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THE MASTER OF DECEPTION ~ INTRODUCTION CHAPTER 1

"None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

2Ti 4:2-4 preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto FABLES.

Is our learned description of the Devil and Demons accurate to the Bible, or do those understandings demonstrate more deception and our negligence of rightly dividing the Word of Truth? We shall soon find out, then decide with closing arguments—biblical truth vs. unbiblical fallacy—basing our verdict on conclusions drawn from what scripture actually teaches rather than what we have been told it teaches.

HOW PROFOUND IS THIS TOPIC, COMPARED TO BOOK 1? This is most exciting, because the myth busting and replacements offered for this Christian myth and Jewish fable you discard from your belief system on this topic, will also refute what **99.9% – no wait – 99.99%** of modern Christianity teaches! It is a huge discovery when that many people believe similar lies and you have the truth to share. The same *renowned scholars on the back cover blurb of Book 1* are wrong on this essential topic, too.

Again, we ask: *Where did our study methods go so awry?* Primarily, it is putting our trust in men without verifying it and being overly concerned with peer pressure. Is there anyone that can “really” know? YES—God's Word IS His revelation to us who are willing to hear, and CAN therefore be understood. He's not the author of confusion, but mankind has confused His Word to no end. When the blinders of presumptuous bias come off and we look through a consistent logical lens, many “mysteries” can be clearly seen and easily understood.

We are in no shortage of answers in this volume either, after having sharpened and honed our

skills from Book 1. Some, including Professor Anthony Buzzard, have asked if this comes from a Christadelphian view, and I told him I had never heard of them when I came to this understanding and freedom. These understandings were simply acquired by taking another look at views that could no longer be reconciled scripturally, when being confronted and honest about it...

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, **which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest**, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

2Pe 3:16 as also in all the letters, speaking in them concerning these things; in which are hard to comprehend some things, **which the illiterate and unstable make crooked**, as also the rest of scriptures, to their own destruction. (ABP+)

So, is it important to not be illiterate in the book we profess? "To their own destruction" are pretty serious words, we'd say. We are learning these "wrested scriptures" are basically what we've been saying all along; they are being distorted and perverted by the unknowing Christian, and maligned by the atheist. Thus, our claims for knowledge for the Christian, (i.e., knowing the truth,) stand as vital as ever, because it not only shows where your priorities are, but prevents one from concluding other falsehoods (the snowball affect) that further distort God's Word.

In Book 1, we mentioned how our Bible scholars have failed us in these *essential* doctrines. The problem is, scholars who do not know they are deceived and think they have the answers, do not search for answers and often are not willing to go against the orthodoxy of their organization. Paul here, emphasizes this... 2Co 10:10, 12 "For, His letters, they say, are weighty and strong; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible... For we are not bold to number or compare ourselves with certain of them that commend themselves: but they themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding."

We put a lot of emphasis on "methodology" (how we arrive at conclusions, so we are no longer among the blind leading the blind) in Book 1. Contrary to what some are teaching, Occam's Razor is not a good method to approach a subject because, while it is true that among competing hypotheses, the hypothesis with the fewest assumptions should be selected, the easiest answer may come from a wrong, **pre-supposed** paradigm. In other words, the only reason one interpretation is easier (Occam's Razor) to some is because of their pre-suppositions. Eureka moments from the light of God's Word, to those who dig and are knowledgeable, work wonders.

Some of you may remember reading that this book was originally taken from Vol. 1 before the Last Days Deceptions (Pt. 2) sections of the book, since **knowledge of it is essential for understanding eschatology**. And that we took it out because it would have been too much

change for some to swallow and digest, and would have made Book 1 too big for some. We will also be following something else we learned in Book 1 (showing we submit to the authority of God's word and practice what we learn) that scripture does not give us one verse that states the disciple John wrote the IV Gospel. Therefore, we have no justification for assimilating the faulty John idea. So we will continue in that fashion to call it the IV Gospel, in case some might wonder.

This myth-busting topic, THE MASTER OF DECEPTION, unveils the "Satan the Devil" *whom Jesus knew* and will show how different today's concept of Satan is from the real Devil (not a fallen angel) in scripture! Since it is not a name, but usually a description of various "adversaries," an attempt will be made in this book to no longer refer to Satan with a capital "S", but a small "s," with the exception of headers, titles or when it refers to a specific (vs. a general) entity. Same goes for the word devil (slanderer,) even though it often does refer to a specific entity, as we shall see. This book attempts to cover all the bases on this topic—and most certainly all the difficult passages. This crucial knowledge also is a major key why most have their eschatology wrong (Book 1.)

The fallen angel paradigm is unbiblical and harmful for many reasons we will show by biblically and soundly dismantling them all. **It sends a message that minimizes the wicked, sometimes unpredictable effects of the carnal mind.** There are different biblically opposed groups called adversaries' (satans) the Bible sometimes puts extra emphasis on, like the many nations of Gog and Magog. They are primarily Islamic and Communist when one traces their biblically based lineages. Since we already....

The Characters

Throughout this book, the characters used in the issues and topics that will be covered, are represented with input from our District Attorney, aka Devil's Advocate, initials D.A., sometimes in a courtroom setting. He is usually defiant and making a case for traditional orthodox Christianity. Our D.A. received his bachelor's in law as well as his master's degree in theology from Masters Divinity. Cross-examinations for closing arguments include another DA, the defense attorney. Second is "Joshua Bradshaw" initials J.B. (who is our Christian MythBuster) and works as a court reporter, journalist research investigator and has a working relationship with our D.A.

The characters are helpful in setting the stage for a debate, in an effort to get you, the reader, to evaluate the issue from other perspectives in everyday language, drawing your own conclusions. Though the debates with the characters are a little less heavy; the claims in this book are well researched, debated, and comprehensive enough to withstand arguments from even the most cynical of critics—this is not implying they are not open to new debate. The characters are primarily designed to help you consider both sides, not to eliminate any other conclusions to which you may arrive. They are to help you decide Bible fact or fallacy beyond a reasonable doubt in closing arguments.

