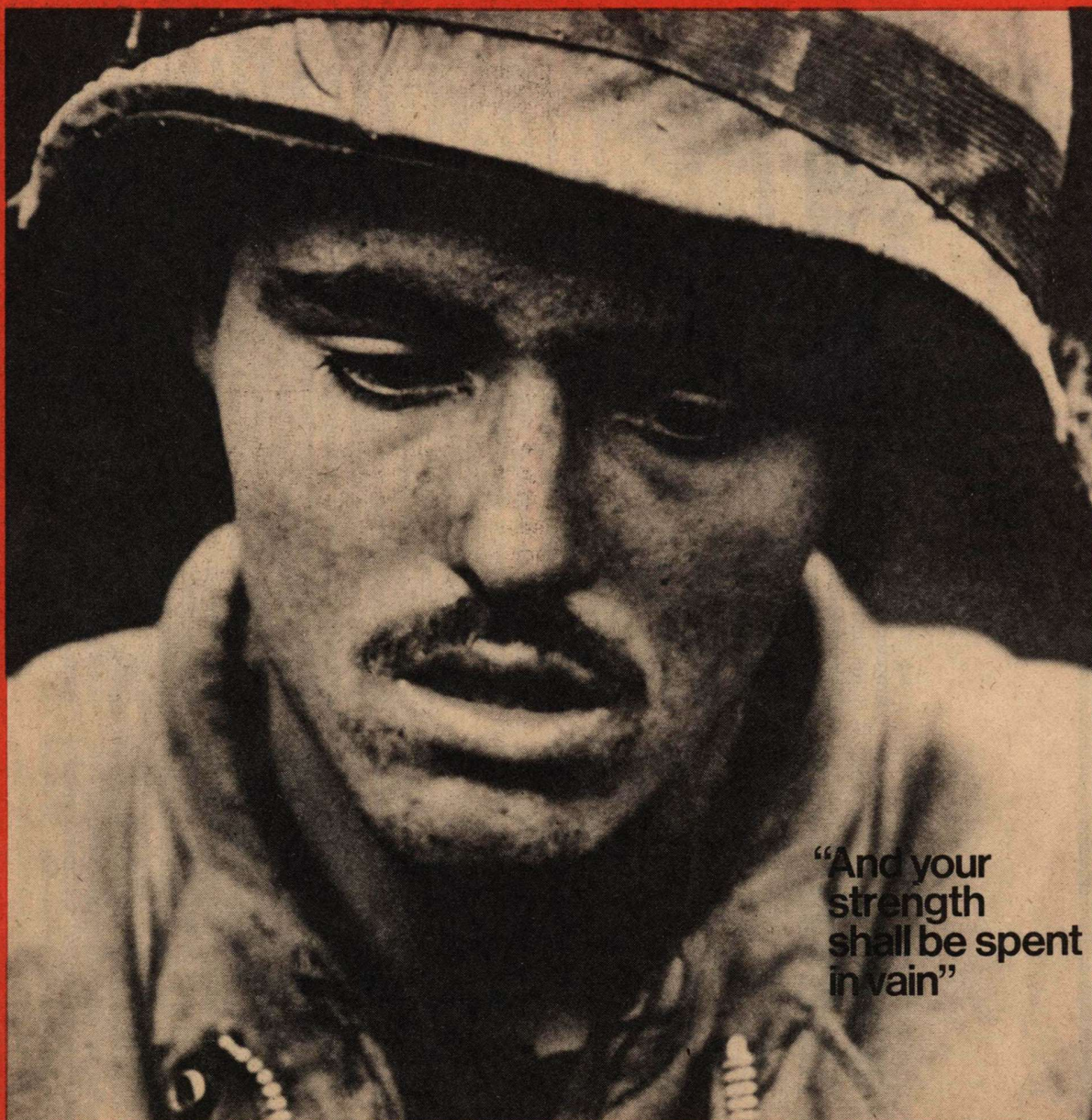


## **Man's Ultimate Goal**

**Why Mideast Talks Collapsed**

## **INDOCHINA'S AGONY**



**"And your  
strength  
shall be spent  
in vain"**

# The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

## The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

### Part IV

by Herbert W. Armstrong

NO RELIGION has given us this missing dimension in knowledge. Science has never explained to us why man is *as he is* — capable of sending men to the moon and back, yet utterly helpless to solve his problems here on earth.

In Part III of this series we saw the awesome potential of man. But *why?* Why does the Creator God purpose all this? *Why* did the living God decide to create man and put him on earth? God does not do things without a reason.

