

THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 27

JULY 2014

NUMBER 4

Why Did the Serpent Deceive Eve?

Why did Satan choose Eve to deceive? Where was Adam? Why does the Bible say sin entered through Adam?

By Gregory Dullum

Last month we described the perfect honeymoon in paradise Adam and Eve enjoyed. Satan got them to give it all up. How did he do that?

Eve Was Deceived, Adam Wasn't

God removed Adam and Eve from the garden because they sinned—they disobeyed God's instructions and ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:22-24). Why did they disobey?

They disobeyed for different reasons. Eve was deceived but Adam was not: "For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression" (1 Tim. 2:13-14).

Was Eve *less guilty* of sin because she was deceived? No! After being deceived she "fell into TRANSGRESSION." Transgression of what? God's law: His commandment not to eat the forbidden fruit.

She SINNED, for "sin is the TRANSGRESSION of the law" (1 John 3:4 *King James Version*, emphasis added).

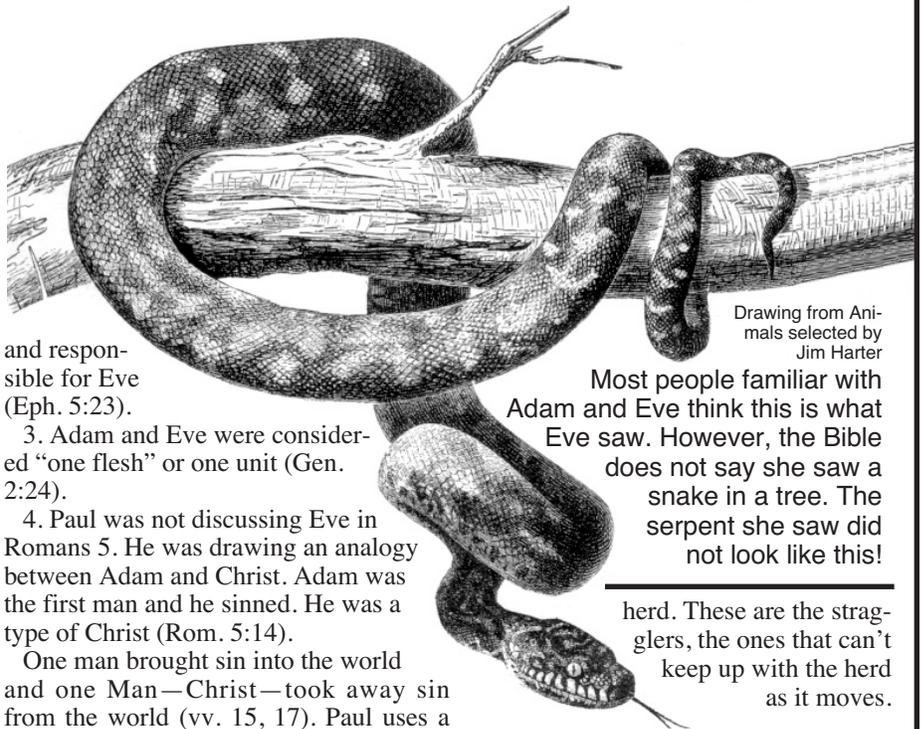
Adam was not deceived, but he also transgressed the law. He SINNED! The Apostle Paul says sin entered the world through Adam: "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

Why did Paul say sin entered the world THROUGH ADAM if EVE SINNED FIRST?

Here are four possible reasons. Although all may be contributing factors, the fourth probably is the *main* reason Paul wrote what he did in Romans 5.

1. Eve was formed from Adam's rib (Gen. 2:22). It was through Adam that Eve was created. Had Adam not been created, Eve would not have sinned. Therefore, Adam was ultimately responsible.

2. Adam was head of the household



Drawing from Animals selected by Jim Harter

and responsible for Eve (Eph. 5:23).

