Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, p. 588-589

Our “breath” and body are destructible.

The soul is perishable, but the spirit is eternal. The origin and inception of life and spirit are two different aspects. An individual breathes upon birth and becomes a living entity. One’s spirit is delivered and deployed from God.

The soul is perishable and tied to Earth’s existence. Example: “1,496 souls were lost in the sinking of the Titanic.”

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Matthew 10:28

The valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem was the garbage dump of refuse, unburied bodies and cultish sacrifices. Body and soul are identified as two entities. The body and breath (soul) of the victims can be destroyed in Gehenna, but not one’s spirit.

When does human life begin?

Debate and confusion regarding the beginning of human life results because of the misconception that the human spirit develops in the physical body rather than being delivered to the body. Religious denominations, abortionists, pro-lifers disagree when life begins...at conception or birth? Three schools of thought differ vehemently!

Theory #1: The belief that life and the spirit begin with conception is a physical and scriptural leap of faith. Blood flow doesn’t begin until day 20 and life is in the blood according to Moses. Many would argue that life is in the mother’s blood. Prior to day 20 the embryo has no pulse of its own however, therefore is devoid of spiritual life.

The Chess Board

Theory # 2: Human life begins at birth.

This philosophical or religious interpretation argues that our physical body develops a spirit, soul, mind, heart, and personality at birth. Proposing that human life begins at birth is a misunderstanding of the eternal composition of the spirit. The spirit of an individual is eternal. Our spirit is delivered into our human body somewhere between conception and birth. The soul becomes active with the first breath and components develop with time.

Theory # 3: Some argue that our spirit transpires at the age of accountability. All children mature differently.

Conclusions:

The arguments debating whether life begins at conception or birth will continue to divide rather than heal. Life begins when Yahweh creates our spirit in Heaven.

At His timing our spirit is deployed to Earth into our mortal body. Our “preternity” spirit created by Yahweh transitions from Heaven into our human body. When we take our first breath we receive our soul.

Our spirit is the engine, the eternal aspect of God that connects with God. Love for God is spawned by the spirit. Our eternal spirit received a body comprising the fundamental attributes of the heart (compassion), soul (breath of life), mind (our mental capacity) and strength, physical abilities. Breath and strength are mortal. The spirit, heart and mind of a person are eternal.

Before Here Through Eternity

We are eternal spirits having a human experience. We do not remember pre-existent experiences. There are millions of events and experiences I have forgotten about during my life's events. My forgetfulness does not confirm the events did not happen. It attests that there are experiences we do not remember, but none the less occurred. Our spiritual beginning with God has carryover to our humanity.

Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. Romans 1:19

Our Creator expects us to be overcomers and victors over Satan because He gave us His Holy Spirit and His Word, the Bible, to guide us. Judgment makes more sense when we understand that everyone's spirit had an ante-human existence with God. Everyone originated with God prior to their commission to Earth. We have no excuses!

The hand of Almighty God gently reaches into His precious creation and remove an important chess piece from the dwelling places inhabited from our beginning. He calls one or more of His angels and commissions them with the mission to insert this potential pawn, Castle, Knight, or Bishop onto Earth's Chessboard. The exact reserved square is chosen at God's exact timing. The transition of the chess piece is complete. What happens next depends on the chess piece's moves. All Chess pieces are expendable, and their purpose will end during or after the match. The Chessmen are never alone. On one side, all the chess pieces sacrifice themselves for King Satan. On the other side, King Jesus sacrifices Himself for all the pieces.

The Chess Board

All the chess pieces who served King Jesus eventually return to the box, and to the compartments or chambers they have earned from their deeds on the chessboard. Those who gave up their lives for King Satan transfer to a different box to be with him for eternity.

The purpose of the transition from the box to the board and transferring back to the box is to prove God is greater than Satan.

Christian theologians and authors convey to their audiences that eternity begins after one dies and our spirit ascends to Heaven or descends to Hell. When did eternity scripturally begin for humans...during our birth or upon death? The answer is...neither!

Before time...

The Lord stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin concluded:

“We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

If this life is a chess game, anticipate your next move. Champions plan four moves in advance.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Eight



The Red King

The Origin of Sin

The Original Sin

Strategies

The Origin of Sin – The Red King

God usually gets blamed as the source of disaster, sickness, and tragedy. The book of Job was possibly written preceding the five books authored by Moses. It is not a coincidence that Job addressed the source of suffering.

Job was blameless, upright, feared God and shunned evil. He and his wife had seven sons and three daughters and were extremely wealthy. Job knew his children liked to party. He offered sacrifices on his children's behalf fearing that his "sons sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job suddenly inserted an ethereal event corroborated by Moses.

There was a day when the sons of God (Elohim) came to present themselves before the LORD (Yahweh). 1:6; 2:1

The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, they bore children to them. They were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:2,4-5

"Where were you when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:7

The "sons of God" were possibly giants (Nephilim) of Seth's lineage who had sex with daughters from Cain's evil lineage. Their behaviors and actions were legendary but ultimately led to their destruction. The "sons" may have also been fallen angels ejected from heaven. Revelation 12:9

The Red King

Satan (the Accuser) came between them or into their midst to present himself before “Yahweh”. This is the third recorded conversation in Heaven (Genesis 1:26; 11:7).

The Lord: *“Where do you come from?”*

Satan: *“From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”*

The Lord: *“Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil.”* Job 1:7-8

Satan’s goal is to manipulate humans to curse God.

Satan: *“Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”*

The Lord: *“Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So, Satan departed from the presence of the Lord. 1:9-12*

Yahweh gave Satan the guidelines to touch what and who Job owned (wealth, livestock, property, family and servants) with restrictions to not touch Job personally. Basically, the Lord gave Satan permission to “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” Job 1:12

Before Here Through Eternity

Satan recruited neighboring peoples and spawned natural disasters to kill Job's family, servants, livestock, and possessions. Satan used "the fire of God" (1:16 lightning storm) which fell from Heaven and consumed the sheep and servants. Satan caused a great wind (tornado) to collapse the house where Job's kids were partying, killing them all.

Job's response to his total reversal of fortune and loss of children was, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Job was mistaken: The Lord did not take away. Satan took away. Through it all Job maintained his positive commitment and attitude to the Lord. He did not "sin or blame God." Yahweh allowed Satan to test Job with immense loss and suffering.

Satan had the nerve again "to present himself before the Lord". Chapter two begins with another meeting between the sons of God. Yahweh observed Job retained his integrity amidst heartache, destruction and loss of his children and servants.

Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Thy hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse Thee to Thy face." The Lord said to Satan, "He is in your power, only spare his life." Job 2:4-6

Yahweh allowed Satan to cause Job's suffering and agony. He did not cause it. Satan was the source of suffering. Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and attacked Job with boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Job's wife and closest friends likely caused Job more pain than the boils (leprosy or Elephantiasis, a very painful disease). They accused Job of sinning against God.

The Red King

The LORD allowed Satan to test Job.

At times, God tested those who believed in Him providing an opportunity for them to prove their faithfulness.

It came about that God tested Abraham. Take your son to Moriah now and offer him as a burnt offering.

Genesis 22:1

In Job's case, Yahweh allowed Satan to test and torment. The test was to determine if Job would curse God. Even Job's wife and best friends pressured him to curse God. But Job remained blameless and did not curse God. Through all of Job's pain, grief, criticism, loss of family and all his possessions he continued to trust in Yahweh.

*Oh, that my words were written and inscribed in a book!
That with an iron stylus and lead they were engraved in
the rock forever. And as for me, I know that my
Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on
the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my
flesh I shall see God, Whom I myself shall behold, and
Who my eyes shall see.* Job 19:23-27

The subject of the first book ever written focused on Satan as the source of suffering and death. Yahweh was aware and permitted the test because the Lord Himself was willing to allow Satan to test Him.

This drama between Yahweh and Satan would be replayed immediately after Jesus' immersion (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus, the Creator of the Universe was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. Satan presented himself before Jesus and tempted Yahweh to worship him and curse God, His Father.

The Red King's goals

Satan's prime directive is to distract, deceive, divert, divide and destroy us. We pray that Elohim does not lead us into temptation. When He does allow it, we realize that we are to remain godly people of integrity, to bless God and not curse Him, for He will exalt us in due time.

The Hebrew word "Redeemer" is "goali". The word means "vindication" or "proven". A comforting aspect during our testing and suffering is knowing that whatever Satan hurls at us, Jesus, Himself is with us. We are never alone. One day we will be vindicated!

Jesus taught His disciples to pray...

Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from (the) evil (one). Matthew 6:13

God is strong, and he wants you strong. So, take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. Put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.²⁸

Victory over the Red King's afflictions is assured by Jesus, the White King.

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8

²⁸ The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Ephesians 6:11-12

The Original Sin

Many believe sin is associated with conception based on King David's words:

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

David's mother was unnamed in the first book of Samuel. She bore seven of Jesse's sons. Her non-identification is somewhat unusual for kings of David's stature. However, King Saul's mother was also not named. David's admission signifies that from birth (conception) he, like all humans, was born with a sinful nature, inheriting a propensity to sin from Adam's fall rather than implying his conception was itself sinful.

Is it the mother's sin or act, or is it the embryo's sin? The unfortunate result of the "sin upon conception" doctrine is that an abortion of a child born in sin dooms the embryo's soul and spirit to hell. Sin is a choice. Embryos and fetuses have no choice. A just, merciful and all loving God would not condemn an unborn embryo.

We are under Adam's sin and curse by our choice to sin. If I am born in a garage, I don't automatically become a car, but the garage is still dirty. Being born in a hospital doesn't make an individual a surgeon. Sin is volitional rebellion against God. Embryo's do not willfully sin against God or perform shameful deeds.

David later in Psalm 51 clarified sin is a willful act.

For I recognize my shameful deeds—they haunt me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. Psalm 51:3-4

The spirit of the Unborn and Aborted fetus

God is not in the business of condemning an unborn child to Hell. To struggle with a religious belief that aborted or miscarried children are condemned to Hell is a slap in the face to God and to the parents. Believing that children before the age of accountability are also sinners because they were born in a sinful Earth is also tragic. Sin is a choice, not a condition.

There is nothing more heart-rending than the loss of a child in pregnancy or after. No one is more heartbroken than God. A child is His creation. Make no mistake, Satan is the manipulator of many of the deliberate acts to eliminate humans. We must remember that Satan can kill the body, but not the spirit. Our struggle is against the spiritual forces of wickedness. This all takes place in the spiritual realm. It has been established that our spirit is created by God for a purpose: to prove that God is greater than Satan. We struggle here because of spiritual warfare in heavenly places.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

The warfare between God and Satan reaches the most helpless. War always is against children whether spiritual or physical. Spirits created by God who enter into this world of flesh often don't survive because of Satan's conspiracies.

The Red King

Some spirits created by God are...

- Destroyed by Satan through unexplainable circumstances.
- Victims of a fallen world. Some spirits are stillborn, others die of sickness, medical, genetic, and biological complications in utero because of nature or disease.
- Cheated of experiencing life because of parental drug or spouse abuse. Abuse is a result of Satan's influence.
- Unable to experience life because of violence and murder.
- Aborted because of medical/mental reasons, selfish motives, desperation, or choice.