The materials cited are *only* for the information specified; they are not an endorsement of the individuals being cited, nor an endorsement of other works that pertain to those individuals or their organizations. There are many people cited in this series, even cited more than once, whose other works this writer would not recommend—in fact, that applies to most. Those individuals or organizations cited are merely *sources*, saving the author time recording all the information that is pertinent to the topic. Unless a recommendation for their other works follows what is being cited, they are not recommended.

After the evidence is researched, you will be the judge and jury; the only evidence allowed in the courtroom will be from a Biblical perspective. After the presented arguments, there's a summation of closing arguments. YOU, as the jury, have to base the evidence given beyond a reasonable or unreasonable doubt and come up with a verdict. You can NOT sit on the evidence, as so many Christians today sit on the fence with so many biblical issues, never coming to knowledge of the truth. In other words, Bible fact or religious tradition/fallacy? Whether you believe the replacements are scriptural or not is a separate issue, separate from whether or not you have been holding onto a myth or sacred cow that needs to be discarded. So let's put on our thinking caps and go for an exciting ride in God's Word to discover more of His jewels, hiding-in-plain-sight!

THE SUBTLE SERPENT MYSTERY UNVEILED!

Could we possibly have been wrong about the understanding of this 6,000+ year old Hebrew text and misunderstood these passages concerning the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden? It appears so! We are not (in this edition) delving into what and what is not allegorical in this account—just identifying and how it plays out. Most Christians (including myself,) Jews and Muslims automatically assume that satan, Lucifer, the devil, the alleged fallen angel of Revelation 12:7-9; 20:2 and Isa 14:12ff was the same serpent in the Garden of Eden, and you probably think likewise. Isn't that what we were taught by our conventional institutions? Perhaps, at the time of their studies, they only "saw through the glass dimly." Well, it is time that we see as with the light of day! And if we are correct, and we think we are, then we can also show the foolishness of atheists that accuse us of believing in a talking snake (not that God couldn't do that).

Starting this exciting study, we need to first consider where this misunderstood premise of satan held by Christians came from. A passage in the last book of the Bible describes satan, where the devil and a third of his angels who would become demons and be cast out from heaven into the earth, or so we were taught.

Rev 12:7-9 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him."

It infers the idea to preconceived Christian thought, that at some time in the past, before the creation of mankind, many angels (messengers, one-third of them) were cast out of heaven for rebelling against God. The ring-leader of these rebelling messengers, was the mythical Devil of Christianity. This idea is taken from the passage we just read.

A more Literal Translation:

"And there was strife in the heaven; one who is like El (like God) and his messengers fought against the serpent, and the serpent and his messengers fought and could not prevail, neither was a place found of them any longer in the heaven. And the great serpent was cast - the old snake, the one being called accuser and adversary, the one deceiving the habitable world, was cast into the land (lost their heavenly status with God,) and his (the leadership's) messengers, were cast with him."

This struggle was one for power and for control between two religious authorities, which

represented the high (heavenly) realm. The terrestrial (earthly) messengers following the "Michael" overcame the "Dragon" not by military might (that is how the destruction of their city and system came), but "...by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev 12:11).

The reference to the phrase "the heaven" in the passage is not referring to the place, abode, or dwelling place of the Father, but is a reference to that which is "above," as in the kingdom authority. In the days of Moses, the adversaries, or false "earthly messengers" waiting for their ultimate Judgement by Christ, for good or, for evil (2 Cor. 5:10) after they were cast down into the earth from their "high place of authority" (representing the heaven) waiting in the earth (the grave).

The problem is this Revelation event, we learned from history and understanding who this entity is, was about to occur at the time it was written, i.e. "1st Chapter of Revelation in the 1st verse: **things which must shortly come to pass.**" Grant it, there are some things mentioned that are past events in Revelation, we know from Book one this Revelation event did shortly come to pass and end circa 70AD. So, reflect a moment on "things which must shortly come to pass" because that tells us when this event did happen. This simply informs us that this Satan fell and brought a third of this army with him shortly after Revelation was written. Think about that for a moment, Satan was not cast onto the earth until eons after the era of the Garden of Eden! With that, he could not have been the serpent in the garden with Eve, according to Genesis. In other words, Satan did not fall until about 4,000 years after the Garden of Eden experience we read about in Genesis 3. Do we agree on that?

"Well then, who or what was in the Garden?" That is surely your first question. This revelation will give us a handle on who satan really is in the other passages of the Bible as well, which makes this especially important. Much research later, I learned the following facts from scripture. Let's continue in our journey with this Revelation passage so many use for a taking of God's army, viz. Holy angels that supposedly fell and became fallen angels (the devil and demons,) and let that lead our study up to the "Serpent in the Garden" in about seven pages from here.

Joshua.... "To my surprise, I discovered you have to go all the way to Revelation 12:3f where it states this satan was thrown out of and fell "from heaven" and took one-third of the angels with him, that became demons **or there really is no other basis for this taking of God's army.** Why didn't I ever notice that before? Christians quote or refer to Rev. 12:7-9 about this great "war in heaven" when "the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." This being one of the major passages of that understanding, they insist that "Satan" is a "fallen angel" and he was the one in the Garden seducing Eve. **Despite the fact that this "fall" described in Revelation took place way after the serpent in the**

garden! That does not add up.”...

They say this alleged “war” in Rev. 12 was fought in God's “heaven” (the third heaven,) but, in (v. 1,) we find the “woman clothed with the sun,” was also, in “heaven.” The woman is Israel, and Israel was on the earth at the time this war was going on, so the “heaven” of Rev 12 was also on the earth I realized! There are *at least* four heavens in the Bible; I learned. These facts, absolutely ruled out the traditional teaching of Rev 12 as being about any supernatural fallen angel. We need to examine this battle a little more before getting to the serpent in the garden to see what it was.

The Archangel Michael A Human?

As much as this defies orthodoxy, one would have to be off their rocker to even suggest that Michael represented human beings – right? I discovered it did answer some questions. Don't be so sure, until you hear this out, and as always – decide for yourself...