3. Adam and Eve were considered "one flesh" or one unit (Gen. 2:24).

4. Paul was not discussing Eve in Romans 5. He was drawing an analogy between Adam and Christ. Adam was the first man and he sinned. He was a type of Christ (Rom. 5:14).

One man brought sin into the world and one Man—Christ—took away sin from the world (vv. 15, 17). Paul uses a similar analogy between Adam and Christ in 1 Cor. 15:45-49, where he calls Adam the "first man Adam" and "man of dust"; and calls Christ the "last Adam" and "heavenly man."

Paul did not give Eve a "free pass." Her sin was not excused because she was deceived. Satan deceived Eve, but he did not deceive Adam. Yet, they BOTH SINNED. How did Satan achieve this? How did he "kill two birds with one stone"?

As a Lion

How does Satan usually attack humans? Peter tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

How do lions attack their prey? They lie in wait, watching their prey. They don't attack the strongest in the herd—they attack the young, the weak and the sick—those on the outer edges of the

herd. These are the stragglers, the ones that can't keep up with the herd as it moves.

Most people familiar with Adam and Eve think this is what Eve saw. However, the Bible does not say she saw a snake in a tree. The serpent she saw did not look like this!

Safety in Numbers

Truly there is safety in numbers. Solomon tells us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a three-fold cord is not quickly broken" (Eccles. 4:9-12).

The military understands this principle. It is called "divide and conquer." When an opposing army is larger than yours, you cut off portions of it from the others and conquer one small portion at a time.

ADAM AND EVE

Continued on Page 2

Adam and Eve

Continued from Page 1

Eve Probably Was Alone

Satan is not dumb. He is “more cunning” than any other creature (Gen. 3:1). He knew it would be *more difficult* to overpower Adam and Eve *when they were together* (the principle of “two can withstand him”) and probably impossible while they were in the presence of the LORD God (the principle of “a three-fold cord is not quickly broken”—imagine how strong that cord is if one of the three strands is God!). Therefore, it appears that Satan approached Eve at a time when she was ALONE. This was the common teaching years ago, both in the Church of God and in other churches of this world.

Recently, there has been a movement to place Adam beside Eve while she was being deceived by Satan. This is supposedly based upon Gen. 3:6: “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Obviously, Adam was with Eve when she gave him the fruit to eat. But if you read the verse carefully, you can NOT conclude *with certainty* that Adam had been there all along. You cannot even conclude *with certainty* that Adam was there *when Eve took the first bite of the fruit*. The Bible tells us she ate the fruit FIRST. After she ate it, she gave some to her husband. We don’t know how much time passed between her eating it and her giving some to him.

The fact that Adam is not mentioned during Eve’s conversation with the serpent indicates strongly that Adam was not there. There are other clues we’ll examine later.

So why has there been a movement in recent years to place Adam beside Eve? In my opinion, those who wish to put Adam beside Eve are warriors in a battle of the sexes. Tired of a woman being blamed for eating the forbidden fruit, they want to make the man appear as a dumb fool who does NOTHING as his wife does all the talking, and is deceived *before his eyes*. He does NOT *protect* her from a talking serpent, he *says nothing* to correct her WRONG statements, and he *mindlessly follows her* when her temptation turns to action and she eats the forbidden fruit.

Satan probably approached Eve when she was alone, so he had to deal with and deceive *only ONE PERSON*.

Why Did Satan Choose Eve?

Why did Satan choose to deceive Eve instead of Adam?

Some think she was *weaker* than Adam, claiming women are “the weaker sex.” This idea is based upon 1 Peter 3:7, which says, “Likewise you husbands, dwell with them [wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel.”

This verse does not state that women ARE weaker than men. Peter told husbands to give honor to their wives *just as* they give honor to weaker vessels. He doesn’t say wives ARE weaker vessels, and therefore INFERIOR to men or *easier to deceive*.