There are evil motives and circumstances. Many are driven by Satan, others by human decision, some by religious and political influences. An unborn spirit does not become a sinner by being conceived or born. Jesus encountered a man who was blind from his birth.

His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him. John 9:1-3

A spirit becomes a sinner when he or she chooses to sin. An embryo or fetus cannot sin volitionally. Early Christianity had no specific doctrine of original sin prior to the 4th century.²⁹ According to Jesus, sin isn't inherited by conception or birth on Earth.

²⁹ Obach, Robert (16 December 2008). The Catholic Church on Marital Intercourse: From St. Paul to Pope John Paul II. Lexington Books, p. 41.

Before Here Through Eternity

What happens to the spirit of an aborted embryo, fetus, or stillborn child?

1. The spirit of the unborn continues to reside with God in Heaven to praise Him throughout eternity.

Our aim is to please him always, whether we are here in this body or away from this body. 2 Corinthians 5:9 NLT

2. They are rescued by an angel from Satan's power for they are innocent.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them. Psalm 34:7; Psalm 91

3. Their spirit has angel advocates who give an account of their plight directly to God. These innocents are represented by a plurality of angels before God.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 18:10-11

4. God knows them intimately.

You scrutinize my path and my lying down and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. Psalm 139:3-4

What happens to infants and children who die after birth, but before the age of accountability?

- Their spirit is recognized as the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:4; 19:14

The Red King

- Their name remains in the Lamb's Book of Life.

*Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in
Your book were written all the days that were ordained
for me, when as yet there was not one of them.*

Psalm 139:16

- When we die, we will go to be with them. King David in his grief for his dead baby said,

*“Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but
he cannot return to me.”* 2 Samuel 12:23

The spirits of those who perish in utero return to Yahweh who created them. Their spirits are essential to the purpose God has for them, same as Heaven's angels. Their spiritual body is immortal, and we speculate they will be able to function just like everyone else's spiritual body.

The purpose of our spirit's birth on Earth is to glorify God. Satan's plan is to damage God through the actions, attitudes, and beliefs of humans. When an abortion occurs, God's power, potential and purpose for the spiritual person is detoured by the breaking of the sixth commandment: *“You shall not murder”*. Exodus 20:13

Abortion is murder. The consequences of breaking this or any other of the Ten Commandments is human separation from God. The spirit of the fetus is not separated. The fetus has no need to repent because it did not sin against God. The parents, doctors and those involved in the abortion do sin against God. This is not the “unforgiveable sin”. God knows our hearts and thoughts of which we are all accountable. That is the purpose of Judgment Day.

Before Here Through Eternity

God created us as spiritual beings. The spirit of a person is eternal and cannot be destroyed. God's design for spiritual beings is to experience life as a human. However, Satan's intent in human affairs is to destroy who and what God created. He cannot destroy the spirit of the unborn, but he can kill the body through his own interference upon the physical substance of the fetus or anytime during our human existence.

If one of God's creations is denied Earthly life by a mother's decision or the act of someone else, the spiritual being continues and thrives in Heaven with God. We will meet them if we repent of our sins, commit our lives to Jesus and ask Him to redeem us! If not, God Himself and His angels will comfort and console the spirit. His/her name continues to appear in God's Book of Life even though humans made the decision to eliminate him/her from the human record of life.

Our spirit returns to God who gave us our spirit. If we conclude our eternal spirit is developed in a human body, but not certain at what junction of development, we then can be equally as uncomfortable determining when the spirit departs from the body.

What happens to me when I die is basically the same as what happened to me before I was born. I was sent by God on a mission, and I must give an account whether I fulfilled God's commission for me while on earth.

My spirit is still a spirit. Whether I worshiped God on Earth in spirit or not determines whether I worship Him in the afterlife or not. The Red King entices the "not".

The Red Kings Strategies

1. Deception

Satan's greatest deceptions: convincing people that his movements and actions are God's will. Historically, many wars have erupted based on false claims that it is "God's Will". Satan is the master of deception. The arena of the deceived are people who claim to follow God and Christ.

2. Distraction

Those who live for Satan bask in the glow of deception and distraction. Theories, thrills, theology, and things obstruct their view of spiritual realities.

3. Diversion

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24

4. Division

This is Satan's master priority. He wields a sword dividing families, neighbors, cities, and nations. Division is nurtured by Discrimination. Jesus warned:

Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. Luke 11:17

5. Destruction

Satan's ambition is to destroy the Godly, their faith and works, by any means possible. Revelation 9:11

Your adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. I Peter 5:8

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Nine



← Preternity

Internity

Reternity →

Speed Chess

I press on toward the goal... Philippians 3:14

The history of the world

The Masterpiece

We are strangers here

Living in the Middle of Eternity

Speed Chess

We are on the clock. History is a display of human experience on Earth's chess board. The speed of life is comparable to a roll of toilet paper. The closer one gets to the end of the roll, the faster it disappears.

The History of the World: The first 2000 years

Adam and Eve bore two sons: Cain was a farmer and Abel, a shepherd. They brought offerings before the Lord. Abel offered God the best of his sheep. Cain offered the leftovers of his produce. The Lord accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's. He became angry with the Lord, who gave Cain a second chance: Genesis 4:8

*"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?
And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door;
and its desire is for you, but you must master it."*

One son chose Satan's side of the chessboard, and one son stood in the ranks of the white King. Cain murdered his brother. God cursed the ground and placed a mark on Cain so that no one else would slay him. Cain left the presence of the Lord, traveled to Nod, East of Eden, and married. Where did Cain's wife come from? With no birth pain in the Garden and no T.V., Adam and Eve didn't have much to do other than naming animals and parenting lots of kids. As soon as they became teenagers, they left home and settled outside of the Garden. That's why the Cherubim were placed EAST of the Garden...so the kids couldn't move back in with their parents.

Giants (Nephalim) Seth's descendants had sexual relationships with Cain's family. Sin became rampant.

Speed Chess

As Cain's descendants expanded, they became increasingly sinful. Seth's generation began to call upon the name of the Lord. Enoch was four generations removed from Seth and walked with God". However, the majority of the "sons of God" had sexual relations with the daughters of Cain and evil became so rampant...

The Lord saw it all and was sorry He had made man on Earth, and He was grieved in His heart. Genesis 6:6

On the chessboard, Noah found favor with God. He was probably a giant (Nephelim) or someone in his family carried the gene because after the flood, Joshua and Caleb encountered giants in the promised land. A flood destroyed all living creatures except those on the ark with Noah's family. God always has a remnant. After the flood Satan influenced mankind to build a tower reaching into Heaven to threaten God's throne. Satan's chess pieces conspired to be equal with God. But The Family of God (Elohim) said: "Let us go down and confuse their language." The Chessboard expanded.

The second 2000 years: 2166 B.C.- 4 B.C

Biblical history is the story of mankind's constant struggle between serving God or serving Satan. Abraham was a man of faith whose choices revealed many weaknesses. The Lord promised Abram that He would make a nation from him. God established a covenant, testament, and contract with Abraham and his people who became known as Israelites. "If you do this, then I will do this. If you break the covenant, then you will experience the consequences." The Israelites continuously broke the covenant agreement. They abandoned the white army and enlisted in the red.

Before Here Through Eternity

A few players on the chessboard served God: Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Rahab, Joshua, Daniel, and others. They all had sinful deficits but also demonstrated faith in God. The Law unmasked mankind's rebellion against God. God's "chosen people" Israel became God's "frozen" people because they pursued other gods. The consequences: they were dispersed among the godless nations.

The third 2000 years: 4 B.C. – present

When the time was right, Jesus, the White King, volunteered to become what He had created. His plan was to redeem us, conquer death and Satan, the Red King. By his death, He fulfilled the Old Covenant and established a New Covenant (New Testament).

Jesus revealed the purpose of the chessboard. All the red players who live for Satan die for the Red King. Jesus, the White King died for all of the pieces who follow Him!

Jesus' resurrection was a brilliant Chess move. It significantly changed the course of history and provided a tactical edge over Satan.

From the Dark and Middle Ages through the Renaissance and modern age, spiritual and literal world wars have substantiated the struggle between God and the Devil.

At present the longevity of Internity is not looking too hopeful. Spiritual warfare between good versus evil is more evident than ever. Yet, life continues...for now.

Speed Chess

We are God's masterpiece!

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:9-10

We were alive before we were born...

We are spiritual beings. We lived in a prior spiritual realm with other spiritual beings in Heaven with our Creator. Heaven was our first home. This was God's choice.

We died when we were born...

Our mother's body was our second home. This was our parents' choice. Our first experience of life on this planet was called "Water World". We had a heartbeat, we could hear voices, and we could absorb nourishment. However, we could not breathe, see or smell. We lived in Water World for approximately nine months. When we decided we no longer wanted to be a resident, we exited Water World and entered a new environment breathing the Earth's oxygen.

Before achieving human independence, a nurse separated us from our birth mother by cutting the umbilical cord. The Biblical word for "death" means "separation". We were separated from Water World and from our mother. This was a biological necessity.

Before Here Through Eternity

The moment we live we begin to die...

Our life on this planet is our human experience. Our physical body is our spirit's home. Our body's DNA, health, environment, choices, and circumstances outside of our control dictate our longevity on this planet. Our physical body began dying the moment we took our first breath. God has set our life's parameters. Our days are numbered.

You have decided the length of our lives. You know how many months we will live, and we are not given a minute longer. Job 14:5 NLT

Before we experienced our first day or took our first breath, God had already written in His Book of Life the number of our days. Prior to our entrance upon Earth, God previewed and determined our life span.

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalm 139:16 NLT

God designed us, named us, knew us, consecrated us, deployed us and redeemed us. We were created to do good things He planned for us to accomplish. It is upon the living, to choose which Master we will serve...God or Satan. Our purpose is to engage in spiritual warfare against Satan and His demonic spirits. God placed our eternal spirits into earthly bodies and made us in His own image. Whether our spirit remains in God's image or morphs into Satan's image is our choice. I Corinthians 10:13

No temptation as overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Speed Chess

We are approaching the end of the third 2000-year period and beginning of the fourth. Will we fulfill God's plan, or will we succumb to Satan's plan? It's our move!

Once we start our earthly voyage the warrantee begins and ceases after the expiration date. Every ending has a new beginning. However, these are confined to Earth days only and not to eternal existence with or without God.

Our birth marks our entrance, and death is our exit from this planet. Most people believe these two events are the beginning and end of one's existence. We begin life with a birth certificate (footprint) given to our parents in the hospital and depart from life with a death certificate (without a footprint) presented to our descendants. Our advent and our departure are often celebrated with joy and tears. If you are blessed, both are also celebrated in love.

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Both events are etched on grave markers. Our birth date and our expiration date will be separated by an almost indistinguishable hyphen. Our experiences, tragedies, significant events and accomplishments are reduced to a hyphen on our tombstone. Is that all that remains of our footprints on Earth? No...we are much more...more than we ever knew or comprehended.

Once we understand this, we will experience freedom and fulfillment. Life will take on an entirely new meaning, purpose, and perspective.

We die so we can live again...

Our last home is our destination of choice. While we are alive on Earth, we make the choice to believe in our Creator and live as a spirit eternally in Heaven with Him or we make the choice to reject our Creator and live as a spirit eternally without Him. Our destination is our choice.