D.A. "You must forgive me, but Michael a human priest is truly grasping at straws, I am a researcher by academic training, and one of the core principles in these fields is that the simplest solution is the best. I think my explanation is much simpler – so I will stick with mine. I have seen this before and it is clear that view reads and interprets scripture in a very unorthodox fashion. My principles of interpretation are very compatible with standard evangelical teaching. There is no speculation in my system and no violation of cardinal doctrines. For what it is worth, my solution has fewer contradictions with mainstream Christianity. Furthermore, it is almost universally believed in all Jewish and Christian writing that Michael is a reference to an Angel.

J.B. "No offence, but that sounds like you. Maybe it's the simplest solution to you because of your bias towards it, depending on evangelical orthodoxy a little too much. You may think there's no speculation in your system, but depending on the assessments of others, even if it is core beliefs, doesn't make it biblical. Take a look at how the gospel and salvation have been distorted (Book 1). I don't expect everyone to jump on this bandwagon, but Michael means 'one who is like God' and should have been translated that way."

I was intrigued to find in my journey for answers to dilemmas, that in apocalyptic literature Michael was the High Priest. Biblical writings that use the name Michael were often informed by apocalyptic thinking—expressing severity in judgment, usually unveiling the intent with an end to something. The period of their composition lends to the writer employing the use of Michael the messenger while not meaning a supernatural angel. Laurence Gardner (controversial historian) writes of the Priestly order which was known of. Michael, who was the human high priest and Gabriel, the second priest. These are Judaic angelology views in much the same way a cosmic satan is. The first place we see and often misunderstand it to be a supernatural angel,

is in Dan 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

Albeit, we see this Michael called a "Prince" which simply may speak of a ruler, but this is probably a human who engaged another human ruler. And for this passage, it is known both biblically and talmudically that there was a priest appointed for war who was a human.

The first Priest anointed for war that we find mention of, was Phineas, the grandson of Aaron:

Midrash Rabbah -Leviticus XX:2 -Elisheba the daughter of Amminadab did not enjoy happiness in the world. True, she witnessed five crowns [attained by her relatives] in one day: her brother-in-law was a king, her brother was a prince, her husband was High Priest, her two sons were both Deputy High Priests, Phinehas her grandson was a Priest anointed for war.

Numbers 25:7-9 And when Phinehas (Phinehas H6372 פִּינְחָס pîynechâs Apparently from H6310 and a variation of H5175; mouth of a serpent; Pinechas, the name of three Israelites): - Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. ⁹And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Isa 59:17-18 For He put on righteousness like armor, and a helmet of salvation on His head. And **He put on robes of vengeance as clothing; and He put on zeal like a mantle.** According to works, so **He will repay; fury to His foes; recompense to His foes;** He will repay recompense to the coasts.

Rev 6:16 and they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb:**

His garments are red with the blood of judgment. There is a connection between the garments of vengeance and the Lord's Day of vengeance: Isaiah 63:1-6 –Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

The names given them in post-biblical writings such as Daniel and forward, would only be ways to explain the emanation if they are not speaking of human messengers as I see is the case most often. Hebrew theology adopted and developed a literal angel concept. The ancientness of that adopted view causes us to face a dilemma in again unraveling a concept that is cemented in today's consciousness and to attempt to display it as it would have been seen underneath the mountains of influence and assimilation incurred in exiles and interaction with very seductive false religious systems.

Kholer's treatise on Jewish Theology says this among other things on the borrowed idea of literal angels; Judaism manifested its wondrous power of assimilation by renewing itself to meet the demands of the time, first under the influence of the ancient civilizations, Babylonia and Persia, then of Greece and Rome, finally of the Occidental powers, molding its religious truths and customs in ever new forms, but all in consonance with its own genius. It adopted the Babylonian and Persian views of the hereafter, of the upper and the nether world with their angels and demons; so later on it incorporated into its religious and legal system elements of Greek and Egyptian Gnosticism, Greek philosophy, and methods of jurisprudence from Egypt, Babylon, and Rome.

Sources ~ Aboth d. R. Nathan, I; Shab. 30 b with reference to Ezek. XLIII-XLIV. Also, see Geiger: J. I, p. 7.Z. D. M. G., XII, 536; Schechter, Wisdom of Ben Sira, p. 35.

In the battle of Rev 12, that appears on the surface to many to be in heaven (the 3rd heaven where God is, we are told,) we see Michael, the arch angel in this scenario. Michael in the Greek:

H4317 From H4310 (the prefixed derivation from) H3588 and H410; **who (is) like God?**; Mikael, the name of an archangel and of nine Israelites: Michael. also derived from: H410 Shortened from H352; strength; as adjective mighty; **especially the Almighty (but used also of any deity)**: God (god,) X goodly, X great, idol, might (-y one,) power, strong. Compare names in "-el."

Too many connotations of might, strength, power, an Israelite, like God, etc. Who else is an Israelite and like God? This obviously is a reference to the Christ that had come and that Michael represents the great prince for the children of Israel. We can verify this in Daniel:

And at that time shall MichaEL stand up, the great prince who stands for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (Dan 12:1)

