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TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

September 2022

FROM US TO YOU

There's a new spirit of fear hovering over this world today like a dark cloud warning of ominous things to come. Jesus foretold of this long go. Speaking of the last days before His return He said, *"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near"* (Luke 21:25-28 NIV). As we draw closer to the return of Christ, Satan is having a temper tantrum. He knows that his time of controlling this earth is almost up. So he is causing trouble everywhere. Have you noticed all the talk lately about UFO's? Satan doesn't know when the Rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17) will take place. But he is setting up an excuse for it. That way when millions of people suddenly disappear from the earth to meet Jesus in the air, Satan can use his emissaries in the media, politics, secular education, and false religions, to spread the lie that they were taken to another planet by UFO's.

Yes, there are pictures and seemingly reliable witnesses who claim to have seen them. But in the days of Moses, the magicians of Pharaoh were able to conjure up some of the plagues that God worked through Moses. Paul told us that such things would happen in the last days. *"Just*

as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth — men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected" (2 Timothy 3:8 NIV). If Satan's magicians can conjure up living frogs (see Exodus 8:7), then something that looks like a flying saucer can't be too difficult to do. The Bible says, *"The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist] will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness"* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 NIV).

Times are hard right now and not likely to get better in this world any time soon. So how do you survive? What do you do when the things you treasure most are slowly slipping away from you? *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV). Humble yourself before God, confessing your sins to Him. Then trust Him

to take it from there. Just wait on Him. God is not a genie in a magic lamp. And He is not Santa Claus. God does not exist to serve you. You exist to serve Him! However, if you trust Him and give Him glory, it's like the prophet said, *"Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart"* (Psalms 37:1-4 NIV).

When you stop focusing on earthly things and start thinking about Christ and the kingdom of God, your whole perspective changes. Even death is not something you fear. Paul said, *"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far"* (Philippians 1:20-23 NIV). If you truly love Jesus with all your heart and live for Him, you're an alien or pilgrim in this world (see 1 Peter 2:11) because your real home is in Heaven. However, you may be asking the question, *"What about my family and loved ones?"* *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understand-*



ing; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV). *"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread"* (Psalms 37:25 NIV).

The earth is feeling birth pains (see John 16:21) as it is soon to bring about the Rapture and then Christ's kingdom on earth. *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness"* (2 Peter 3:10-13 NIV). And remember, *"there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:18-19 NIV).

Thanks for your prayers. Anne's eye is much better now. However, keep the prayers coming. We still have many health problems. In Christ's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

LOST BLESSINGS

By Anne Kaestner

America has changed. No longer is it the God-fearing, moral, law-abiding country it once was when it was blessed by our Creator. President Ronald Reagan called it, “a shining city on a hill.” Spiritually, it is no longer that. It has become a divided nation full of many idols and secular ideology. There is no longer any fear of God in many of its rulers. The Lord has said of such people, “*The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good*” (Psalms 53:1 NIV). Idolatry and secular humanism reign supreme in those who influence the nation. In one Texas school, the Bible was removed from the library because it was one of the books that had to be reviewed for sexual content and violence. Who is it that thinks they are smarter than God? The Bible says, “*Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” [for Christ] so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’; and again, ‘The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.’ So then, no more boasting about men!...*” (1 Corinthians 3:18-21 NIV. Also, see 2:14).

Churches have been attacked, and parents have been labeled “domestic terrorists” for showing concern and speaking out in school board meetings. God has been patient and kind, but even His patience runs out eventually. There are still a minority of truly righteous Christians in America. However, for the most part, America has rejected God. There is a Satanic spirit hovering over the land that has worked through all our powerful, influential institutions to destroy all the good that God has done. In Dr. M. E. Bradford’s book, “A Worthy Company,” he proves that 50 (and perhaps 52) of the 55 framers of the United States Constitution were Christians. They were not humanist, not Deists, not agnostics, but Christians. They were men familiar with the Bible, who were mindful that those who govern would be held accountable to a high authority for the use they made of their special powers. We all know the problems, a divided country, an increase in crime, strange new diseases (such as COVID-19 and Monkey Pox), as well as weird weather, a big increase in inflation, etc. Why is this happening? This was no surprise to the Lord. Jesus knew that Satan has been running the systems of this world (Matthew 4:10) since Adam obeyed the snake in the Garden of Eden (Genesis chapter 3).