This was explained in a sermon by Fred Kellers at a Feast of Tabernacles (Sept. 30, 1977, in Lake of the Ozarks). He held up a sturdy, stainless steel Presto cooker/canner and a beautiful crystal champagne glass, explaining that both cost \$30. They had *equal value*. One was not INFERIOR to the other. But the glass was a *weaker vessel*. It was kept in a *place of honor*, in the china cabinet. The pressure cooker was kept in a cupboard with other pots and pans. And while he would never dream of standing on the glass, for it would shatter, he placed the glass inside the pressure cooker, put the pressure cooker on the stage, and stood on it. The pressure cooker was a stronger vessel, and it protected the weaker one. Husbands are, generally speaking, stronger than their wives, and should protect them.

Are women *weaker* than men emotionally, mentally or spiritually? Is that why Satan chose Eve to deceive? Not necessarily. Men and women think differently and handle their emotions differently, but women are not necessarily weaker than men. There are wives who have stayed strong in the faith while their husbands became deceived and left the church.

Satan saw *an advantage* to deceiving Eve instead of Adam, because *that’s what he did*. Lions prey upon the young, weak and sick in a herd. Satan, after studying Adam and Eve, selected Eve because he thought he would be more successful deceiving her than he would Adam. Perhaps it was because she was *younger* and had *spent less time* with the LORD God. Perhaps because she was *under Adam’s authority*, and he could use that position to his advantage, offering her the opportunity to *escape that authority* and become like God. Whatever reason Satan chose Eve, it was made because he thought he would be more successful. If Adam had offered the greater chance for being deceived, Satan would have approached him instead.

We will learn more about Satan’s deception as we carefully examine the few facts that we have in the Bible.

A Talking Serpent

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD

God had made” (Gen. 3:1). The Bible does NOT say this was a talking SNAKE. It was a talking SERPENT.

Satan is described as a SERPENT: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

In his “natural state,” Satan is not visible to man. He’s an invisible spirit being; the fallen archangel Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15, Ezek. 28:12-17).

The LORD God (i.e., the Word, the preincarnate Jesus Christ) and his angels also are spirit beings, invisible to humans. They can manifest themselves to be seen by humans. When they do, they appear as men (Gen. 18:13, 9-14, 16-17, 19:1, 12). When Satan, a fallen archangel, manifested himself to be seen by Eve, he did NOT choose to appear as a man. Why? Seeing a strange man that was neither her husband nor the LORD God might have confused or scared her away. Satan appeared as a SERPENT. Why didn’t that scare her away?

What Did the Serpent Look Like?

Satan did NOT look like serpents (or snakes) that we know today. He walked upon legs or flew with wings. As part of his curse later, God said to the serpent, “On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.” This was a change in status. This serpent had NOT been crawling on his belly prior to this.

Why wasn’t Eve scared by a talking serpent? Why didn’t she run away?

Before Satan rebelled against God—when he was still Lucifer—he was beautiful. Ezekiel says, “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” (Ezek. 28:12). Even though he is

ADAM AND EVE

Continued on Page 6

The SABBATH SCOOP

228 O’Connell Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-3332

Editor

Gregory Dullum

Circulation Managers:

Craig Evans • Raleigh Collins
Ed Crook • Gregory Dullum

© Copyright Gregory Dullum 2014

PRINT CIRCULATION: 78 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE
www.thesabbathcoop.org

The Sabbath Scoop is an independent publication. Opinions expressed are those of the editor (based upon more than 48 years attending the Church of God and four years of Ambassador College plus additional personal Bible study), not of any church or organization. Donations to cover costs of paper, toner, postage and Web site are gratefully accepted. You may e-mail the editor at: cbjprodept@socket.net. Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotes are from the New King James Version, ©1983, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

JOHN THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED

John writes the fourth Gospel and his first epistle. He survives being boiled into oil and is banished to Patmos.

By Gregory Dullum
Part 22

John Writes His Gospel

Most scholars place the date of John's Gospel near the end of the first century.