It may **not** imply that *every time* the name Micha'EL' (God with us) is used, it is intimating the Christ—this is very biblical. MichaEL in the OT must have various meanings for some kingly, princely, powerful position with God and man (Israel). The messengers, translated as "angels" in the KJV are "**human** messengers" of this dragon, Satan entity. This undoubtedly is describing Jesus' and His Apostles battle and persecution on **earth** (the heaven we read about is on earth, it is the reigning position the House of Judah had at that time **before its fall from power [heaven]**) that culminated in the destruction (falling from heaven) of the dragon (Satan) and his messengers (angels). This is nothing short of fascinating. I looked at this "fallen from heaven" scenario in this new light:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels (messengers - **humans**) going forth to war (when God sent Rome to destroy Jerusalem ca. 67-73AD) with the dragon (the Sanhedrin, those who defended the Jewish authority); and the dragon warred and his angels (those Jewish zealots and their human messengers [angels]); And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven (the kingdom reign was taken away from them - not the third heaven, which most assume). Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you (Judah - *not Israel* they were still in Assyrian Diaspora, but notice Judah **did** have the kingdom or it could not have been taken away from them,) and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Mat 21:43). And the great dragon was cast down (lost the kingdom reign on earth in Judea,) the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan (slanderer and adversary, adjectives describing people, not nouns,) the deceiver of the whole world (the known Roman world '*oikoumene*' - not the globe at this point in prophecy); he was cast down (the House/Kingdom of Judah had lost their authority and status) to the earth (Land, symbolic for outside the temple walls, where the gentiles resided – in other words no different status than anyone else, no longer a "heavenly status" with God,) and his angels (messengers - humans) were cast down with him (fell from that heavenly status). And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying, Now (important: NOW [**NOT BEFORE THIS OCCURRED—NOW IT SAYS—TIME STATEMENT**]) is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ (BEGINS - NOW): for (BECAUSE) the accuser (apostate Judah) of our brethren is cast down (had to be cast down because the kingdom of Christ was "about to" [Greek word 'mello'] replace it ca.70AD and there cannot exist two conflicting kingdom of God's reigning at the same time, as some Preterist unknowingly try to have - important "timing" to understand other prophecies,) who accuses (those unbelieving Jewish leaders - not all the Jews) them before our God day and night. (Rev 12:7-10)

I called a friend to whom, I had previously sent an email, to discuss my email and verify my conclusions. I wanted to see if he could poke some holes in them, or see something I may have missed.

J.B. "Hey Jordan, Still trying to clear up some issues I have with this topic. I keep seeing personality, specific beings, beings that talk and in one case (below) it says satan and his angels are **in heaven**. How do you deal with these other verses, if your perspective is correct?

Whatever these things are, how could they be in heaven? It also states they were no longer allowed in heaven and they were thrown down from heaven to the earth:

While you're at it, please help shed some light on these 'principalities and powers,' especially Eph 6:12, where it talks about 'against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places':

Eph 3:10 to the intent that now unto the **principalities and the powers in the heavenly places** might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God,
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, **but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** I noticed here another instance of this word:
Jer 13:18 Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your **principalities** shall come down, even the crown of your glory.

I think I will be able to move off this topic if you could help me with these passages. As you know, this is a lot to swallow when we've all been indoctrinated with tradition. I've already had a family member say I'm losin' it and they would pray for me."

Jordan "Hi Joshua, It is good to hear from you, but not good to hear that family members are rejecting what you share with them and thus rejecting you in the process. I realize that this probably won't make you feel much better, but most who have come to some of these conclusions have experienced similar things. Most don't realize Jesus said He brought a sword that even divided families, if need be.

I will do what I can to help you and do what I can to explain how we 'deal with these other verses'. I really think you need to work on gaining more knowledge and a better understanding of the OT. Go to Genesis and see if you can find a devil - demon - Satan (in the traditional sense) there any place without importing one into the text."

Jordan continued..."You asked, 'Whatever these things are, how could they be in heaven?' It's apparent from what you wrote here that you only see heaven as the home of God and good. We all need to understand that the Bible uses the word 'heaven' in at least four different ways. One is the way you think of heaven which is a way that the Bible seldom uses. However, a second way the Bible uses the word 'heaven' is in reference to the stars, moon, sun etc. above us. The most important and also the most common use of the word heaven, in the Bible, is best illustrated by the following passage of Scripture:

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, 'Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.' And his brothers said to him, 'Shall you indeed

reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, 'Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.' So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?' (Genesis 37:5-10 NKJV)

A careful look at this passage shows how Jacob clearly recognized that Joseph's dream about the sun, the moon, and the stars (eleven, alluding to the twelve tribes and twelve Apostles counting Joseph) was a dream about authority in the covenant family. Jacob clearly identifies himself with the sun, Joseph's mother the moon and Joseph's eleven brothers as the stars. Thus, by practical, biblical terms this sun, moon and stars makes up a 'heaven.' This usage of 'heaven' as illustrated in this passage, is often applied to any place of 'authority'. It's especially used that way in relationship to the covenant temple. The Jews understood the temple to be the place where 'heaven' and earth meet because of it being their connection to God. Thus the covenant is often spoken of as 'heaven and earth' such as in Deut 4:26, 30:17; Isaiah 1:2; et al."

J.B. "I had thought this, and now you're helping me confirm it."

Jordan "Good. Also another way 'heaven' is used is when governments were identified using similar language: Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land (of Babylon, v1) desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations (dignitaries in the kingdom of Babylon) will not give their light; The sun (king of Babylon) will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon (the queen mother) will not cause its light to shine. (Isaiah 13:9-10 NKJV) As none of those things literally happened when Babylon was destroyed, and we know, from the passages they pointed to, that existing Babylonian system they were suffering from, we can conclude that these are apocalyptic hyperbolic words of destruction of the Babylonian authority of hierarchy."

J.B. "Yes, isn't Rome considered to be **heaven** in Revelation 20 – when we compare it to history?"

Jordan "Yes, a kingdom or hierarchy! A similar pattern also exists in the following: (please read the context of these passages) Ezekiel 32:7 And when I shall put thee out (Pharaoh king of Egypt,) I will cover the heaven (Egypt,) and make the stars (Rulers- **principalities**) thereof dark; I will cover the sun (Pharaoh) with a cloud, and the moon (Queen mother) shall not give her light...

Joel 2:10 The earth (land of Canaan after the Assyrian conquest) shall quake before them; the heavens (Jerusalem) shall tremble: the sun (king of Judah) and the moon (queen mother) shall

be dark, and the stars (dignitaries/principalities) shall withdraw their shining:

Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (Same as above applied to the temple and the city of Jerusalem and its rulers, etc. Same as above)

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; (cp. above applied to the temple and the city of Jerusalem and its rulers, etc.)

Revelation 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. (cp. above applied to the temple and the city of Jerusalem and its rulers, etc.)....