People ridicule the idea of a talking snake. However, the Bible tells us that long before mankind was created “...*there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels [demons] with him*” (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV). Satan’s angels of course, are his demons, his fallen angels. We can’t see them, but they see us. They exist in the same air that we breathe, but in another dimension. They started out as holy heavenly angels created by God. But, as with us humans, God didn’t want to create a race of robots or androids that had no choice but to serve Him. He wanted intelligent beings who chose to love Him of their own free will. For He is worthy of our love (1 Chronicles 16:25-27)! So He gave the angels a choice to accept or reject Him. All of the angels loved and served God initially until one of the most powerful and privileged angel of all became

jealous. He not only wanted what the Lord gave him. He wanted what God had as well. His original name was Lucifer. He was perfect in all his ways until the seed of evil grew in his heart (Ezekiel 28:15). As a result, he led a mutiny into Heaven in the hope of usurping the throne and authority of God. His mutiny failed, but it cost God one third of all His heavenly angels (Revelation 12:4), which are also called “stars.” The term “stars” is used in the Bible many times to refer to angels, as in Job 38:6-7. It seems interesting that so many idols are call stars. Are they receiving help, without knowing it, from the ruler this world, Satan? It’s more than likely.

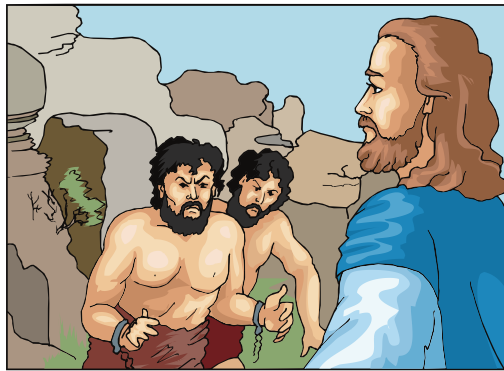
The Lord said to Lucifer, “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! ...For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt **my throne** above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit*” (Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV). So Lucifer already had a throne of his own which was probably on earth. Chances are he ruled over a population of other angels, perhaps during the days of the dinosaurs. God probably destroyed Lucifer’s kingdom and the earth after the mutiny. That explains why “...*the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep...*” (Genesis 1:2 NIV). Lucifer’s

name was changed to Satan. He and the fallen angels (Revelation 12:8-9), who are also known as demons (in the NIV) or devils (in the KJV), were greatly punished by God. For there was a trial held in Heaven. Part of their punishment was carried out right away. The Lord incinerated their bodies as they stood there before Him (see Ezekiel 28:18). That’s how they are able to move into the body of a human being and take control of their life. That is because the fallen angels don’t have solid bodies of their own anymore. That is called “demonic possession.” Many of those who

commit diabolical atrocities are possessed by demons who control them. That’s why you need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:3-7) to protect you from them. “*For our ‘God is a consuming fire’*” (Hebrews 12:29 NIV. Also, see Matthew 3:11).

The Bible describes how Jesus cast demons out of the bodies of human men and women (Matthew 4:24, Luke 4:33-35). So did the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:18). In fact, Jesus warned His disciples about what can occur when a demon is cast out of a person’s body. He stated that the person needs to get his heart totally right with God and become filled with the Holy Spirit. Because, if that doesn’t happen, the person will have no protection to keep the demon out of his or her body. We humans are not equipped to fight against demons (also called evil spirits). We need to be so filled with God’s Holy Spirit, that demon spirits will not dare try to enter into such a human body. In fact if, after the demon has been cast out, it returns to the same person at a later date and finds nothing but a human spirit in the person’s body (or as Jesus put it, “swept clean”), “*then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation*” (Matt. 12:45 NIV).