"The best solution seems to be that John was produced in Asia Minor, possibly in Ephesus, toward the close of the first century, when the church had achieved a measure of maturity, and when there was need for an advance in the teaching concerning the nature of faith. It was apparently written in Gentile surroundings, for the feasts and usages of the Jews are explained for the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with them (John 2:13, 4:9, 19:31)" (*New Testament Survey* by Merrill C. Tenney, 1961, p. 189).

"The date of John's gospel is after the synoptic gospels but not later than A.D. 85 or 90, shown by the following reasons. (1) It supplements the synoptics. It omits much that they record and records much that they omit; it is full where they are concise and vice versa. (2) It shows a maturity of Christian consciousness, unlikely in the earlier period of the church. (3) It shows no reference to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, either in prospect or retrospect, so was certainly written a number of years after that event. (4) Archeology supports this sound dating....

"John's Gospel is different from the other three. About 92% of what is found in John is not in the others. By contrast, Matthew is 42% unique, Luke 59% and Mark only 7%.

"Only eight of the 35 miracles Christ performed are recorded in John's Gospel. Six of the eight are found only in John" (*The New Unger's Bible Handbook* by Merrill F. Unger, 1984, pp. 421-422).

Matthew had begun his Gospel with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Luke's Gospel carried a genealogy but began with the story of the miraculous birth of John the Baptist. Mark began his Gospel with the ministry of John the Baptist.

John began his Gospel much further back than the other three. In fact, John's Gospel begins at a time earlier than Gen. 1:1, which states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." John's Gospel starts at a point before the creation of the heavens and earth: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He

was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1-2).

Immediately John blew holes in the Jewish idea that there is only ONE God being, and the Roman Catholic/Protestant idea that God is a TRINITY. John carefully explained that God is a FAMILY whose family name is GOD. There are only TWO GOD BEINGS, known as God (the Father) and the Word (Jesus Christ).

Because John's audience was not entirely Jewish—there were a lot of Gentiles in the church by A.D. 85—John explained some Hebrew or Aramaic terms for those who knew only Greek. In John 1:38, he explained that "Rabbi" meant "teacher"; in v. 41 he explained that "Messiah" meant "Christ"; and in v. 42 he explained that "Cephas" meant "Stone."

John didn't write in the first person. When writing about himself, he didn't use "I." Sometimes he left his identity a mystery. For example, in John 1:35, he mentioned two of John the Baptist's disciples meeting Jesus and following Him. One of those disciples was identified in verse 40 as Andrew, the brother of Peter. The other was left unidentified, so we assume it was the author.

During Jesus' last Passover, John referred to himself in this manner: "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23).

We need not go through John's Gospel verse by verse or chapter by chapter, for it covers the life of Christ, and we have already covered that from John's perspective in earlier parts of this series.

John Writes First Epistle

John was not a young man when he penned his first epistle about A.D. 90. He probably was over 80 years old. He wrote the letter from Ephesus but there is no evidence from his writing to indicate who his specific audience was. It may have been a general epistle to be passed from congregation to congregation or, as suggested by Augustine and Bede, it may have been addressed to the churches of God in Parthia (*Commentary on the Whole Bible* by Robert Jamieson, A. R. Faussett and David Brown, 1964, p. 1495).

Smith's Bible Dictionary says John's first epistle was primarily meant for the churches in Asia over which John had re-

sponsibility and to whom he may have preached (Ch. 1:3, 2:7) ("John, The First Epistle General Of," *Smith's Bible Dictionary* by William Smith, 1967, p. 307).

John wrote his letter to combat a form of Gnosticism called Docetism, that was creeping into the church. Docetism was the belief that Jesus had not been flesh. He had merely been a ghost or spirit made visible. This was based on the Gnostic belief that spirit is good, flesh is evil and ne'er the twain should mix! (Tenney, p. 376)

Another purpose of John's letter was to unify the brethren who were now small, scattered, persecuted churches (Smith, p. 307).