We don't remember God after we are born on Earth, but we will remember Him when we return. Our citizenship is in Heaven, the origin of our existence. We are strangers, aliens, pilgrims, and sojourners on this planet. That is why we call Heaven, "Home!"

We are strangers on this planet

Have you ever felt like you are just a traveler on this planet? Does your existence here seem surreal... something in your gut that says: "I want to go home," but you really don't know where home is? Scripture verifies your intuitive sense is spot on.

For through Jesus, we have our access in one Spirit to the Father, so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and are of God's household. Ephesians 2:18-19

As wanderers, travelers, foreigners, exiles, temporary residents, nomads, strangers, visitors, and sojourners on planet Earth, we possess a Visa: "an endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time in a country."³⁰

³⁰ Dictionary.com

Speed Chess

A Visa is a vision

We are strangers here because our home, our country of residence is elsewhere. Christians do not need to get comfortable on planet Earth. This place is not our home.

All these people died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance and having confessed that they were strangers on earth. But as it is, they desire a better country that is a heavenly one. Therefore, God has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:13, 16

We are here for only a moment, visitors, and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. I Chronicles 29:15 NLT

You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Ephesians 2:19

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. I Peter 2:11 NLT

Our spirit is on temporary assignment here. We are strangers here and citizens there. We are temporary residents on this planet, but we are also citizens of a different realm. We will return home once our assignment is fulfilled. We transfer from this planet into God's presence or absence depending upon our choice to do His work or not.

For this world is not our permanent home, we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Hebrews 13:14

Before Here Through Eternity

Are we ever alone as we travel as foreigners?

Our spirit is immortal and eternal. We are created to live with God here and in Heaven. We are never alone as we travel this earth.

Jesus said, *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:20 We are not alone.

Jesus said, *"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5 We are not alone.

Psalm 139, 2-3; 5,7-10; Psalm 23:4

You know when I sit down or stand up. We are not alone.

Every moment you know where I am. We are not alone.

You both precede and follow me. We are not alone.

I can never escape Your Spirit! We are not alone.

If I go up to heaven, you are there. We are not alone.

If I go down to the place of the dead, you are there.
We are not alone.

If I dwell by the farthest oceans, your hand will guide me.
We are not alone.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God!
We are not alone.

When I wake up you are still with me. We are not alone.

When I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. We are not alone.

Are we ever alone as we travel the Universe? Never!

Speed Chess

Here...

I am created in the image of God³¹ and then, in the image of Adam and Seth.³² I am the product of God's workmanship.³³ My mind constantly displays the wonders of logic, thought, memory, and creativity. My body is a million-dollar machine capable of accomplishing extraordinary functions. I can express compassion for others or a myriad of other positive or negative responses towards people or animals.

My identity and personality have no clone. My footprint on Earth is unduplicated. The total of my being, my thoughts, actions, attitudes, accomplishments, and failures belong solely to my own story. I am a book consisting of chapters detailing mixtures of tragedy, pain, loneliness, and squandered opportunities melded with memorable joys, love and fulfilled dreams. The struggle between darkness and light has littered the pages of my life in each day's diary. Regrets for things I did not do as well as things I did do are a part of the fabric of my story. My connection with or disconnection from my Creator are choices I make daily. To do what is right or wrong is within my wheelhouse. There are three important days in a man's life.

- The day he is **born**,
- **The day he is born again**, and
- the day he finds out **why he was born**.

- Mark Twain adaptation

³¹ Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."*

³² Genesis 5:3 *Adam became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image...*

³³ Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*

Before Here Through Eternity

Then

My physical body is my house. My spirit, soul, mind, emotions, and personality, reside within my flesh and bones. I celebrate my birthdate. Construction, renovation, restoration, and eventual destruction of my body is inevitable. There is a time to give birth and a time to die.³⁴
Everyone and everything dies.

The reality is...my physical body is dying! Every time we inhale and exhale, we are one breath closer to death. We began dying when we were born. We see death around us constantly. The News stations report it. Video games, movies and media glamorize it, but no one knows with certainty what happens at death. Many would argue that it is impossible to know. What seems preposterous to the world, God's Word reveals. Death is a reality, and we need to accept it and prepare for it. King Solomon advised:

A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time. Ecclesiastes 7:4

There

What transpires when we expire is perhaps one of the greatest mysteries on Earth to be solved and resolved. No human knows the answer. Yet everyone will enroll in Club Dead eventually. Most folks don't think about death because of fear, denial, distraction, or comfort. Yet, the finality of death will be realized by all.

³⁴ Ecclesiastes 3:2

What matters most while we experience speed chess

“What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord; your God with all your heart; and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:28-30

We are to love the Lord with our total human capacity: heart, soul, strength, and mind. These are components of human experience. Notice that Jesus did not say “spirit”, because our spirit is eternal. Loving God in such a complete human manner is the result of who we are as spirits. Loving our neighbor as ourselves is one spirit recognizing our neighboring spirits without human filters interfering. Humans are eternal spirits trying to make their way back to God.

Earth and the cosmos were never created to last forever. God’s word testifies to the reality our world is winding down. The spiritual battle in Heaven and on Earth between God and Satan is nearing the final curtain. Events have been planned and will be executed with some influence by humans that will end the chess match forever. Perhaps these events will transpire during our lifetime or beyond.

I exist on Earth to fulfill God’s assignment for my life. In God’s orchestra we are His instruments. The Family of God plans and composes the musical score. Jesus is the Conductor, our master instrument-maker. Each member of the orchestra is a musical instrument. Some are strings, woodwinds, brass, or percussion pieces. He knows the potential and power and tuning of each instrument to combine in harmony with the other sections escalating to the crescendo of the symphony.

Before Here Through Eternity

Satan and his demons do their best to make the instruments defective and play out of tune, doing his best to destroy the orchestra. The symphony's score continues.

We will return home. That is guaranteed! We are on temporary assignment. Once it is fulfilled, we move from this planet into God's presence or absence depending upon our choice to do His work or not.

For this world is not our permanent home, we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Hebrews 13:14 NLT

The angels in Heaven shout and applaud at the exhilarating conclusion of the music, extolling, "Well done!

What happens to me if I am alive when Jesus returns?

- There will be a shout with the voice of the archangel.
- The trumpet of God will sound. I Thessalonians 4:16-17
- The great cloud of witnesses in Heaven will rise up from their arena suites, accompany the Lord Himself and descend from heaven. Hebrews 12:1

Reality for the Faithful

Those who are alive and remain on Earth shall rise to meet the Lord and the descending multitude in the air. All will proceed to Judgment.

Reality for the Unfaithful

Those who are alive and remain on Earth and those in Hades Club Dead will be transferred to Judgment. All the inhabitants who ever lived on Earth, both dead and living, and all spirit beings will be present and judged. Sheol, Hades will be vacated, and all inhabitants will be transferred to the Cosmic Coliseum for trial. Matthew 25:41-4

Speed Chess

Ever Ready

A flashlight is designed to focus a beam of illumination over a specific panorama or object for a distinct purpose...for the light to overcome the darkness. However, the flashlight is of no use unless it is powered by a charged battery. It is the engine, and it creates energy. The battery is the spirit of the flashlight.

The Eveready battery that powers the flashlight is manufactured in St. Louis, Missouri. The flashlight is manufactured elsewhere. Each battery is designed by an unknown engineer. When someone purchases household devices used every day, he expects a long lasting, reliable battery. "Batteries not included" is a warning. It means that the household device is literally useless or dead.

A battery has a specific life span. It will emit energy until its longevity is exhausted. Some batteries have a shelf life of ten years. Nothing on the packaging or battery indicates when the battery was constructed.

The human spirit's purpose is to focus the light of our Creator upon the darkness of this world. Our spirit is the engine, personality, and power to sustain life. When an individual's spirit becomes damaged and diminished by mean-spirited people or evil spirits, one can lose their spirit, which is the source of life. A lost spirit is basically a useless or dead entity. The hole in the spirit consumes the whole of the person.

Before Here Through Eternity

Like the Eveready battery, we know where the spirit originates. Our Energizer spirit was made in Heaven by our Engineer. God knew us before we were born.³⁵ The human spirit is in reality the “spirit human”. We were a spirit created by God long before we became a human. We must ever be cognizant and ever ready to serve Him no matter how long our spirit is destined to inhabit our mortal body.

Our human body was created on Earth through our parents who anticipated we would live a long-lasting life. However, DNA, accidents, disease, war, and other Satan inspired acts interfere with our longevity. We eventually die. Then our immortal spirit returns to God who created us for such a time as this. Our spirit is eternal and is the ever-ready battery that stimulates human experience.

The Reality...life is hard. Some consider ending their life on their own and removing themselves from the chess board.

³⁵ Jeremiah 1:5

Speed Chess

Death Wishes in the Bible

There is a difference between a “death wish” and a suicide attempt in the Bible. Some of God’s greatest expressed the desire to die.

Moses

“I can’t carry all these people by myself! The load is far too heavy. I’d rather you killed me than treat me like this. Please spare me this misery!” Numbers 11:14-15

Elijah

“I have had enough, Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” I Kings 19:4 NLT

Job

“I wish God would crush me. I wish He would...kill me.” Job 6:9

Jeremiah

“Yet I curse the day I was born. May the day of my birth not be blessed. I curse the messenger who told my father, “Good news you have a son.” O, that I had died in my mother’s womb, that her body had been my grave. Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.” Jeremiah 20:14

Jonah

“Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive because nothing I predicted is going to happen.” 4:3

The Apostle Paul

The disciples kept telling Paul through the Holy Spirit to not set foot in Jerusalem. Acts 21:4

But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! For I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem, but also to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus." When it was clear that we could not persuade him, we gave up and said, "The will of the Lord be done." Acts 21:13-14

Paul disobeyed the Holy Spirit and chose to die instead of obeying God's will.

Many great men of faith in the Bible, but not women, wished that God would take their life. No one knows what goes on in an individual's mind and life or what struggles a person endures.

Be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful. When the Lord comes, he will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. 1 Corinthians 4:5

Scripture does provide this warning:

It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. Colossians 3:25

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

What the Bible says about Suicide

Many believe that suicide is “the unforgiveable sin” and those who commit suicide are sent by God to Hell. The following are biblical cases of those who attempted to or committed suicide.

King Saul was severely wounded on the battlefield, and

He took his own sword and fell on it. 1 Samuel 31:4

Ahithophel was Absalom’s adviser.

Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he went to his home in his city and set his house in order and strangled himself. 2 Samuel 17:23

King Zimri of Israel...

When Zimri saw that the city had been taken, he went into the citadel of the king’s house and burned it down over himself and died in the flames. 1 Kings 16:18

Judas *hanged himself.*

Matthew 27:5

- *Satan entered Judas Iscariot.* Luke 22:3
- *“How terrible it will be for my betrayer.”* Luke 22:22
- *Far better for him if he had never been born.* Mark 14:21
- *He was the son of perdition...* John 17:12

“Son of perdition” (Greek: ruin, not extinction). “It is the loss of ‘well-being’, but not of ‘being’ for the unsaved hereafter.”³⁶ The same term describes the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

³⁶ Ibid. W. E. Vine, p. 164.