Thus, we can see that 'heaven' within the context of Rev 12 is referencing the covenant relationships in one form or another. Specifically, verse 12 is referencing the war among the covenant people. Michael is Jesus Christ - the first messenger of the new covenant, His 'angels' (messengers) are the followers of Jesus Christ in the first century; and the 'dragon/serpent/devil/Satan' and his 'angels' (messengers) are the apostates of Judaism (human nature operating at its worst) who are rejecting, persecuting, and killing the followers of Christ. The apostates (those unbelieving Judaic messengers) lose and there is no longer any place for them in the covenant/heaven (see Mat 21:43, et al.). And so the 'accuser of the brethren' in verse 10 are the apostate Jews above (identified as such over 30 times in the NT)."

J.B. "Heavy stuff, but exceedingly good to know biblical language and the Hebraic mindset. This is really helpful. I'm researching the Serpent in the Garden and these idioms and concepts will only help."

Jordan "Good."

J.B. "You were also telling me this so-called alleged being most of us have come to know as Satan, referred to in the garden as this serpent, is really Adam."

Jordan "Yeah, that's right."

J.B. "Well, then why is a part of the narrative so confusing to me, where God says that, 'because you hearkened unto the voice of *your wife*' and then God doles out the punishments? Now, from what you are saying, Adam seduced Eve and she only handed it to him after she ate. He used her as the guinea pig; she didn't die, so then he took and ate. From your viewpoint it would hardly seem that Adam hearkened unto Eve, but more like 'she hearkened' and followed

his lead, whether he was the one more responsible or not. But that's not what the text says here, it says he hearkened to her, *as if she was the one who did the seducing?* And the mainstream view is that Eve was the culprit, and Adam just followed her... maybe for love of her or something, but that didn't really make sense to me either because we are told we have to love (obey) God first. So, maybe you can help me clear this up."

Jordan "Well, we know in 1Timothy 2:14 (And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived has come to be in transgression;) if she was deceived and Adam was not, that would make Adam the deceiver. Right?"

J.B. "If Adam is the serpent...but—"

Jordan "Now wait a minute, let me finish. No... because then it would say Adam was deceived too, but it says he was *not deceived*. To answer your other question, it appears to me that God simply turned Adam's words against him. In verse 12 Adam said, 'the woman whom you gave to be with me gave me of the tree and I did eat'. Thus God said unto Adam, 'because you have listened unto the voice of your wife...' It seems that Adam said his wife was guilty so God accepted Adam at his word that he had (listened to the voice of his wife)."

J.B. "I have to say I am convinced that you have presented a better argument than the traditional one regarding Adam and the Serpent. However, there are other questions I need answered. This is difficult for me; I'll keep praying and studying about it. Could you please help shed some light on this next difficult passage for me, too?..."

Mat 12:43,45 But when the unclean spirit goes from a man, he goes through dry places seeking rest and does not find it. Then he says, I will return to my house from which I came out. And coming, he finds it standing empty, swept and decorated. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more evil than himself, and entering dwells there. And the last things of that man become worse than the first. So it will be also to this evil generation."

Jordan "It seems to me that Jesus is using this 'story' to explain to the Jews that it does not do any good to clean up a 'house' and leave it empty of truth because the evil that was cleaned out will come back with a vengeance. So the last things (days) of that evil generation of Jews will be worse than the first. His use of 'spirit' is not proof of the existence of evil spirits/demons. The phrase 'the unclean spirit goes out of a man' is an Aramaic idiom which means the man is healed and if one looks at this from the ancient perspective, they will find it is understood a worse sickness will come if one goes out and practices evil after receiving healing. Jesus even, in that same verse states 'So it will be also to this evil generation,' telling us He is referring to people, not fallen angels."

J.B. "Okay, that then would mean the word 'spirit' could be used differently than I thought, too."

I'll have to do a little more investigating but what about this one... The seventy came back and joyously reported, 'Lord, even the demons are submitting to us in your name! He said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.' (Luke 10:17,18)"

Jordan "These verses describe the warfare between the servants of Jesus Christ and the servants of apostate Judaism in a manner similar to the account of that struggle in Revelation 12:7-11. It seems to be the same account of what happened to apostate Judaism circa AD70, i.e. the destruction of their city and temple. In essence they fell from 'heaven' (that status they had with Yahweh God) which was their connection to God, and they were the angels (messengers) described in these verses."

J.B. "That's what I thought! Thanks again, this is surely liberating, but I still have a lot of investigating to do."

Jordan "Anytime. Keep studying - it'll come to you. Bye for now."

This to me made more sense, because everything going on at that time (in the 1st century) was taken into the biblical account. Whereas, with the traditional view, none of the patriarchs of old would have known about this alleged fallen angel event—not Abraham, not Jacob, not Noah (nor do the OT books in which their stories are told even mention this fallen angel)—because that fall was about to happen "shortly" after the time the last book of the bible, Revelation, was written as Chapters 1:1, 1:3, 3:11 tell us! *Again, for emphasis, what I found: For about five thousand years no one would have known about this event because this Satan would not have even fallen yet, using traditional logic. But it's never been thought out! Maybe also it's the simple fact that we don't want to accept responsibility, just like in the garden. Eve blamed Adam, Adam blamed Eve, Adam blamed God (it's this woman you gave me,) the same big blame game everyone plays today: that it's some influence out there that is actually responsible for our making wrong decisions. We humans are not willing to accept responsibility for our own actions and thoughts. If we listened, we would have realized the Old and NT both tell us the source of all evil is the human heart, but instead we just gloss over that and read it with our own presuppositions.*

It appeared that tradition was having the same affect it had in Jesus' day with "the tradition of the elders". The Jewish leadership brought back those man-made traditions with them from their Babylonian captivity which they suffered for their continual disobedience to YHWH God. All these verses kept flowing through my mind in opposition to what I was now learning...."What about Ezekiel 28 and Isa 14?!" I cried out to myself. I re-read Genesis 3 in light of some new ideas concerning passages that I was made aware of by some friends. I realized that Genesis, the first book, can be highly metaphoric, as is Revelation, the last book in the Bible. I read it in the different perspective of which I had now learned with the following *[parenthetical thoughts]* inserted, to see what I could come up with and if I could make sense of all of this. To me,

reading it in this light was a fascinating milestone—you decide. The preceding explanations have prepared us with the necessary background knowledge to go on to the Subtle Serpent Mystery.