Let's look at what John wrote:

"We write to you about the Word of Life, which has existed from the very beginning; we have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it and our hands have touched it... What we have seen and heard we tell to you also, so that you will join with us in the fellowship that we have with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (Ch. 1:1, 3, *Today's English Version* throughout unless otherwise noted).

John told the brethren God is light and Christians must not live in darkness.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and there is no truth in us," John wrote in verse 8. He added, "If we say that we have not sinned we make a liar out of God, and his word is not in us" (v. 10). All have sinned; all are sinners, John wrote. But there is a way out: If we confess our sins to God, we will be forgiven (v. 9). Jesus Christ pleads for us, for He is the means by which our sins are forgiven (Ch. 2:1-2).

Here, A.D. 90, God's law was still intact. It had not been "nailed to the cross." John wrote, "If we obey God's commands, then we are sure that we know him. If someone says, 'I do know him' but does not obey his commands, such a person is a liar and there is no truth in him.... he who says that he lives in God should live just as Jesus Christ did" (vv. 3-4, 6).

A Christian must be filled with Godly love. If anyone hates his brother, he is still in darkness (Ch. 2:8-11).

Satan has always made the world out-

JOHN

Continued on Page 4

John

Continued from Page 3

side of God's church appear glamorous and wonderful, when in reality the physical world is decaying. True glamor and beauty is in spiritual character being developed in Christians. That is what will grow and last forever. John told the brethren, "Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not have the love for the Father in you. Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world. The world and everything in it that men desire is passing away; but he who does what God wants lives forever" (vv. 15-17).

Many people had left the church at the time John wrote his first epistle. John comforted those who had remained steadfast and called those who quit "anti-Christ" or the enemies of Christ.

"My children, the end is near! You were told that the enemy of Christ would come, and now many enemies of Christ have already appeared, and so we know that the end is near. These people really did not belong to our group, and that is why they left us; if they had belonged to our group, they would have stayed with us. But they left so that it might be clear that none of them really belonged to our group" (vv. 18-19).

John told the brethren to stick to what had been preached to them from the beginning and let God's spirit interpret the Scriptures for them. They were not to listen to these false ministers and to lying brethren who were trying to pollute the truth by combining it with their Gnostic beliefs (vv. 24-27).

Once again, now in the 90s, God's people are admonished to keep his laws as John defines sin: "Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law; for sin is a breaking of the law" (1 John 3:4).

Persecution under Emperor Domitian was stepping up. John addressed this in Chapter 3:

"So do not be surprised, my brothers, if the people of the world hate you. We know that we have left death and come over to life; we know it because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love is still in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that a murderer does not have eternal life in him. This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers! If a man is rich and sees his brother in need,

yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he has love for God in his heart? My children! Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action" (vv. 13-18).

John gave more details about the false ministers in Chapter 4. He told Church of God members not to believe everyone who claims to have God's spirit. They should test these false prophets who had gone everywhere.

"This is how you will be able to know whether it is God's Spirit: everyone who declares that Jesus Christ became mortal man has the Spirit [that] comes from God. But anyone who denies this about Jesus does not have the Spirit of God" (vv. 1-3).

John wrote more about love in the following verses. He explained that God is love. He built up to this climax: "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3, *NKJ*).

One comment about 1 John 5:7-8. John did NOT write the words referring to the Trinity that appear in many translations of the Bible, including the *King James Version*: "...the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth..."

Today's English Version omits these false, unauthentic words altogether. The *New King James Version* notes in its margin that these words are found "in Greek in only four or five very late manuscripts" (*NKJ*, p. 1369). The first translation to have these added spurious words was a Vulgate from the eighth century (JFB, p. 1509).

Wrapping up his letter, John reminded the brethren to believe in the name of the Son of God and to pray in his name, asking according to God's will. He told them the whole world is under the sway of Satan (vv. 13-15, 19).