This whole subject will probably sound crazy (1 Corinthians 2:14) to anyone who has not had any personal experience with Christ or the spirit world. For the spiritual rulers of this world (Ephesians 6:12) have long circulated the idea that ghosts and spirits don’t exist and that it’s all fantasy. Well, that depends upon your definition of the term



“ghost.” Unless God allows it for a particular reason, as in 1 Samuel 28:3-19, dead humans stay dead. They don’t hang around the earth and haunt it. Our bodies were originally made of dust (Genesis 2:7). Therefore, when we die, our human spirit leaves our body. It will eventually begin to decompose back into that dust, *“and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it”* (Ecclesiastes 12:7 NIV). This occurs regardless of whether the person’s spirit goes to heaven or hell. You may have heard about people who have a death experience then come back to life. For example, a person may be in surgery. Something goes wrong, and they suddenly go into cardiac arrest. I have heard about people this has happened to who say that they remained conscious while the doctors tried frantically to get their heart started. They have often said that they seemed to hover around the ceiling of the operating room watching what was going on.

Their spirit was not in their body, but they were not spiritually dead as long as the invisible silver cord that attaches the spirit to the body is not broken (Ecclesiastes 12:6). When God breaks that cord the person is dead and will stay dead no matter what the doctors do! Years ago I saw the television version of the movie, “Out On A Limb.” It starred Shirley MacLaine and was based on the book she wrote by the same name. She claims to have had an out-of-body experience where she saw her silver cord. I don’t remember all the details. But apparently she says that she came into contact with some people who convinced her that aliens from another planet came to earth and live among us. Of course the Bible tells us that the only intelligent life God ever created were angels and humans. And both rebelled against Him. Jesus died on Calvary to restore us to God. But Jesus was not going to travel around the universe dying on crosses to save other forms of intelligent life that may choose to rebel against God. Don’t underestimate how important we humans are to the Lord. Our Creator, who made this entire universe, loved us enough to do that for us. And only us! He didn’t even do it for the angels who rebelled against Him.

Most serious Christians know that we are warned in the Bible, *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever”* (1 John 2:15-17 NIV). You see, all the troubles that we have in life, the riots, murders, arson, rape, deceit, misery of all kinds, do not come from God, our Creator. It comes from the devil and his demon helpers! They are *“...the rulers of the darkness of this world... spiritual wickedness in high places”* (Ephesians 6:12 KJV). Things seem to be getting worse because Jesus will be coming back soon! *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:6-8 NIV). Why is Satan, the devil, more angry and full of rage these days? *“...He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short”* (Revelation 12:12 NIV).

After his mutiny into Heaven with the angels (demons) who sided with him, they would have gone straight into Hell. As it turned out something occurred that would delay the eternal punishment of the devil and his demons, the creation, and rebellion of mankind! For that reason, their final sentence did not occur right away, and these demon spirits became the equivalent of prisoners on death row, await-

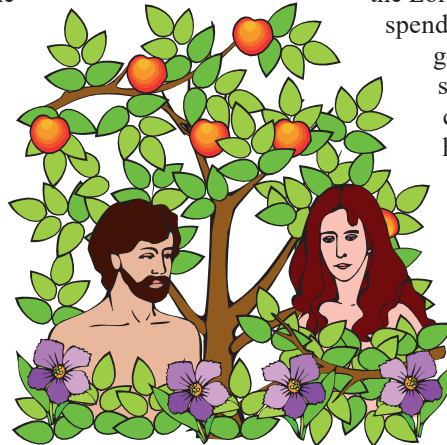
ing the second death (Revelation 20:14). What makes them so dangerous though, is that they have free access to us humans, as a result of Adam’s sin. They are presently in this world today, filled with bitterness and hatred. That’s why we are warned in scripture to be aware of Satan’s anger, and his determination to destroy all that God loves (1 Peter 5:8 and Revelation 12:12). That includes you who love Him, brethren! When the time for their final sentence is carried out, Satan and his demons will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (see Revelation 20:15) to suffer there eternally! There will be no reprieve. In the meantime, they eagerly attempt to bring down as many humans as they possibly can so that they will not have to suffer alone. They want you, and all humans, to be tormented in Hell and the Lake of Fire along with them! The difference is that even though you were born into sin, and Satan’s evil realm, you don’t have to suffer the same consequences as they do. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved”* (John 3:16-17 KJV). God created His angels as intelligent beings with freedom of choice. They were not forced to serve God, but were forewarned of the consequences of rebellion. Unlike you, their destiny is sealed. Christ didn’t pay the penalty on Calvary for fallen angels. He only paid it for human beings, like you and me. The angels, who rebelled from God, as well as all humans who refuse