Observations:

- Judas was condemned for allowing Satan to enter into him and betraying Jesus, but not for his suicide.
- No one else was condemned for committing suicide.
- King Saul's suicide prevented his capture, which would have added humiliation to the Israelite nation.
- No one who committed suicide was identified as committing the "unforgiveable sin."
- Jesus was tempted by Satan to commit suicide.
- Suicide is NOT the "unforgiveable sin". Blasphemy is the unforgiveable sin.

"Anyone who blasphemes against me, the Son of Man, can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or the world to come.
Matthew 12:32

Satan tempted Jesus to commit suicide.

Then the Devil took him to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off." Jesus replied, "You shall not put the Lord (Greek: Kurion) your God (Greek: Theon) to the test." Luke 4:9,12

Blasphemy (slander) occurs when someone sees evidence of the Lord's power through the Holy Spirit and declares the source is from Satan. Blasphemy is the unforgiveable sin, not suicide. One may argue that the person committing suicide doesn't have a chance to ask God for forgiveness. The same is true with any person who commits a sin and dies without having a chance to seek God's forgiveness.

God will judge us all.

God's will may be short-circuited by those who commit suicide. Jesus Christ will be our judge, and He will sort out everyone's motives and burdens on Judgment Day. Jesus warned us not to judge.³⁷ Churches or individuals seeking to condemn others for their final actions do not understand God's heart or His Word.

We do NOT validate, condone, or encourage people contemplating suicide to surrender to their temptations or thoughts. For those seeking God's will, the following scripture will guide you.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be a healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.
Proverbs 3:5-8

Only we can separate ourselves from the love of God.

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, or worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away.
Romans 8:38 NLT

Nothing can separate us from God's love except we ourselves!

³⁷ Matthew 7:1

What does the Bible say about Cremation and Burial?

The Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

By the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19

Since we are created from dust, it will not be difficult for God to resurrect us from dust, deterioration, ashes, or if we should be vaporized by an explosion.

The Bible does not encourage or discourage cremation. The Old Testament describes people who were burned to death (1 Kings 16:18), and of human bones being burned (2 Kings 23:16-20). Old Testament law does not really address cremation.

Burial in a tomb, cave, or in the ground was the common way to dispose of a human body in Bible times. (Genesis 23:19; 35:19; 2 Chronicles 16:14; Matthew 27:60-66). Scriptures do not specify burial as the only allowed manner of body disposal.

If a body is cremated or vaporized, God will have no more difficulty resurrecting that body than one that has decomposed from ground burial. Our bodies turn back into dust one way or another. God created our physical bodies. He will have no difficulty recreating our bodies. Cremation does nothing but accelerate the process of turning a body into dust. The decision to be buried or cremated is within the range of Christian freedom. Those considering this decision should pray for wisdom (James 1:5).

Speed Chess

I am afraid of dying! Who or what will calm my fear?"

It's normal to be afraid. The thought of not being able to breathe is terrifying. We have been breathing since our birth. Struggling and fighting to survive is normal. Fear of dying is common. Fear causes:

- Panic
- Enormous guilt for leaving family and friends.
- Regret for things undone and done.
- Anger for being unable to participate in future events.

There are always the courageous who are not afraid of death. For many it is welcomed as a conclusion to battles, sickness, loneliness, torment, heartache, and pain. For the unbeliever in Jesus, the answer is "nothing" will calm your fear. What brings a smile to Satan's face is the final victory of one more person uncommitted to God. New members of Club Dead are immediately imprisoned in Hades' Incarceration Detention Facility. Our last earthly breath here is the first experience there of eternal anguish! It's okay to be afraid. One should be terrified! Afterlife with Satan is the culmination of the worst horror movies and nightmares one can imagine. One more guest has entered Satan's domain.

"What will calm my fear" is better stated, "Who will calm my fear?"

Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. Psalm 23:4 NLT

What happens to me if I die before Jesus returns?

The Spirit of the **faithful** in Jesus will...

- Transition from the physical body into an eternal, spiritual, immortal body. I Corinthians 15:53
- Be ushered by angels to **Heaven**. Luke 16:22
- Immediately enter God's presence. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
- Be conscious, capable of thinking, feeling, speech, memories, hearing, and rationalizing. Luke 16:19-31
- Participate in magnificent worship with angels and believers before the throne of God and Christ.
Revelation 4:5
- Recognize and communicate with believers who preceded them to Heaven. Luke 9:28-36; Heb. 12:1

The Spirit of the **unfaithful** in Jesus who die before Jesus returns will...

- Transition from the physical body into an eternal, spiritual, immortal body.
- Transfer to **Hades**. Luke 16:23
- Realize this was his/her own choice.
- Receive their sentence dependent upon their deeds.
2 Corinthians 5:10
- Comprehend Hades is real and a place of torment.

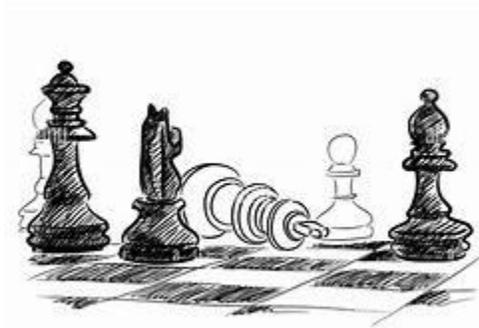
Everyone placed on Earth has a predisposed addiction to gambling. Every day we bet on which side of the chess board and which king we will represent. Our last roll of the dice determines our final destination location. It is our choice.

Through Eternity “Reternity”



Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter 10



Removed Chess pieces

*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,
and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Contemporary Concepts

Christian Concepts

Before Here Through Eternity

Before a chess match, the pieces are placed on the chess board with mirror pieces facing opposite one another. The pieces are mobilized leading eventually to their demise. They are removed from the chess board and at the conclusion of the game, placed back into the chess box. Each piece retains its form, appearance and identity.

Our spirit within our human bodies is eternal. Our immortal spirit is deployed into our physical body. Once that mortal body perishes, our imperishable personality returns to our point of origin to give an account of our activities and mission accomplishments during our earthly deployment.

Our physical body perishes. Our bodily death may be volatile or peaceful; sudden or prolonged.

What happens to the physical body when we die?

Clinical Death occurs the moment the heart stops effectively pumping blood to the muscles, tissues, and brain. This is Cardiac arrest and there is:

1. No pulse.
2. No breath.
3. No constriction of the pupils in response to a bright light.

A person with cardiac arrest can possibly be resuscitated through CPR and/or defibrillation. If the cells are not fed nutrients or oxygen, they decline as toxins and carbon dioxide damage them. The longer a patient stays in cardiac arrest, the less likely he is to be revived with CPR or advanced treatments.

What happens to my spirit if I am resuscitated?

My spirit is rerouted back into my body. I may or may not have a recollection of the journey. A person in shock from an accident does not always remember the details of the disaster. Some remember vivid details of their experience: the medical staff's conversations in the emergency/operating room and interactions with people in heaven or hell. These are termed: Near Death Experiences or NDE's.

One pastor enduring a heart attack was clinically dead on the operating table for three minutes. He observed the efforts of the surgeons to revive him and heard their conversation. His spirit felt no pain at death. When he was resuscitated, he suffered immense pain as his spirit returned to his physical body.

Biological Death happens when a person is "brain dead". There is no evidence of brainstem reflexes, i.e., the ability to breathe without a ventilator or neurological responsiveness. An individual is declared legally dead, and organ donation may begin. The process of decomposition begins to happen in the physical body.

As my brain waves cease in my physical body...

My eternal spirit leaves my physical body and transitions into a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

I Corinthians 15:44

For we know that if the earthly tent, which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1

Contemporary Concepts of Club Dead

What happens after our human experience ceases is robustly debated. Two general categories emerge:

1. Nothing happens
2. Something happens.

Nothing Happens! Death is Final.

Upon death nothing survives. Death is the end of all of me. Death means extinction: physically, and mentally with a total cessation of existence. This view is the extension of atheism. If there is no God, there is no meaning or purpose in creation or existence. There is nothing beyond this lifetime.

King Solomon subscribed somewhat to this theory. He worshiped God and built the great Temple in Jerusalem, but later in life rejected God in favor of worshipping his wives' idols. The wisest man in the Bible became the fool he warned others to avoid.

The living at least know they will die, but the dead know nothing. They have no further reward, nor are they remembered. Whatever they did in their lifetime—loving, hating, envying—is all long gone. Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to Sheol there will be no work or planning, knowledge or wisdom. Ecclesiastes 9:5-10 NLT

If this theory is valid, once you die, that's it! There is no moral reason to be good. Grab all the gusto you can. Do one to others before they do one to you!

“Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die.”
Isaiah 22:13

Removed Chess Pieces

If death is final, one's mind, body, spirit, emotions, personality, and reality become non-existent. If death means the annihilation and destruction of one's being, then love, life and hope have no meaning.

Pieces removed from the chess board are not placed in the chess box but rather deposited in the waste basket. It takes greater faith to believe in nothing than it does to believe that life has purpose and design.

Basic human intuition defies the idea that death is final.

Our sense of fairness, justice or conscience cannot be at peace accepting those who do evil escape retribution. For example, Adolph Hitler, and his regime caused the death of approximately sixty million people between 1939 and 1945. He allegedly committed suicide...no judgment...no penalty. Our moral equilibrium demands that justice must be rendered. Our moral fiber tells us that death cannot be the end of existence.

The idea that "Death is the end of me" is invalid in the context of God's Word. We all must account for our thoughts, actions, and deeds in what the Bible describes as "the Day of Judgment".

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
2 Corinthians 5:8,10

Death CANNOT be final. Life is a transition. There is a continuation. Life persists post bodily death and judgment is imminent.

Before Here Through Eternity

Those who live without God can only hope that death is final and equivalent to annihilation and destruction. If death is not the cessation of existence, something more terrifying than death awaits those who have abused the privilege of life by hurting others by not following God's purpose for their life. On the other side of death is the God who created life and will judge us all. Our sentence lasts forever...and ever.

The Bible is definitive in its description of what happens when individuals die.

Just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment... Hebrews 9:27 NLT

Something Happens: The dead become Ghosts

A shadowy ghost survives after death. The ghost or spirit is less alive, less real than flesh and blood. Horror stories persist throughout media and literature with ghosts interrupting and interacting in humans' lives.

Various religious practices (Indigenous Americans, Voodoo, Animism) involve spirits of the deceased in contact with humans. Mediums or psychics claim to be able to communicate with a spirit to deliver messages from the afterlife to the living.

The illusionist, Harry Houdini, was obsessed with the concept. Houdini was known for his sensational escape acts. He believed the dead could communicate with the living. Before Houdini died, he and his wife, Bess, agreed on a secret code phrase "Rosa belle believe". This was their favorite song. If he could communicate after death, this would be the sign. Bess placed burning candles beside his photograph for ten years on Halloween. In 1936, after the last unsuccessful séance on the roof of the Knickerbocker Hotel, she extinguished the candle. Bess said, "Ten years is long enough to wait for any man."³⁸

Communicating with the spirits of the dead was condemned by Mosaic Law. Israelites were forbidden to interact with psychics as this exposed the curious and vulnerable to demon possession.