"We know that the Son of God has come and given us understanding, so that we know the true God. Our lives are in the true God—in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and this is eternal life.

"My children, keep yourselves away from false gods!" concluded John (vv. 20-21).

John Cast into Boiling Oil

Some time after writing 1 John, the last remaining apostle was arrested during the persecution of Domitian.

"Being at Ephesus, he was ordered by Emperor Domitian to be sent bound to Rome, where he was condemned to be

cast into a caldron of boiling oil" (*Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, Marie Gentert King, editor, 1978, p. 13).

"John was sentenced to death, and it seemed his fate was to have been much the same as most of the other apostles had been, a martyr's death... His would-be executioners carried out the orders to the letter; but, to their amazement and surprise, he arose from the boiling oil, praising God, and without bodily injury. Such fear was thus caused among many who witnessed the miracle, that hundreds of conversions were made to the faith they were vainly endeavoring to stamp out. Fearing further to try to take the apostle's life, he was banished to the island of Patmos, about 75 miles off the northeast shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It was on this island where the angel of God visited the apostle, and gave him the last book of the New Testament, the Revelation" (*A History of the True Religion* by A. N. Dugger and C. O. Dodd, 1972, pp. 38-39).

Was it just a church LEGEND or made-up fable that John was cast into boiling oil and arose *unharméd*? Could there be any truth to it? Yes, it *could be true!* God can save his people in mighty ways! This was no greater miracle than God blinding the Syrian Army that was after Elishah, or stopping lions from ravaging Daniel when he was cast into their den, or saving Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from the fiery furnace!

Why did God save John from the oil? The main reason is because He still had a work for John to do. He still planned to give John the vision of Revelation.

On Patmos

On the island of Patmos John was assigned to work in the mines ("John the Apostle," Smith, p. 305).

The island is rugged and bare. It is one of the Sporades islands and is in the Icarian Sea, a part of the Aegean, about 45 miles southwest of the seaport Miletus.

"Anyone with a sense of theater will applaud God's choice of Patmos, one of the northernmost islands in the Dodecanese, as the place to plot the end of the world. Rearing volcanic ramparts and plunging, dark-shadowed chasms jar against terraced green hills and flowered meadows that burn under the stinging Aegean sun with a Van-Gogh-like luminosity. ...it's scarcely seven miles long and, at one point, narrower than the average Frisbee toss" ("Patmos" by Alan Linn, *Travel & Leisure*, August 1992, pp. 96, 99).

Patmos is divided into two almost-equal parts, a northern and a southern



Map by Gregory Dullum

A primary mail circuit covered the seven cities John mentioned in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 (along with some others). The book John wrote which contained the vision was sent to these seven churches (Rev. 1:11). Also visible on the map is the small island of Patmos where John was banished and had the vision.

section. A very narrow isthmus connects them. On the east side of the isthmus are the harbor and town. South of town is a hill which crowns a “commanding height” and has built on it a monastery named “John the Divine.” Half way up the ascent is a cave or grotto where tradition says John received the Revelation (“Patmos,” Smith, p. 495).

John Writes Revelation

While imprisoned on Patmos for proclaiming “God’s word and the truth that Jesus revealed,” John had a vision from God (Rev. 1:9-10). Following the vision, which concerned future events—“what must happen very soon,” John wrote what he saw in a book and sent it to the seven churches in Asia where he ministered (Rev. 1:1, 4).

Purpose of Revelation

John described the purpose of his book in Chapter 1: “In this book are written the things that Jesus Christ revealed. These things were given him by God, for him to show God’s servants what must happen very soon. Christ made these things known to his servant John by sending his angel to him. John has told you all that he

has seen. This is his report concerning the message from God and the truth revealed by Jesus Christ. Happy is the one who reads this book, and happy are those who listen to the words of this prophetic message and obey what is written in this book! For the time is near when all this will happen.