the Lord’s salvation, and choose not to live for Him, will spend all eternity without God and also without all the good things God created. So we are back where we started. You know how the devil, and his demons came into being, but what about us? How did we humans, who were made perfect by God, end up in this wicked, hostile world that continually rebels against its own Creator?

Sometime after the angelic mutiny, the Lord wanted to create a human being (see Genesis 1:27 and 5:2) who would love Him and serve Him, not because he was forced to, but because he wanted to. But first, God chose to prepare a beautiful place for His prized creation, Man, to live in. He restored the old world in seven days, filling it with mountains

and lakes, and trees and flowers. He made a beautiful garden called Eden. The Lord made every type of fruit and vegetable to make Man comfortable in his garden. Then, when everything else was ready, He created the man and named him Adam. Life came to Adam through God. Adam became the prototype, the expected fulfillment of God’s desire. Adam became the start of God’s master plan for the creation of a world filled with people who would live joyfully in submission toward their Creator on a planet that God had restored from the destruction of its past. Adam’s body was made out of the dust of the ground, but it was lifeless until God breathed life into it (Genesis 2:7). It was that life that made him eternal. Adam’s body was created in such a way so that it would never wear out. Cells were made to replace and regenerate themselves, and Adam was given tremendous wisdom so that he even named all the animals (Genesis 2:19). Yet, with all of that, Adam was lonely.

God wanted to do everything possible to make the man happy. So, when none of the animals were able to be a suitable companion for Adam, God caused him to fall asleep, and He took a rib from Adam and formed it into the body of a woman. Finally, someone had been created that would be a “helper” for the man (Genesis 2:18). God had created Adam and Eve with reproductive organs so that they would be able to populate the entire planet, and He would have a race of people who would love Him. This planet, Earth, had belonged to God, but God gave control if it all over



(Continued On Page 4)

to Adam for a specified period of time. Adam had received eternal life, and the entire world to run! He and his descendants would never cease to exist. Even after death, Adam, and his offspring would be somewhere awake and conscience forever. The Lord was so pleased with His creation, that He gave Adam power over the entire Earth. God Himself gave up His own authority on this planet and put it all in the control of Adam, the way a landowner might legally give away a lease of his property to a tenant, without charge! However, without the freedom to disobey God, Adam would have had no choice but to serve Him. So in order to provide a choice for Adam, God planted a tree in the center of the Garden of Eden and told Adam never to touch it, or even go near it. Eve had been given the same instructions.

No human being that ever walked the Earth had the authority that Adam had. He had good looks, perfect health, immortality, incredible wisdom, a beautiful wife, the ability to sire many children, and a perfect world to run. There was no sin. Even the animals would all play together, and all were vegetarians. Death had not entered the world. There was no disease, pain, sorrow, crime, or pollution. Nothing could have been more perfect. The devil, who I believe, had once ruled the planet, had been defeated. He could see all that God had given to Adam, and all that he, Satan, had lost. His jealousy must have been incredible! Why did God allow Satan to remain there? First, he had no ability to harm Adam or Eve as long as they remained obedient to God. Secondly, he helped provide another choice for Adam, so that Adam would have freedom to rebel from God if he chose to do so. It was a test. How did Satan gain control of this world system? He received it from Adam! Adam had a time limit on the amount of years he would control it. God's gift to Adam was like a legal contract. Adam was free to do whatever he wanted to do with the world for a specified time. God had made Adam in a state of total innocence, and Adam, while aware of the consequences of sin, had never been tarnished by it. In fact, Adam was strong enough in his relationship with God that he couldn't be deceived by the devil. Nevertheless, Adam had a weakness! For God had not only blessed him with control over the entire world, but Adam had also received another gift from God as well, his wife Eve. It was through Eve, a woman created from Adam's own body, that the man would be able to father an entire world of human beings. This world could have been a paradise of beauty, peace, and love forever, and Adam would have presided over it all! He would have been able to remain alive on Earth, and never have died, because death didn't attack the human race until sin poisoned our bloodstream and brought its evil curse, because life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11 and 14).