SORRY FOR THE NEEDED TEN+ PAGE PRELUDE. BUT FINALLY, WE INTRODUCE TO YOU THE MUCH AWAITED "SUBTLE SERPENT MYSTERY" UNVEILED!

We learned the fallen angel theory in Revelation did not explain this serpent in the garden. In addition, the author of Genesis is silent about any such possessed reptile we've assumed. Did God inform the devil hiding behind or inside the serpent about this prohibition of the one tree? Still, that crafty being starts his dialogue to Eve knowing all about it! Scripture does not speak of it; we have to build an argument from silence and what we *think* we know. The Bible says sin entered into the world by one MAN (Rom 5:12). God did not inform a serpent about this prohibition, but there was someone who did know about it before Eve...

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent...

[Now] In other words, not before—to those people who esteem Adam as a prophet. Actually, Adam did have a special role explained in Book 3 of this series. NOW means by this point he had the evil thought and planned the attack. Therefore, the author inspired the writer to write "NOW"...that this individual BECAME this seductive serpent. Adam—Jesus in the same manner, called the Pharisees serpents. We today, still say "He's a real snake in the grass," or "That sales person is as slippery as one can get." The writer of Genesis simply used the vernacular serpent to depict something else, which rationally accounts for this. Why wouldn't the writer of Genesis use the serpent for subtlety, as he would a lamb for meekness or a wolf as ravenous, like Jesus did regarding the Pharisees?

....was more subtle than any beast of the field

This could mean Adam is not a beast, or, using biblical vernacular, men sometimes are referred to as beasts, like in Revelation.

....which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Whatever that 'eating of' was. At this point, it is important to note that Adam fits all the criteria of this Hebrew "nachash" -a primitive root; properly to hiss, that is, whisper a [magic] spell; generally to prognosticate; divine enchanter, learn by experience, diligently observe. Adam was a whisperer, "Did God really say...?" He learned by observing when she ate and he learned by experience she did not seem to die—elaborated more in verse 12.

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die...

If it wasn't Adam, why isn't she afraid at this point? A talking amphibian would be quite scary," I contemplated. Instead, she showed no fear but spoke with as much composure as she would have to Adam. The Christian Devil is supposed to be able to appear as an angel of light - so why would he appear in the scary figure of a talking reptilian, when he could've appeared much more pleasant or less startling to the eye? What person would be deceived by a serpent in such likeness? I understood the "we" can be ambiguous, but found it interesting that she says, "WE" as in "her talking to Adam."

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die...

*Adam, the first Adam representing the flesh—CHRIST is the **last** Adam representing the spirit-1Co15:45, but not this Adam... [You shall not surely die] Which, of course made him reminiscent of a serpent because he was a liar, and consequently a murderer; because at this point Adam was ready to sacrifice Eve to see what would happen. Was God really telling the truth about this death sentence, if they ate? He would learn by experience, like the Hebrew word 'nachash' implies. Which also tells us that original sin was not what Eve did when she ate of the fruit, but when Adam distorted God's Words! Isn't that the same problem we have today?:*

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil...

Which is what this serpent (Adam) was really after—to be as gods—but was too afraid to try for himself.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her...

*Wait a minute here—it says he was "WITH HER!" I always thought he was off working the garden or something. And if he was with her and wasn't the one seducing her, then why didn't he protect her?! Why didn't he say, "Get away from that tree, woman!""? Why didn't he say, "Don't listen to that THING!" I also came to realize, the Bible never says the serpent spoke to Adam, only to Eve. But that's what we would expect, if Adam was the serpent. These were defining moments and definite setbacks with the traditional belief, so I knew something had to be here. Some have reasoned that it seems the man is not present when the woman picks and eats the fruit since, had he been there, he could have prevented the woman from picking and eating the fruit. Since it is not stated that the man was beguiled by either the serpent or the woman, he would have, because of the death threat, stopped the woman from picking the fruit of the tree and eating it. Without question, there is no room for a space of time between her eating and giving it to her husband unless **we** insert one. Adam was with his wife when she ate, so he had no*

excuse for not knowing what he ate. He knew it was fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and knowingly sinned when he ate. (James 4:17);

...and he did eat.

*The traditional idea I remembered, insinuated it was through a strong affection for his wife, that she might not die alone, he ate. But it made more sense to me “he did eat” could very well be because he saw her eat and nothing **appeared** to happen to her, I reasoned, and now he could blame her! She, in other words, would be his guinea pig or 'experimental subject, so he would learn by experience, because he was afraid of God's guarantee, “that in the day you eat thereof you shall surely die.” But she did NOT “appear” to die or drop dead—so he ate! It is not even stated that the woman encourages the man to eat the fruit, or that she dares or challenges him; nor is it stated that she tempts or seduces him to eat. She simply gives him the fruit, and he eats. That would seem to make Adam a murderer and a liar. This would make sense because first verse ‘Gen 3:1’ states “NOW the serpent” --before that point Adam was perfect in all his ways until iniquity was found in him—he BECAME this metaphoric SERPENT.*

Gen 3:7-11 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where are you? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded you that you should not eat?

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me...

Here, Adam even throws God under the bus. Furthermore, If Adam listened to the voice of his wife when she responded to the serpent, then why didn't he correct her when she misquoted God's command? She removed words and added “or touch it.” If Adam listened to his wife's erroneous reiteration here, then he could have been deceived into believing something other than what God commanded. But, 1 Timothy states that Adam was not deceived, so this is not the case. Since he was not deceived, Adam should have corrected his wife's mistaken response, especially since he knew better.,

she gave me of the tree, and I did eat...