“From John to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace be yours from God, who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits in front of his throne, and from Jesus Christ...

“I am John, your brother, and in union with Jesus I share with you in suffering, and in his kingdom, and in enduring. I was put on the island named Patmos because I had proclaimed God’s word and the truth that Jesus revealed” (Rev. 1:1-5, 9).

“I was in the spirit (a vision or prophetic trance) on the Lord’s Day (the future time of trouble referred to as ‘the Day of the Lord’— 1 Thes. 5:2) and I heard behind me a loud voice, as a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,’ and ‘What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea’ ” (vv. 10-11, *NKJ*).

“So the very purpose of this book is to show us of this generation now living, the coming world-shaking events of the Day of the Lord—the time of God’s judgments at this age-end leading up to, and climaxing in the second coming of Christ, and the happy, peaceful World Tomorrow!” (*The Book of Revelation Unveiled At Last!* by Herbert W. Armstrong, 1972, p. 10).

John described a heavenly scene in the final verses of Revelation 1, including a description of the risen Jesus Christ in his glorified state (vv. 12-20).

In Chapters 2 and 3 John wrote a message to each of the seven churches along a mail route in Asia Minor. The conditions in these churches may also describe the spiritual condition of God’s true church through seven successive eras from A.D. 31 to the return of Christ.

“These messages come directly from Christ—they contain the direct testimony of Jesus Christ.... Here Jesus takes the actual spiritual condition and functioning of these seven churches, then existing in Asia Minor, as a prophecy of the spiritual condition and the works and accomplishments, in carrying out Christ’s great commission, of the true Church of God during seven successive periods of time up until the end of this age and the second coming of Christ” (Armstrong, pp. 10-11).

(To be continued!)

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS Fennel is an herb of the parsley family. In ancient Rome it was believed that eating any part of it improved eyesight.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

Killshot by Elmore Leonard, Arbor House, 1989, pp. 45-46.

Dress to Impress

“Carmen said, ‘You’re really going to talk to Nelson?’

“ ‘I can’t wait. You know how I love working for [jerks].’

“ ‘Wayne, try. Okay?’

“ ‘You’re gonna be there, aren’t you?’

“ ‘I’ll be in the office. What’re you going to wear?’

“ ‘I don’t know—I have to get dressed up?’

“ ‘I think you should wear a suit.’

“Wayne stepped up to the counter, put his beer down and opened the sack. ‘I could. Or my sport coat.’

“ ‘And a tie?’

“Wayne said, ‘I’ll wear a tie if you want’...

“Carmen said, ‘Wayne?’

“ ‘What?’

“ ‘How you look is important. The impression you make.’ ”

Ps. 45:13-14, Mat. 22:11-13, 1 Pet. 3:3

Quotable Quotes

“Health, happiness and prosperity are primarily mental.”

—Marian Ramsay

Memory Scripture

“And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’ ”

—Luke 10:18

Adam and Eve

Continued from Page 2

now a fallen angel, Satan can still appear beautiful. Paul tells us, “For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).

There are different types of angels. Lucifer was a “cherub” (Ezek. 28:14). What do cherubim look like? They have faces (Ezek. 10:14) hands (Ezek 10:7) and wings so they can fly (2 Sam. 22:11, 1 Kings 6:24, Ps. 18:10).

When Satan approached Eve in the Garden of Eden, he did not appear in a form that looked threatening to her. His appearance did not cause her to scream and run away. He attracted her with his beauty. He may have appeared as a beautiful, friendly, talking winged dragon, similar to the friendly, talking dragon (voiced by Sean Connery) in the movie, *Dragonheart*. His scales (if he had them) and wings may have been translucent, changing colors as they reflected the sun’s light from different angles.

Today, if a serpent or snake spoke to us, or we came upon a talking dragon, we would be scared and confused. We know, from years of personal experience and from 6,000 years of human history that snakes don’t talk and dragons don’t exist. So why did Eve talk to him?