At the time that Adam was created and given authority over this planet, Satan was still living here. God allowed him the ability to enter into the body of a serpent, through which he tempted Eve. For she was Adam's great weakness! Even though every good thing Adam had acquired came to him through the love of God, including his wife, Adam loved Eve more than he loved God. Satan couldn't have gotten to Adam any other way. Adam saw clearly what he was doing when he chose to rebel against God. He knew what it entailed, and what the cost would be (1 Timothy 2:14), but he did it anyway! He fell right into Satan's trap, by choice! For he did not want to be separated from Eve no matter what, and was not willing to trust God to render Eve a just verdict. It wasn't Eve who brought sin into this world. For although she sinned against God, the Lord had not given Eve authority over this world. He had given it to Adam! So sin

didn't enter into mankind until Adam disobeyed God. For Eve's body was like fertile soil that had been separated from Adam's own flesh, which had been made of the "dust of the ground" (see Genesis 2:7). In her body, Adam's seed was to be implanted. Within Adam's loins there was a type of spiritual computer system filled with blueprints of God's own making. Eve could not conceive offspring until the seed of human life was implanted in her through her husband. For God breathed life into Adam, not Eve. Eve became an extension of Adam, but the blueprints for human procreation were in Adam's body, not his wife's.

Since the fall of mankind (see Genesis Chapter 3), Adam is no longer the ruler of planet Earth. Satan is! Adam forfeited his authority over this world when he sinned against God. Satan gained control of this world because Adam, in effect, gave it to him! That's why God is not the god of this world, the devil is. Therefore, all human beings born of Adam's seed are born into Satan's kingdom, and control, which is why we needed a "new Adam" in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:22-45) so that we could be Born Again (John 3:3). "...not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13 KJV). Life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11), and therefore, so is sin! That's why we must be washed clean of the remnants of our past and refilled, spiritually, with the precious blood of Christ! He supplies us with life through His own holy blood the way grapes are nourished through the vine.

That is why we need to receive our spiritual sustenance through the Vine of Christ (John 15:4-5, Isaiah 5:1-5, and Matthew 3:10). Though His veins we receive strength and power, to cleanse us of sin and wash away the pollution of evil in our midst. For once, we accept Christ as our Savior, we change masters, and Satan no longer has any hold on us.

So, the Bible implies that Lucifer was blessed by God more than any of the other angels. He had great wealth, power, and prestige. And yet he betrayed God and became His enemy. Adam was given a whole beautiful world to preside over. It was perfect in every way. There was no death, pain, hunger, disease, natural disaster, crime, or pollution. And he was given a beautiful wife to help him enjoy it. Yet he sinned against God. And instead of being loyal, grateful, and giving God all the honor and glory He so greatly deserves, Adam allowed God's worst enemy to gain control over it all. More than two hundred years ago a small group of godly Christians came to this land looking for a place to worship Christ freely and give others freedom of religion. They set up a constitution based on Christian values and prayed that God would bless their nation. He did. America eventually became the envy and aspiration of the world. Sure, we had small amounts of crime, prejudiced, poverty and disease. So did other nations. However, God blessed us abundantly. After world War Two, America became the richest, most powerful nation on earth, the envy of the world. The United States never lost a war until Vietnam. God was warning us. But that which made us great has been fading from our culture. Just as he did with Adam, Satan has been using subtle means to draw America away from God, our strength and greatest power. Satan even mocked this nation and revealed his plan of destruction in songs like "Bye Bye Miss American Pie." (See my [Autumn 2011 article](#) in *The Good News Letter*.)

It is time to return to the Lord. As Joshua said so long ago to those who wanted to live by the standards of the world, "...if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15 NIV).