“Wait a minute, if Adam loved Eve wouldn't he protect her instead of blaming her?” I thought to myself. I remembered the event with Moses, when the Israelites were clearly convicted by God of idolatry and YHWH God was going to kill them. Moses reasoned with God, saying others would say He lured them into the wilderness just to destroy them. So God repented of doing that. It also could be that God was

trying Moses which I thought the better explanation. Nonetheless, even though they were guilty as sin, Moses loved his brethren, the Israelites, and tried to defend them. Not so here with Adam. Also, if this alleged third party was in the garden, then why did not Adam blame the serpent? Think about that for a moment. The Hebrew word for serpent is nachash' (Strong's H5172,) which incidentally fits Adam to a tee: Whisperer: "did God really say?"; prognosticator: "you will not surely die...you'll be like God!"; divine messenger: "Adam was the divine messenger, the son of God Luke 3:38"; enchanter: "a deceiver"; learned by experience and diligently observed: "he saw Eve did not drop dead as he thought might happen if God was telling the truth, and when she didn't, he ate also." All these descriptions of "nachash, Hebrew for serpent" described Adam! Case closed in my opinion, but there was more proof.

Gen 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat....

It's also interesting to acknowledge that God never gives this command to Eve, so it had to be Adam who told her.

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly shall you go, and dust shall thou eat all the days of thy life...

Adam—If this serpent was truly another entity, would God even punish him for what he was designated to do? And if this serpent was another entity would he not already have received his eternal punishment? Why wouldn't he have just fled back to hell or something? Also, God said nothing of Adam listening to the voice of the serpent, but only that he listened to Eve. In fact, Adam only blamed his wife, not the serpent. The Bible tells us those that will walk after the flesh serve or go on their bellies: "Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent." Carnal mankind are often so low (subtle, sneaky) and filthy, that no other beast of the field indulges in such an appetite for lust. Besides, you can't make an immortal angel crawl on its belly. This verse clearly told me, this thing called 'serpent' or Adam clearly had a number of days... "all the days of thy life" therefore could not have been immortal, as people believe. Also, Adam would eat the rest of his days from the sweat of his brow, tilling the ground "and dust shall you eat all the days of your life".

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel...

And Adam got to experience this "enmity" in full 3D animated life, when his and his wife Eve's son Cain murdered Abel—in this the descriptive clause of 'nachash' also is fitting in that Adam learned this enmity by experience. Now seed always means either a woman's egg, a man's sperm, and a line or lineage in the Bible, unless it is referring to a literal seed you put in the ground or the Word of God; and if it meant

what most Christians think it means then where is Adam's seed in all this? It says there are only two seeds—no third party? He would not escape this sentencing of the seeds. I believed this was a prophecy for the last days, again involving men, and not anything to do with spirit beings, Rom 16:20 et al.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over you. ¹⁷And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife...

Here, God does not argue with Adam, but cleverly turns Adam's own words on him, and says, "Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife..." In other words—have it your way, Adam; since you listened to her or took the fruit from her, here is your punishment anyway. Besides I knew from the NT it was the woman who was deceived, and not the man. So, if he was not deceived then maybe it did make him the deceiver: 1Ti 2:14 and Adam was not beguiled (deceived,) but the woman being beguiled (deceived) hath fallen into transgression:

..., and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Sounded like a reiteration of the punishment to the serpent v.14 above to me.

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return...

The ordinary reader, may inevitably ask, "Why is Adam cursed twice?"—but the serpent and Adam are one and the same, and if Adam was the perpetrator of this horrendous crime, it should not be hard to see. It seemed out of place for God to punish this alleged possessed serpent if it was only doing what it was designed to do for this scenario. I also realized it would be against God's nature to foul up mankind in this unfair way, because Amos 3:7 states, "Surely the Lord Jehovah will do nothing, except he reveal his secret unto his servants the prophets". We should accept this word "nachash – serpent" as a derogatory term that the writer of Genesis wrote to convey the message for the whole Hebrew culture to understand, that this serpent was the evil inclination of Adam's fleshly nature ...it is the glory of God to 'hide' a thing! [Pro 25:2].

Gen 3:20-24 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins [Here God made a sacrifice for them – that they did not have to die that day.], and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of

life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life...

Hmmm I thought....this seemed kind of contrary to the fallen angel theory because it seems here that, by barring Adam from the tree of life, that God did not want or allow an "immortal adversary"! Again, this made more sense than the traditional view to me). (KJV)

In light of this new understanding, the following now made sense to me:

If I covered my transgressions **as Adam**, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom. (Job 31:33)

Many who paraphrase the garden account never talk about Adam in this light. Adam, in this new light would have been the first messenger of God, and failed us. This would then be why we need the last Adam.

Jesus, the last Adam (1Co 15:45,) proved to be unlike the first Adam, who, when given the choice of the two trees in the garden, chose that which would make him equal with God. Jesus was placed in extreme circumstances in the wilderness and was faced with similar temptations but, unlike Adam, He did not reach for equality with God - a thing to be grasped. What does that mean?

It means the first Adam wanted to be like God (equality):

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil". "Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever." (Genesis 3:5, 22)

Jesus did not: "who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped," (Philippians 2:6)

A brief segment of a debate continued with Anthony Buzzard...

A.B. "How is it that CD's do not agree that the Serpent was Adam as you assert? Please explain. John Thomas does not agree with you. I do appreciate you stating the point concisely and clearly.

J.B. "I do not know the CD's (Christadelphians) views, but this I adopted because it is the only view that answers more questions than it leaves one with; like when we are told 'Jesus came to

destroy the works of the devil' (1Jn 3:8, Heb 2:14):

'He that doeth sin is of the devil (the first Adam); for the devil sins from the beginning (the book of Genesis *is* the beginning). To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.' (1Jn 3:8 with emphasis)

'Seeing, then, the children have partaken of flesh and blood, he himself also in like manner did take part of the same, that through death he might destroy him having the power of death-- that is, the devil—" (Heb 2:14 YLT)

J.B. continued..."It is obvious to me that Jesus came to destroy the works of Adam (sin,) and the first Adam, as you know, represents the flesh (the last Adam a life giving spirit - 1Co 15:45). So it is ludicrous to think Jesus came to destroy anything else!...