Do not rely on mediums and psychics, for you will be defiled by them. I, the Lord, am your God.

Leviticus 19:31; 20:6 NLT

³⁸ Wikipedia

Before Here Through Eternity

King Saul broke his own law and sought advice from the “medium of Endor”. She saw a “divine being” (god).

I Samuel 28:3-25

Saul disobeyed the Lord. Ultimately, he committed suicide the next day rather than be captured by Philistines.

Christians need to avoid worship practices that rely on charms, incantations, or occult rituals. Seeking advice from astrologers, fortune tellers and psychics may appear to be harmless, but Scripture says that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.³⁹

“Animism” teaches that everything on Earth possesses a distinct spiritual essence. The deceased spirits of ancestors roam the Earth and interact with the living.

Animistic families in Southeast Asia buy or make ornate “spirit houses” and place them on their property. The living place food for their ancestors in the spirit houses. Riding in a cab in Thailand our driver cruised past an exquisite spirit house. I sarcastically asked him, “Does that family really expect their ancestors to come back to life and eat the food?” He replied, “You Americans place flowers on family graves. Do you expect the dead to come back and smell the flowers?” I did not have a response.

The New Testament does refer to ghosts. As Jesus walked on the water His disciples believed He was a “phantasma” (an apparition, ghost, spirit, phantom.)

³⁹ Galatians 5:19-21

Removed Chess Pieces

But they were startled and frightened and thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus clarified their mistake: "It is I, do not be afraid!" Matthew 14:26-27

During Jesus' transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared to three disciples. Jesus called this a vision but did not refer to them as ghosts. Matthew 17:1-8

The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as "the Holy Ghost". The Greek word "pnuema", is "spirit", incorrectly translated as "ghost".

Spirits appeared during Jesus' resurrection. This was a one-time event and was not repeated or duplicated. Mediums were not involved.

The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:52

Christians agree with ghost theorists that there is an immaterial spirit that exists beyond the grave. The spirits of humans do NOT roam the Earth or haunt people. However, demons are real and taunt us.

Best Outcomes Ghost theorists can anticipate

- Upon death, the departed spirit exits the body and roams the Earth alone with no purpose.
- When this planet is destroyed, the spirit is destroyed.

The Bible is succinct in its description of what happens when individuals die.

It is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment... Hebrews 9:27 NLT

Something Happens: The dead are reincarnated

Reincarnation is an ancient belief within Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and some New Age movements.

This theory promotes that an individual's soul survives death and is reincarnated into another body in a higher or lower life form based on his/her previous life. If the person lived an evil life, he/she is reincarnated into a lower life form (animal, bug). If the person lived a good life, he/she is rebooted into a higher (wealthier, prominent) life until finally reaching a state or place where the spirit is released from the life/death cycle.

This theory is supported by those who relate experiences under Hypnotic Regression, which allegedly explores the past lives of people who lived in prior history. Some Christians believe that "old souls" (those who remember previous life experiences) are deceased spirits who appear in another human body. People are recycled by God or nature to evolve and improve the world. God creates new souls with new bodies and that is why the population grows.

The Bible does not address the theory of reincarnation specifically because it is incompatible with human creation, purpose, life, death, and the afterlife.

Some believe John the Baptist was the reincarnation of the Old Testament Elijah. When asked by some Temple priests whether he was Elijah, John flatly replied "No".

John 1:21

Removed Chess Pieces

When Moses, Elijah and Samuel appeared after death, they were the same men with the same names. They didn't come back as Floyd, Harry, and Fred. The Bible never mentions people having a second chance at life or coming back as animals. Resurrection is not the same as reincarnation. Mankind has a destination.

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. Hebrews 9:27

Christians can confidently assert that reincarnation is not a possibility for the human soul. When this life ends, we proceed into the afterlife. We are not recycled. Human theories are pure speculation while God's Word tells us exactly what happens.

Best Outcomes Reincarnation advocates can anticipate:

- The recycled spirit is housed in a different physical body which will eventually die.
- If the previous life was lived well the spirit has a better existence than in the previous body.
- The previous life most likely will not be remembered.
- Reincarnation concludes when the Earth is destroyed.

Summary

These contemporary proponent's perspectives are missing someone: God! Only our Creator God gives life, purpose, meaning, significance, and hope. Without God human life has no purpose.

Upon our final breath when brain waves cease to exist, the physical body and every category of our essence except our spirit (mind/personality) perishes. Our spirit is eternal.

Christian Concepts

When God is recognized as the designer of everything, life blossoms and death ceases to be an enemy, but rather a means of reunification of the Creator with the created. When one understands that death is a component of a greater plan rather than a conclusion, hope thrives. The purpose of our death, like our life, is to glorify God.

When my pulse ceases, my purpose on Earth will be complete. When we understand what the Bible says about God's purpose for our death, we can fully appreciate God's mission for our life. Death is the result of our choice to sin which separates us from God. We are mortal by our choice to sin. We are immortal because of Christ conquering sin. There's only one resource that really counts when dealing with mortality and immortality. That source is God's final word, the Bible. The Scriptures focus on Jesus. What better authority is there than the Creator and sustainer of all life?

Everyone lives after death. There are two basic Biblical truths Christians embrace describing what happens when we die:

1. Something Happens: We go to sleep after we die.

Some Christians believe that when people breathe their final breath their spirit falls asleep in an unconscious state until they are awakened upon Jesus' return. This doctrine is referred to as "soul or spirit sleep". Eternity for the deceased begins not at death, but when Jesus resurrects their bodies. Until then, the faithful are asleep, unconscious and inactive.

Removed Chess Pieces

Many believers feel comforted with the thought that sleep after death is a description of unconsciousness. The dead cannot sense, think, or remember. Like natural sleep, their condition may be dream-like or totally disengaged with either the living, those who preceded them in death, or the presence of God. They are inactive and dormant.

Believers often remark that their deceased loved one is "asleep in Jesus". This idea is comforting since the departed loved one is in a Heavenly Hotel but unaware of their surroundings or their Creator. The foundation may in part be a hardwired protective factor, so our minds do not imagine our beloved relatives and friends knowing what is transpiring in our lives.

A Messianic Rabbi voiced the following argument: "If the deceased are awake, imagine what it would be like for Adam and Eve to see all the suffering going on right now knowing it is all their fault. That would be terrible! Or, for them to hear people ask them for a fingerful of water knowing the suffering all started with them. Similarly, if a man dies leaving a wife and two young children, how happy would he be if he were awake seeing his wife remarry someone who ends up abusing his children?"

Some Christians believe their loved one is unconscious and asleep in the grave. Others conceive of an intermediate place where the dead reside, such as purgatory (which has no Biblical reference or credibility outside of the Apocrypha: non-genuine writings). Unfortunately, some translations of the Bible mistranslate the Hebrew word "Sheol" as "grave". Sheol is the netherworld of deceased spirits. To literally believe the deceased are asleep in their grave is ghoulish. One's spirit is not confined to one's body.

The Biblical meanings of “sleep”

Greek words for “sleep” have a variety of meanings in their contexts: “Sleep” can mean rest, unconsciousness, spiritual decline, or death.

- Sleep means physical rest. I Thessalonians 5:7
- Sleep is a result of spiritual disrespect of the Lord’s Supper. I Corinthians 11:29-30
- Sleep refers to believers who had died. Matthew 27:52
- Being awakened from sleep embraced the idea of resurrection and judgment. Daniel 12:2
- “Sleep” was used as an epitaph for deceased kings. The expression “he slept or laid down with his fathers” is used 36 times in reference to good and bad kings. It was only specific to men in the Old Testament. It was never used regarding women.
- “Sleep” is identical and interchangeable with “death”

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

I Thessalonians 4:15-16

Jesus clarified “sleep” meant literal death

Jesus confirmed the words “sleep” and “death” meant the same thing. The two words and the two states of being are one and the same.

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go that I may awaken him out of sleep. The disciples therefore said to Him, Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover. Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.” John 11:11,14

Jesus’ disciples thought sleep would help strengthen Lazarus’ body. Jesus confirmed He was not referring to “literal sleep”, but literal death.

The word “Sleep” in Scripture is a metaphor.

Sleep does not mean literal “sleep”. “Death” and “sleep” are interchangeable words. “Sleep” is the closest word to describe the body of someone who has passed. “The metaphorical use of the word “sleep” is appropriate, because of the similarity in appearance between a sleeping body and a dead body. As the sleeper does not cease to exist while his body sleeps, so the dead person continues to exist despite his absence from his body. Sleep is temporary, so the death of the body will be found to be. That the body alone is in the metaphor is evident from the fact that in the N.T. the word ‘resurrection’ is used of the body alone.”⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Ibid., W.E. Vine, p. 149.

The New Testament is silent regarding unbelievers going to sleep upon death.

The reason The New Testament does not record anything about unbelievers going to sleep upon death is a warning of the consequences of their choice to reject God. Jesus made it very clear in Luke 16:19-31 that unbelievers are awake and aware. Would God be fair and just if He allowed the wicked to go to sleep until Judgment Day?

World-wide Judicial systems require immediate response to incarcerated criminals. Imprisonment is imminent and immediate. When individuals suspected of perpetrating a crime are arrested, they are immediately transported to the Police station where they are fingerprinted, their clothing is removed, and a prison uniform is provided. Prisoners are remanded to a holding cell until they can appear before a judge. Their charges are explained, and they can plead guilty or not guilty. Afterwards, they are placed in jail until their court appearance. After the evidence is provided by the prosecution and defense, the judge or jury decides the defendant's guilt or innocence. If innocent, the prisoner goes free. If guilty, the prisoner is sentenced. The prisoner is awake throughout the process.

The heavenly court system is similar.

For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Colossians 3:25

The unfaithful to God do not sleep. Sheol is not a place of sleep, but an existence of consciousness.

Removed Chess Pieces

Biblical silence does not prove validity, but it does cause us to question why there is no mention of unbelievers going to sleep upon death.

Consequences can be dispensed immediately or delayed.

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God who will render to every man according to his deeds. So, then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Romans 2:5-6, 14:12

A just God cannot allow the wicked to post bail or sleep in their cells until Judgment Day. The wrath or favor of God will fall on all angels and humans according to their deeds.

“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life, and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged according to their deeds.”

Revelation 20:12

The unfaithful in Hades who are in their holding cells will be released and transported to God's courtroom to account for their earthly deeds. They will be judged guilty before all the inhabitants of this world and then sent back for eternal incarceration.

Death (thanatos) means separation from the body.

The spirit cannot sleep in the deceased body in the grave as “thanatos” means “separation” of the spirit from one’s body or separation from God. The unbeliever’s spirit must be consigned to an intermediate state. This concept requires a place such as Purgatory (there is no mention of this location in the sixty-six books of the Bible). Or it confirms Jesus’ narrative in Luke 16:19-32 in which the unbeliever’s spirit is separated from the physical body and is incarcerated in Hades.

“Sleep” does not denote a separation from the body or from God. If we sleep when we die our spirit is confined within our decomposing body. The word “sleep” in reference to the dead is a metaphor and is an interchangeable word with “death”. When the New Testament writers described a deceased person as “sleeping,” they did not infer literal sleep of the spirit.