Eve did not have the years of experience we have. She did not have 6,000 years of human history to examine. She was only a few hours old—at most, just a few days.

The garden was filled with all kinds of wonderful, tame creatures. God had brought every one to Adam to be named, so Adam was aware of every physical creature that inhabited the garden (Gen. 2:19). Eve had not yet been created when Adam named the animals (vv. 20-22). She did not have all the animals in the garden paraded in front of her. She gradually became aware of them as she encountered them. If Adam had been there when Eve talked to the serpent, he would have realized this was NOT one of the *physical animals* the LORD God had created. He would have realized this was *something else!*

A talking serpent was not as strange to Eve as it would be to us today. In her youthful innocence, she accepted it as one more wonderful creature in the garden. She innocently entered into conversation with him, just as a young child innocently accepts candy from a stranger on the street and willingly goes with him into his vehicle to be molested or killed.

Eve had no idea a similar fate awaited her! This stranger promised her many sweet things, but ultimately what she received were curses, pain and death.

(To be continued!)



Britain May Drop Out of European Union

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron has threatened to drop out of the European Union if Jean-Claude Juncker, the former Luxembourg prime minister, is made the new president of the European Commission, the EU’s powerful administrative arm.

“Mr. Cameron has openly opposed Mr. Juncker, casting him as the kind of bland official who wants more European integration but will only make the European Union seem more removed from its almost 500 million citizens, and certainly from Britons.

“As European leaders gathered after the May 25 elections to assess the consequences, Mr. Cameron—who has little support for his position—was said to have threatened that Mr. Juncker’s promotion would hasten Britain’s departure....

“He said it was ‘plain and obvious’ that if Europe failed to change—in other words, return some powers from European Union headquarters in Brussels to member states—Britain would be more likely to leave” (“Merkel Cites ‘Threats’ in Warning to Cameron” by Alison Smale, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, June 10, 2014, p. 1).

When Christ returns to this earth, there will be a union of “10 kings” ruling in

Europe (Dan. 2:40-45, Rev. 17:12-14). This 10-nation union may rise from the current European Union. If it does, Britain will not be part of that union. The British people are descendants of Joseph, as are the Americans. They are prophesied to go into national captivity—captured by a German (Assyrian)-led European union of 10 nations because of their sins (Lev. 26:24-25, 31-35; Isa. 10:5-7; Dan. 2:40-44; Rev. 17:12-14).

Presbyterian Church Allows Gay Marriages

“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted at its General Assembly on Thursday [June 19] to change its constitution’s definition of marriage from ‘a man and a woman’ to ‘two people,’ and to allow its ministers to perform same-sex marriages where it is legal.

“The Presbyterians follow other religious groups that have taken similar steps, including the United Church of Christ, which affirmed ‘equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender’ in 2005; Quakers; the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; and the Reform and Conservative movements in Judaism” (“Presbyterians Vote to Allow Same-Sex Marriages” by Laurie Goodstein, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, June 19, 2014, p. 1).

The U.S. is becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah, and will soon be destroyed.

Wake Up America

By Marcus Omer



Within the wake of evil’s eye
there lives those men in thin disguise,
where rank of station rules the day,
where vice and graft come out to play.

Where soothing words play eager ears,
which greet the promise made with cheers.
Their speeches laden down like silk,
to feed the masses “mother’s milk.”

Their motive, pills to rock to sleep
those greedy flocks of fattened sheep.
The lazy, listless, mooching man,
the future steals from children’s hand.

A country borne with belief in God,
but now our face a mere facade.
As we slid in moral decay,
for lust and greed we all will pay.

A ticking clock, its hands do swirl,
it chimes the end of freedom’s world.
For ominous days ’wait the clan
of once the brave and chosen man.

In honor once we stood the test,
our fathers died in noble quest;
for freedom fought and gave their all,
but now to ruin and shame we fall.