This view also stays consistent with Adam as the serpent, the devil or here as the wicked one:

'Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother...' (1Jn 3:12a)

That wicked one Adam, who produced Cain:

'And the man knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and **bare Cain**,...' (Gen 4:1)

Jesus also called the Pharisees the same **figurative name** and said they were of that first Adam (Jesus was the second or last Adam because the first failed us,):

'You **serpents**, you offspring of vipers, how shall you escape the judgment of hell?' (Mat 23:33)

'You are of your father the devil (the first Adam, because they rejected the last,) and the lusts of your father (Adam - they were clinging to the old covenant of flesh and death) it is your will to do. He was a murderer (was willing to sacrifice his wife Eve to find out if he and she would really die as God said) from the beginning (Scripture tells us Genesis is the book of beginnings,) and stands not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father thereof (Adam was the first liar).' (IV Gospel 8:44)

These are just some of the reasons I am embracing this view as biblical and sound."

A.B. "In Genesis the curse for disobedience is given 1) to Adam 2) to Eve, and 3) the Serpent. The ordinary reader, and millions of them, would ask why is Adam cursed twice!"

J.B. "We are talking about a 6,000 year-old text that was written in a different language, but like I asked, if the serpent is a different entity, why are only two seeds dealt with and Adam (if

you subtract the punishment given to the serpent) got off almost scot-free. Also verses 14 and 17 seem like reiterations of the same punishment.”

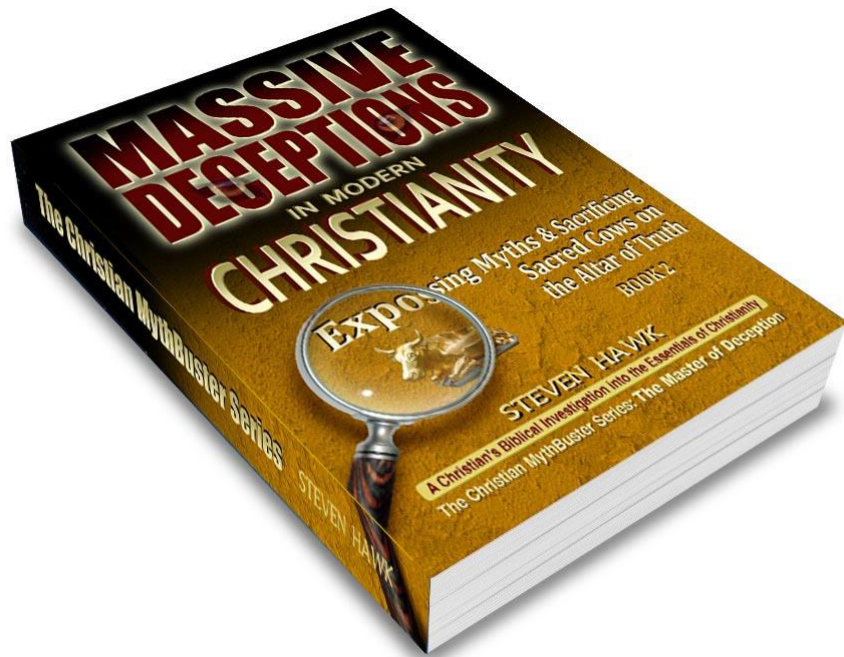
Incidentally, if you want to see the subtle serpent of carnal mankind in action today, you need look no further than marketing practices—as they say, follow the money trail. The Marketing Techniques of the Subtle Serpent are many; a scholar who has an MBA from a top school openly proclaimed, "These masters programs in management TOTALLY FAIL to teach us the MOST IMPORTANT facts of business -- the level of deception in human behavior. Schools skip the complexity that must be examined if you are to seek the truth and try to do your part in making this world better for our children". These deceptive practices are used in the marketing world all the time, barely noticed by the unsuspecting public. The business of marketing is obviously driven by money and greed, with little consideration for its victims, commonly referred to as customers. Consumers are misinformed through false advertising, embellishment of product information, hidden lures (sometimes in the form of articles written by the people who are actually marketing the product,) with much of it disseminated through television, where they can really captivate and deceive an audience if they can afford the air-time.

"Now what about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness?" I wondered. Surely He wasn't talking to Himself, as some friends were now asserting. I inserted (parenthetical thoughts and other scripture) into this imperative passage, to see whether or not what I had been learning contradicted what was in the Bible....

A LETTER AND SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE AUTHOR ON THE LAST PAGE....

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A LETTER AND SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE AUTHOR ON THE LAST PAGE....

A letter from Steven Hawk, the Author

I would like to personally thank you for downloading and reading the introduction to this important book. You have seen, in the first few pages, the struggles I went through, and the hurdles I made over the past seven years or so, to come to these conclusions, and why I am so passionate about this book. Some have scoffed (But hasn't it always been that way? And in so doing, they will deprive themselves of this vital light) at the idea that God just could be revealing in our day. As they say, the proof will be in the pudding, and quite frankly, the reviews are already showing. This free sample chapter is only the first chapter of the first book of a four book series.

It is, put simply, a book with substance that never quits getting more intense, because it is filled with meat (not milk, like the masses are hearing) knowledge unknown to the vast majority. That is my personal promise and guarantee to you. God certainly seems to be giving sight to the blind and healing ears to those willing to hear, in our day! We hope you will help us change the world with this information, and look forward to getting to know you.

I understand one has to beware of all the marketing gimmicks and false claims out there, but this book lives up to its name. I am more excited about it today than I was a year ago – when I finished the many years of preparation of it, and I know you will share my enthusiasm once you've digested this unequaled knowledge and revelation.

As a token of our appreciation for your Berean attitude and your belief that allows something to have enough merit until proven otherwise, we'd like to offer you **25% off Book 2 of The Master of Deception**. This Book may be read first (it may be read apart from, or before Book 1) and will open the door to the series and get your awareness levels to degrees you never thought possible, as God's word enlightens your soul.

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Best Regards in His name,

Steven Hawk