If our spirit is asleep, we are useless to God. We cannot praise or please God if we are sleeping! This is the sole reason God created us. In the Garden, God wanted to have fellowship with his creation. There is no fellowship if everyone is snoring. We were created to be children of the light and have a conscious relationship with God.

Our hope here is to be present with God in eternity. Whether we are asleep or awake after we die, our goal is to live with God. Personally, and selfishly, I want to be with Him immediately. I don’t want to sleep through another sermon, especially if Jesus is preaching! It is our conclusion that the dead are NOT spiritually asleep in the grave or Hades.

2. Something Happens: We are conscious after death.

When believers die, they immediately experience alertness and awareness in the presence of God in Heaven.

The primary component of our life is Jesus. Without Him we would not be asleep or awake, just extinct. The focus must be on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Jesus confirmed we are conscious after we die.

While Jesus' body was in the tomb, His spirit was awake and active during his ministry in Hades. He did not go to sleep in the grave. He was actively preaching to the deceased. I Peter 3:18-22

Jesus claimed in Luke 16:19-31 those in Hades and Abraham's Bosom were not asleep but were awake, and able to experience seventeen human characteristics.⁴¹

Moses and Elijah were conscious during their conversation at Jesus' transfiguration.⁴² Moses had died and was buried. Elijah was carried into Heaven without dying. Both were awake and spoke with Jesus about future events.

The twelve-year-old daughter of Jairus was dead until "her spirit returned". Doctor Luke did not state that her spirit awakened. Instead, he used a Greek word which means "revert or turn back". Only a conscious spirit can maneuver a U-turn. Luke 8:55

⁴¹ Hargrave, James Michael, *The Afterlife Reality*, 2024. p.p. 28-29

⁴² Matthew 17:1-7

Our citizenship is in Heaven!

The purpose of humans is to worship God and praise Him. We can only do that when we are awake and aware. If we are placed on Earth to glorify God, what is God's purpose in allowing the deceased to sleep?

We have as our ambition, whether at home or absent (dead) to be pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9

A citizen who is asleep is of no value to the community and nation. Only a conscious citizen has value to his country.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory. Philippians 3:20-21

Citizens of Heaven can "wait eagerly for a Savior" only if they are awake.

The cloud of witnesses surrounding us are conscious.

A person cannot witness a race if he is asleep!

Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance, the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Immortality

When the physical frame of the Christian is dissolved and returns to the dust, the spiritual part of man's extraordinarily complex being, the seat of personality, departs to be with Christ. The word "immortal" (Greek: thanasian) is found in only four verses in the New Testament.

For this perishable (our earthly body) will have put on the imperishable (our spiritual body) and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about, "Death is swallowed up in victory." I Corinthians 15:53-54

*Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God who gives life to all things that you keep the commandment without stain until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; (the name of the Lamb in Revelation 17:14) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen (God the Father – John 1:18) *To Him be eternal dominion!**

I Timothy 6:12-16

He will give eternal life to those who persist in doing what is good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. We are made in God's spiritual likeness and when Jesus returns, we will inherit immortality.

Romans 2:7 NLT

Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality (incorruptibility) to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:10

Our mortal body transitions into a spiritual body.

Our spirit separates from our mortal body to become a heavenly spiritual body.

I will tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (die). But we (those who are still alive on this planet) shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead (spirits living with God), will be raised (not raised out of sleep, but raised like an audience watching and standing up when something exciting transpires on the athletic field), imperishable, and we (those alive) shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:51-52

Our old body is replaced with a new body: transformed, transfigured, immortal, imperishable and non-transferable. We will be transformed from mortal to immortal.

One of the most stimulating expectations of our human experience is the knowledge that we cannot become extinct. We cannot cease to exist. Sickness, disease, and ultimately decay will possess our bodies, but our spirit shall perpetually extend our being throughout eternity. The transfer from the human body to the spiritual body is a transition from one phase of existence to the other. The immortal will be conscious and aware through eternity. God is immortal and we will become like Him!

Death (separation from God physically and spiritually) will be conquered. God will not separate Himself from us unless we choose to disconnect ourselves from Him. It is an earthly choice with eternal consequences because everyone's spirit is immortal.

What happens to animals when they die?

Animals have a “spirit”. The Hebrew word “ruach” means “spirit” and “breath of life”. “Ruach” is the immortal spirit of life.

They went into the ark of Noah, by twos of all flesh, in which was the breath (ruach=spirit) of life. Genesis 7:15

God gives and removes the spirit from animals.

Animals both small and great: You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created. Psalm 104:25, 29-30

These scriptures strongly indicate that animals have an eternal “ruach”, or “spirit” in them. When the animal or pet dies, it is the body that decays, but the animal’s spirit continues to exist.

Whether symbolic or descriptive “horses of fire” transported Elijah to heaven.⁴³ Elisha and Gehazi both identified horses among the heavenly host.

The Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:16-17

Horses are identified in Revelation 6:2,4-5,8 as participants in the opening of the Five Seals of the Book. Even if this is symbolic their role in Heaven is significant.

⁴³ 2 Kings 2:11

Before Here Through Eternity

The final word in the Book of Jonah references animals. They are classified with the same importance as humans.

Then the Lord said to Jonah, "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?" Jonah 4:11

Jonah's final recorded words spotlight God's empathy upon brutal people as well as animals. Will animals be in heaven? If they have the "ruach" in them, the answer is "yes". Is the spirit of an animal the same as the human spirit? No! Mankind was made in the likeness of God, animals were not. But God installed a spirit within animals. They were created in the Garden of Eden prior to mankind! Genesis 1:24-25

Animals are subject to Satanic and demonic influences. They are also susceptible to godly influences. Where they spend eternity is dependent upon their response. We conclude some animals will be in Heaven, playful and harmonious.

The wolf will dwell with the lamb. Isaiah 11:6

"Even the beasts of the field pant for Thee." Joel 1:20

Nature confirms and signals that animals as well as humans return to their spiritual origin.

Nature's witness

Honeybees

“Honeybees can fly up to 6 miles from the hive at 15 mph with their wings beating 11,400 times per minute.”⁴⁴ She leaves her hive, forages for nectar and then returns to her home. She passes numerous other honeybee hives. Humans can only imagine the temptation for bees to pop into a different hive for a visit or refreshment. However, that would mean immediate death, because every beehive has its own odor. Bees know the distinct odor of their home. They instinctively return to the precise location where they were born.

Monarch butterflies

These beautiful butterflies originate in Mexico and migrate across the United States into Canada and return south to Mexico for the winter. It takes **five** generations for this round trip. How do the other four life-span generations intuitively know where to return to? They instinctively communicate where they originated, their migrating mission and how to return to where they were born.

Salmon

“After several years wandering huge distances in the ocean, most surviving salmon return to the same natal rivers where they were spawned. Then most of them swim up the rivers until they reach the very spawning ground that was their original birthplace.”⁴⁵

⁴⁴ www.apexbeecompany.com/honey-bee-facts/

⁴⁵ Google: Do Salmon return upstream to where they were born?
Wikipedia

Sea Turtles

“After hatching on beaches around the world, these huge marine reptiles undertake multiyear, epic migrations at sea. Then, the turtles return to the exact spot where they were born to mate and lay their own eggs.”⁴⁶ If these and other creatures instinctively know how to return to their habitat of origin, does it not intrigue our minds to consider we return to our place of creation after our life on Earth?

For the faithful, we don't go to heaven after we die here. We return to heaven. The unfaithful to God journey to the habitation of the dead.

After our participation in Earth's Chess Match, there are **two temporary destinations of choice**:

1. **Heaven**: God's faithful will return to our place of origin.
2. **Hades**: This is the netherworld. English Bible versions call it “Hell” and Jesus called it “Gehenna”. This is the place of the living dead.

The unfaithful choose to go to Hades from which there is no return.

Planet Earth is not our spirit's home or destination. It is our testing ground and battlefield where the supremacy of God over Satan is substantiated.

⁴⁶ National Geographic, January 16, 2015

As a spiritual being...

I was in Preternity before my human experience.

I am now in Internity having my human experience.

By this you know the Spirit of God. Every spirit (Greek: pneuma, noun neuter) that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is that (the spirit) of the antichrist, of which you have heard that is coming, and now it is already in the world. I John 4:2-3

I will experience Reternity in my new eternal body.

God provided the Old and New Covenant based on human response. Those who obey God's Word, are guaranteed before their birth to live with God eternally. Those who choose to disobey God's Word select their own destination location and live eternally with Satan.

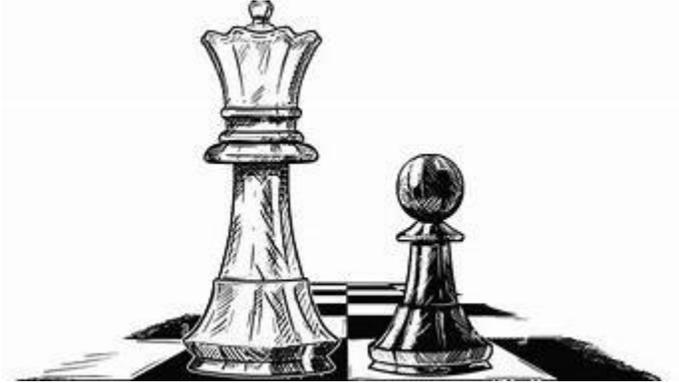
God's Plan of Redemption was designed precreation of the Heavens and the Earth. Our Creator sacrificed Himself for those He created. This, too, was planned before the Heavens and the Earth took form.

Your name has always been in The Lamb's Book of Life. Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in Heaven. The Book of Life guarantees us the Crown of Life, and we shall eat of the Tree of Life forever and ever.

Your name was chosen, announced, and recorded before the world was created. Your name will be confessed by Jesus before the Father in Heaven during Judgment Day proceedings.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Eleven



The Chess King

On His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." Revelation 19:16

The sign of Jonah

Resurrection

Before Here Through Eternity

Chess strategies are coordinated under the supervision and participation of the Chess Masters. The position of the kings on the chessboard is of paramount importance. All pieces on either side are in pursuit of the king's vulnerability. The King has the same limited move capabilities as pawns but with options to move sideways or back. A king can kill a pawn, and a pawn can end the game by checking the king. In the context of this book's metaphor, the opposing kings in the cosmic war involving Earth, are Satan versus Jesus. King Jesus chooses to sacrifice Himself for all the chess pieces on both sides of the board. King Satan requires all chess pieces die for him.

The White King sacrificed Himself for a pawn

It was the King's plan all along. Jesus predicted the means of his own death.

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so I, the Son of Man, must be lifted up on a pole so that everyone who believes in me will have eternal life.

John 3:14-15 NLT

This is a direct reference to Moses' response to the consequence of the Israelites' sins. Poisonous snakes infiltrated the campgrounds because of the Hebrews' complaints about "the wretched manna." They begged Moses to intercede.

So, Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to the top of a pole. Whenever those who were bitten looked at the bronze snake, they recovered.

Numbers 21:9

The Chess King

Jesus was crucified on a stake or pole. Jesus' hands would have been nailed together at the top of the pole.

Virtually every Christian visualizes Jesus being crucified on a cross, one board perpendicular to the main post. That image is prominent in most Christian churches. The New Testament Greek word for cross ("stauros" denotes, primarily, 'an upright (pole or) stake.'⁴⁷ The cross which we wear on our necklaces and adorn our church buildings is a third century A.D. replica of a pagan sign, an idol. It is a graven image that the commandments of God forbade.⁴⁸ The cross, worn and worshipped by Christians world-wide, is an idol, offensive to God. It did not become a symbol of the church around 170 years after Jesus' crucifixion. The original sign of the church was a fish.

It is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree" (Greek: xulon) Deuteronomy 22:23. Tree limbs naturally grow upward toward the sunlight. Wood was scarce in Israel. Nailing or tying a board onto a vertical pole would have been time consuming and additional work.

The crosses erected in churches and worn around our necks do not accurately represent our faith. They reinforce our lack of research and biblical clarity. The real symbol of our faith is the empty tomb, not the cross.

The King of the Chessboard sacrificed Himself for all the other chess pieces. Prior to His crucifixion He offered an intriguing clue to the outcome and purpose.

⁴⁷ W.E. Vine, *Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, "cross", p.138.

⁴⁸ Exodus 20:4-6

The Clue: The sign of Jonah

An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.

Matthew 12:39

Jonah was consumed by the sea monster and was considered dead. While Jonah's body was in the belly of the beast for three days, Jonah's spirit, personality, emotions, and thought processes remained alive. The reference to Jonah predicted that Jesus' spirit would be alive while His body was interred in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. Jesus forecast to the scribes and Pharisees (who believed in the resurrection of the body) that His spirit would remain alive. Only His body was dead.

Matthew 16:4

Some of the Scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for an attesting miracle; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:38-40

Jesus referred to the "heart of the earth," not the "depth". "The heart (Greek: kardia) is mentioned over 800 times in Scripture but *never* referring to the literal physical pump that drives the blood."⁴⁹ "Kardia is used of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate which some understand of Hades."⁵⁰ Jesus was referring to a living, thriving region of inhabitants.

⁴⁹ Helps Word Studies "Heart" Kardia

⁵⁰ Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Strong's N.T. 2588 #3.

The Chess King

Jonah's experience began when he was swallowed by the great fish. Jesus' event began at the point of death on the cross. Jesus' body was placed in the tomb, but His spirit was viable. Jesus was not asleep! Both Jonah and Jesus were alive in the heart of darkness. Neither was dead. Jonah needed to repent and return to his Nineveh mission before he could be released from the fish. Jesus' mission was to take the Gospel to the land of the dead and proclaim repentance and hope to those who were imprisoned before He could be resurrected.

He was specific regarding the timeline: three days and three nights. It took Jonah three days and three nights to come to the realization that he needed to pray.

Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish. Jonah 1:17; 2:1 NLT

Jesus spent Friday night and all-day Saturday preaching the Gospel and His body was raised on the third day, Sunday.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah....
I Peter 3:18-22

While Jesus' body was in the tomb, He was preaching to the spirits in prison. Those who accepted Jesus' message resurrected with Him on the third day. Those who refused their potential Redeemer remained incarcerated in Hades.

Before Here Through Eternity

The criminal crucified with Jesus was in paradise (Abraham's Bosom), hearing Jesus preach the Gospel to all who were dead throughout history. That included those from Noah's generation forward to Jesus' resurrection on the third day.

For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God. I Peter 4:6

The deceased faithful to God, who experienced an animated existence in Abraham's Bosom, had the privilege of hearing the Gospel preached and see their Creator, Jesus. From the first residents, those of Noah's generation, to the last resident, the thief on the cross who believed in Jesus, all heard the message. Perhaps even those in Hades heard the message.

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captive Thy captives; Thou hast received gifts among men, even among the rebellious also, that the Lord God may dwell there. Psalm 68:18

Possibly, "the rebellious" included the millions of inhabitants in Hades who were ignorant of God or rejected God and had the privilege of hearing the Gospel from their Creator. We don't know the outcome of Jesus' two-night revival meeting. Abraham's bosom was likely vacated, but Hades was not. The millions of rebellious residents, from Cain to the other criminal crucified with Jesus, possibly heard His message. Undoubtedly, they ridiculed Jesus like many hometown crowds do to visiting teams during athletic events. They were in Hades because of their disbelief and life choices.

The Chess King

The scripture is unclear, but it would not be uncharacteristic for Jesus to provide another chance at redemption to the rebellious. Judas would have been in attendance. Their choice to serve Satan while on Earth suggests they probably chose to continue serving the Devil on the other side. It is no wonder Jesus grieved in Gethsemane. The living would crucify Him and the majority of those who had died would reject Him even after serving their afterlife sentences in Hades.

People who choose to live and die rejecting God have no incentive to go to Heaven except a selfish motive to no longer live in torment and agony. Heaven is no place for the self-centered. Heaven is a place for God-centered spirits redeemed by our Lord. Ephesians 4:8-10

When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men. This expression: 'He ascended,' what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also, who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

Those who rejected Christ remained captive. Those who followed him were resurrected with Him. The captives He preached to were raised and entered Jerusalem where many people saw them.

The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:51-53

Before Here Through Eternity

The phrase “who had fallen asleep” is used metaphorically, and euphemistically and is equivalent to the phrase: to die.⁵¹ Jesus predicted all of this.

He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. For an hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice and shall come forth, those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

John 5:24-25, 28-29

After Jesus’ crucifixion, He preached the Gospel to the inhabitants in Abraham’s side (I Peter 3:19) and those who accepted His salvation were raised up with Him. Abraham’s Bosom was vacated. Jesus led them out of captivity when He resurrected. They appeared in Jerusalem and ascended to the Father in Heaven with Jesus. They had a resurrected body similar to Jesus’ resurrected body. These were the spirits who were living in captivity when Jesus preached to them.

Are the deceased who didn’t accept Jesus’ preaching still in Hades? Yes! They are still in torment, awake and aware of their Creator. It was their choice to enter Hades, and it was their choice to reside there.

⁵¹ Strong’s Concordance 2837

Coming out of their tombs...

Jesus' body was raised out of the tomb. The bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised and came out of their tombs after Jesus' resurrection. They emerged from their original burial locations just as Jesus came out of the tomb, made their appearance in Jerusalem, and ascended to Heaven. Jesus predicted

"All who are in the tombs shall hear My voice and come forth to a resurrection of judgment. John 5:28

The Greek word for tombs "mnémeion", means "a monument, to remember or keep in memory. Any visible object for preserving or recalling the memory of any person or thing; a memorial, monument".⁵² The spiritual bodies of the deceased were raised out of their tombs (sepulchers, graves, or monuments). This is a one-time event during Jesus' resurrection and should not be interpreted generally beyond that resurrection. On that day, God used the conduit of the "mnémeion" as the exit point for those saints. It does not infer God will raise all the dead from their tombs as some bodies are lost at sea, vaporized, or cremated.

Events during and after Jesus' resurrection

On the Sunday Jesus resurrected, the deceased who accepted Jesus' Gospel vacated Abraham's bosom. Many people saw them. With your "Sanctified Imaginator" you can almost hear them singing, "Oh when the saints, go marching in..." Can you imagine the effect on the people of Jerusalem when they saw the spirits of the dead roaming the streets?

⁵² Strongs NT 3419

Before Here Through Eternity

Presumably the criminal who had been crucified at Golgotha three days earlier was cruising through Jerusalem again. The Jews saw the spirits of their dead ancestors, but this had no impact. Just as Abraham had predicted,

“If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.”

Luke 16:31

Jesus’ Resurrection

The Greek New Testament word for “Resurrection” is “anastasis”, a raising up or rising, causing to stand up.⁵³ The distance between Golgotha and the Garden Tomb (Gordon’s site) is about 1000 feet. John 19:41-42

In the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and a new tomb in which no one had been laid.

“To me Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection.”
- Theodosius Harnack

If the resurrection of Jesus is NOT a historical fact...

- The Bible is a lie.
- Jesus lied and died.
- Believers are yet in their sins.
- Christians are of all people most miserable.
- Believers are false witnesses.
- Our faith is worthless.
- The disciples lied and died for a hoax.
- Believers who have died have perished.
- We have every reason to be afraid. Death means extinction/annihilation.
- We have no hope of eternal life.

⁵³ Vine, Dictionary, p. 531.

If the resurrection of Jesus IS a historical fact...

- Our sins are forgiven by the Savior who conquered death.
- Death is no longer a finality.
- Satan no longer has power over us.
- The Bible is true, and Jesus is returning.
- The Family of God was involved in the resurrection.
 - God raised Jesus. Acts 2:24
 - Jesus raised Himself. John 2:19
 - The Holy Spirit raised Jesus.

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”
Romans 8:11

Our spirit is eternal. Only the human body was resurrected in the Bible, never the spirit.⁵⁴ “Anastasis” refers to the physical resurrection of the body.⁵⁵ It embraces Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, the saints in Jerusalem, and those who will be with Him at His Parousia. The first resurrection occurred when Jesus’ body stood up in the tomb. Christians have reason to celebrate!

I may experience the same animated characteristics as Jesus and those He resurrected. They provide insight as to what we can expect in our own spiritual body upon our death. Jesus demonstrated in His resurrected body that identical human qualities are mirrored in the spiritual body. Jesus claimed and confirmed our physical and human attributes are duplicated in our afterlife spiritual body!⁵⁶

⁵⁴ *W.E. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Sleep) p.41.

⁵⁵ Strong’s Helps Word Studies, 386.

⁵⁶ Hargrave, James Michael, *The Afterlife Reality, 40 Human Characteristics We Will Experience in Eternity*, 2024.

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter 12



Checkmate

We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus!
Romans 8:37

Space Chess

Before Here Through Eternity

“The classic 3-Dimensional Space Chess game was invented in 1907 by Ferdinand Maack. He contended that for chess to be more like modern warfare, attack should be possible not only from a two-dimensional plane but also from above (aerial) and below (underwater). Three-dimensional chess” is used colloquially to describe complex, dynamic systems with many competing entities and interests, including politics, diplomacy and warfare.” - Wikipedia

Space Chess is exactly the location of the biblical final cosmic battle. Spiritual war is fought on Earth as well as under the Earth. But the chess match finale is in the “air” (space). It is a spiritual clash between Satan and Jesus.

Preceding Events leading to the Chess Match finale

In the last hour the... I John 2:18

- Apostasy comes first. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- Antichrist(s) deny Jesus. I John 2:22; 4:3
- Man of Sin is revealed. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10
- False signs and deception mislead. Matthew 24:24
- A man is the beast’s #: 666. Revelation 13:18
- Great tribulation exists. Revelation 7:13-14

Satan musters his armies three times before checkmate.

The Greek word “sunago” describes the three stagings or assemblies of Satan’s armies for war.

1. “Har-Magedon” (Hebrew). The name “Armagedon” is not found in the Bible. Revelation 16:16

- A spirit army led by three demons assembles the kings of the whole world. There is no battle!
Revelation 16:14

Checkmate

Signs preceding the Lord's Coming.

- Universal lightning Matthew 24:27; Revelation 11:19
- The Jewish (race) nation exists. Matthew 24:34
- Jews will say: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Matthew 23:39

Jesus will come quickly like a thief. Revelation 16:15

The Lord Himself will descend from Heaven...

- He will come in the clouds. Matthew 24:30
- With a shout. I Thessalonians 4:16
- With the voice of the archangel. I Thessalonians 4:16
- With the trumpet of God. I Thessalonians 4:16

The dead in Christ will rise first. I Thessalonians 4:16

- The dead will be changed.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable. I Corinthians 15:51-52.

God is the one who brings the dead with Him.

If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. I Thessalonians 4:14

All Heaven is vacated. This implies all the legions of God's angels will also accompany the dead! The dead are not asleep but surrounded and accompanied! What an honor guard for those who were faithful on Earth and died in Christ.

Before Here Through Eternity

Those alive at the return of the Lord are next.

We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:51-53

- The living will be caught up together with the dead in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. I Thess. 4:17
- We shall always be with the Lord.

When Christ comes back, all his people will be raised. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. I Corinthians 15:23-25 NLT

There is no more opportunity for people to repent.

There will be a great incomparable earthquake, and Babylon will be destroyed. Revelation 16:18

- “The Great City” falls. “Babylon” is Jerusalem, not Rome. Revelation 11:8; and chapters 17-18
2. The beast and all the kings of the Earth and their armies assemble to make war against Jesus and His army. This is an actual physical battle. All are killed and the birds eat human flesh. Their spirits swim in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 19:19-21

Only Satan and his demons remain.

Checkmate

Satan's Final move on the Chess Board

- The (a) Thousand Years 2 Peter 3:8; Rev. 20:2-7
3. After Satan is released from prison, he deceives the nations in the four corners of the Earth, Gog and Magog, and gathers them for the war. Gog is a prince, and Magog is a land mass. Tartarus is vacated. The 1/3rd rebellious angels are recruited for the final encounter. The number of the armies is like the sand of the seashore. They stage on the breadth (diameter) of the earth (7,900 miles) surrounding the camp of the saints and Jerusalem. This is spiritual warfare between Jesus and the forces of Satan. Fire comes from Heaven and devours them. Revelation 20:7-9

Satan is the prince and power of the “air”.

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course (age) of this world, according to the prince (ruler) of the power (authority) of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 2:1-2

Satan's domain of power is within Earth's environment. Evil is an intuitive and realistic phenomenon whose source we do not see but observe its effect. Satan dominates the air we breathe and the space we inhabit. He will be defeated in his own backyard.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” Revelation 16:17; I Thess 4:16

Before Here Through Eternity

The White King's final strategic move is to conquer Satan in the air.

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and we shall always be with the Lord.
I Thessalonians 4:16-17

Checkmate!

“Checkmate” may resound as a shout from an archangel or from all the martyrs and angels in Heaven. Then and only then will the Cosmos Chess Match be final. The Universal score board will reveal: Yahweh wins, Satan loses! He will be confined for eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Trial and Judgment

All the dead will appear before the Great White Throne.

- Heaven and Earth pass away. Revelation 20:11

Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess Jesus as Lord!
Philippians 2:10-11

- The books will be opened accounting our deeds while on Earth. Revelation 20:12

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
Romans 2:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:10

Checkmate

Sentencing

- The Book of Life will be opened.
- Jesus will confess the faithful's name in the Book of Life before His Father and His angels. Revelation 3:5
- Sheep will be separated from the goats. Matthew 25:32
- All will know that each person is judged fairly.

Two Permanent afterlife destinations

1. Occupants in The Lake of Fire

- Satan 20:10
- The beast 19:20
- The false prophet 19:20
- Demons (devoured by fire) 20:9
- Death and Hades (Sheol) 20:14; I Cor. 15:26
- All whose name is not found in the book of life. 20:15

For Unbelievers, "Reternity" is the eternal life sentence separating them from their Creator.

A new Heaven and Earth are created. Revelation 21:1

2. The New Jerusalem

He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall no longer be any death, mourning, crying or pain. 21:4

- We will be introduced to the Family of God: El, Ruach, Yahweh, the wife of the Lamb: New Jerusalem.
Revelation 21:9
- We will meet Gabriel, Michael, the angelic host, and our personal angel.
Psalm 34:7

Before Here Through Eternity

- We will walk through the gates of pearls and streets of gold (like transparent glass). Revelation 21:21
- We have a house, an eternal body in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1
- Our home is with the Lord, where we originated. 2 Corinthians 5:8
- We will eat from the Tree of Life. Revelation 22:2

The most honest comment made at funerals might be: “God called him/her home!” When we die, how can we “go home” if we’ve never previously been a resident there? Our citizenship is where we first originated. In this context, pre-existence of our spirit makes perfect sense. God called us from home to travel to Earth. When our purpose is complete here, He calls us “back home”.

What is Forever?

*Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever.
Amen!* Philippians 4:20

Forever... (Literally: to the ages of the ages)

Checkmate

Before Here Through Eternity

Chapter Thirteen



Chess Champions

Your throne, O Lord, has been established from time immemorial. You yourself are from the everlasting past.

Psalm 93:2, 5 NLT

The Eternity Trilogy Guide

Chess Champions

Within every pawn is a King. The Family of God created me, knew me and deployed my spirit. They gave me purpose and a Redeemer. Every person is a child of the King...a prince or princess. We are spiritual royalty!

All pawns from Preternity to Reternity inherit the birthright of their king. They are deployed as champions. If they are faithful to the family and heavenly citizenship, they are received as “more than conquerors in Christ Jesus” upon their return from the chessboard. Romans 8:37

Those who overcome Satan through King Jesus’ sacrifice return to His embrace and the words: “Well done, Thou good and faithful pawn!”

The majority of those created in Heaven and placed into a human body are uncomfortable with the idea of being a pawn. Satan’s first impression upon a human is...you are a god if you listen and follow me. He deceives, distracts, diverts, and destroys our crest and family heritage. It is better to be a pawn in Heaven than a king in Hades.

Internity becomes the priority erasing Infinity from our mind and mission. The devil promises the pawn that he can reign on Earth and become royalty here upon rejection of our King Creator. Eventually, the pawn’s choice of subjection to Satan leads to self-worship. King Jesus is replaced by King Satan in the heart and mind of the pawn.

At any time on the chessboard, even a pawn can checkmate Satan, not by his/her own prowess, but rather by the empowerment of King Jesus. Pawns are Champions in God’s perspective. We need to see ourselves as God sees us.

Chess Champions

Earth's longevity is dwindling quickly. As Earth's clock winds down, the evidence abounds that Satan is threatening the world with chaos and confusion. He will have his last "hoorah!" For such a time as this, as in all the dimensions of the seen and the unseen, God will strategically move a pawn who has incredible faith across the chessboard to hush the hosts of Hell. That pawn may be the reader of this book.

One day, when least expected, God will commission Jesus to appear in the sky, bringing with Him those who have lived and died and reside in Heaven. The great cloud of witnesses surrounding us and cheering us on will rise from their grandstand seats in the heavenly arena anticipating "Reternity".

It may be a shout from an archangel or the trumpet blast that precedes the word "Checkmate!" Satan and his followers will be conquered. The Cosmos Chess Match will conclude. Yahweh wins!

Those who are alive on Earth during this epoch event will be morphed into their spiritual body and meet the Lord and the dead in Christ in the air. What a reunion that will be!!! The rebellious living and dead will be transported from Hades to Judgment. The names of those written in the Book of Life will be read before the multitudes of all Earth's history. Those who committed their lives to Helel's side will be deported into the Lake of Fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. No one will be asleep.

The Family of God, Elohim, will create a New Heaven and Earth...the New Jerusalem where the faithful righteous will live for forevermore. At the center of it all will be our Chess King...the one who died for the pawns so we can live with Him eternally! This is the greatest story rarely told!

The Eternity Trilogy Guide

Preternity: Before the Heavens and Earth were created...

I was...

The Family of God existed, created angels and spiritual beings. Jesus and ten biblical authors bear testimony in 32 verses of scripture that we were spiritual beings before we became human beings.

Evidence that we existed before our deployment to Earth...

- Our names were enrolled in the Lamb's Book of Life before we were born on Earth. Revelation 13:8; 17:8
- God is Spirit. Our spirit was created in God's likeness. John 4:24; Genesis 1:26
- God knew us before we were formed in the womb. Jeremiah 1:5
- God chose and consecrated us before we were born. Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:4
- Our citizenship is in Heaven. Philippians 3:20
- All the days of our lives were recorded in the Lord's Book before there was one of them. Psalm 139:16
- The length of our life is decided by God. Job 14:5

God created and commissioned us for His purpose... to glorify Him in Heaven and on Earth. We were deployed here to prove God is greater than Satan.

Chess Champions

Internity: After the Family of God created the Heavens and the Earth.

I am Here...

- Human history is documentation of the Chess Match between God and Satan.
- Our eternal spirit is deployed from Heaven and receives a body, mind, soul, breath and emotions upon our birth on Earth.
- “Internity” is the journey of our spirit in the middle of eternity.
- “We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”
- We are constructed in God’s likeness and image.
Genesis 2:7
- We are strangers on this planet. Ephesians 2:19
- We have intuitive knowledge of God. Romans 1:20-21
- Our purpose is to please and praise God. 2 Cor. 5:8-9

Reality: I may or may not be alive when Jesus appears (returns)!

Upon death, all pieces on the Chess Board are removed and transferred to another location. Our promotion entitles us to discard our present body and our spirit changes clothes into our immortal existence and persona.

Before Here Through Eternity

Reternity: after the Family of God destroys the Heavens and the Earth.

I will be through Eternity...

- “Reternity” composes everything that happens when we exhale our final breath through Judgment and beyond.
- The faithful’s eternal spirit continues to thrive retaining 40 human characteristics in Heaven. This is “The Afterlife Reality!”⁵⁷
- The eternal spirit of the lost continues to thrive in Hades retaining 17 human characteristics.
- All humans will be present to give an account of their deeds on Judgment Day.
Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- The unfaithful live in the Lake of Fire with the Red Dragon, (a.k.a. the Devil, Satan, the Serpent of Old), the leopard beast, lamb beast, false prophet, Death, Hades, and anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life. Revelation 20:10, 14-15
- The faithful live in New Jerusalem with the Family of God eating from the Tree of Life. Revelation 21:1-3

Preternity, Internity and Reternity compose the Eternity Trilogy!

⁵⁷ Ibid., Hargrave, “The Afterlife Reality”.

Chess Champions

Afterward

Our citizenship, our home has been with God and for God since before time began. We are basically God's ambassadors on this planet. We denounce our citizenship when we choose to live under Satan's flag. God's plan has always been to redeem and rescue those who want to be rescued. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, but want to be...the right question to ask is, "What should I do to be saved?"

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.
Acts 16:31

Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Everyone who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.
Matthew 10:32

If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized. And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
Acts 8:37

Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.
John 6:27 NLT

You know instinctively in your heart that there is an afterlife. Reality on this planet is simply a chess match. If you serve the King of Creation, your King died for you. If you serve yourself or worse, Satan, then you and all the players on his side of the board die for him. Spoiler alert: **God wins!** Satan loses. Whose side do you want to be on? It's your move...

Before Here Through Eternity