To understand — to comprehend the whole picture in the order of time sequence — we must now go all the way back into prehistory. That missing dimension in knowledge, too, is revealed in the Word of God — God's message and revelation of knowledge to mankind.

#### The Perfect Creation

So now we go back and begin at the beginning.

The first four words of the Bible are: "In the beginning God . . ." Since in the Bible God reveals himself as Creator of ALL — the entire universe with its galaxies, its suns, planets and moons — this places God in existence before all else.

The next verse tells us what God *did* — "created." God is, first of all, Creator. And *what* did he create? ". . . the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

The King James Version renders the word "heaven" in the singular, but the original Hebrew is in the plural — "heavens" — as it should be. It is so translated in the Revised Standard Version, Moffatt, and other translations. This verse is speaking of the *original* creation — the entire universe, including our earth. The original Hebrew words (these words were originally written by Moses) imply a perfect creation. God reveals himself as Creator of perfection, light, and beauty. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of any phase of God's creation as "very good" — perfect.

This first verse of the Bible actually speaks of the original *PHYSICAL* creation in its entirety — the universe — including the earth, perhaps millions of years ago — as a perfect creation, beautiful and broad! God is a perfectionist!

In Job 38:4, 7, God is speaking specifically of the creation of this earth. He said all the angels (created "sons of God") shouted for joy at the creation of the earth. This reveals that angels were created *before the creation of the earth* — and probably before the *material* universe. The suns, planets, and astral bodies are material substance. Angels are individually created spirit beings, composed solely of spirit.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that angels inhabited this earth *BEFORE* the creation of man. This passage from Job implies it.

#### Angels on Earth Sinned

Other passages place angels on earth prior to man.

Notice II Peter 2:4-6. First in time order were "angels that sinned." Next in time sequence, the antediluvian world beginning with Adam, carrying through to the Flood. After that, Sodom and Gomorrah.

This book of books, containing the revealed knowledge of the Creator God, tells us that God created angels as holy angels — composed of spirit. But can you imagine angels becoming *sinning* angels? Angels were created with power of thought, of deci-

**Was humanity put here on earth for a purpose? Winston Churchill said to the American Congress: "There is a purpose being worked out here below," implying a higher power above working on earth. But why? What caused the placing of humanity here, and what is that purpose? Where are we going, and what is the way?**

sion and of choice, else they have no individuality or character. Since *sin* is the transgression of God's law, these angels rebelled against God's law, the basis of God's government.

Notice carefully what is revealed in II Peter 2:4-5: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly."

These verses show that universal sin brings universal destruction to the physical earth. The antediluvian sin, culminating with the flood, was worldwide; universal sin. Notice: ". . . the earth was filled with violence . . . for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. . . for the earth is filled with violence. . ." (Gen. 6:11-13). "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. . . Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (verses 8-9). All flesh except Noah had sinned — over the whole earth. So, the Flood destroyed the *whole earth*.

The homosexual and other sins of Sodom and Gomorrah spread over the territory of those two cities. And physical destruction came to their entire area. The sin of the angels was worldwide; the destruction of the physical earth was worldwide.

The verses quoted above placed the sinning of the angels prior to the antediluvian sins that started with Adam, prior to the creation of man. And *that* should be a surprise revealing of one phase of the missing dimension in knowledge! Angels inhabited this earth before the creation of man.

And the government of God was administered on earth until the rebellion of the sinning angels.

How long these angels inhabited the earth before the creation of man is not revealed. It might have been millions of years. More on that later. But these angels sinned. Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). And God's law is the basis of God's government. So we know these angels, apparently a third of all the angels (Rev. 12:4), sinned — rebelled against the government of God. And sin carries penalties. The penalty for the sin of the angels is not *death*, as it is for man. Angels are immortal spirit beings and cannot die. These spirit beings had *been given dominion* over the *PHYSICAL EARTH* as a possession and an abode.

The universal, worldwide sin of the angels resulted in the physical destruction of the face of the earth.

God is creator. God is also ruler over his creation. He preserves what he creates by his government. What God creates, he has created for a purpose — to be used, preserved, and maintained. And this use is regulated by God's government. When the angels rebelled against God's government, the preservation of the physical earth and all its original beauty and glory ceased — and physical destruction to the surface of the earth resulted!

God is creator, preserver, and ruler.

It is Satan who is the great destroyer! So, now, we read in Jude 6-7: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Now back to Genesis 1:1-2. Verse 1, as stated above, implies a perfect creation. God is the author of life, of beauty, of perfection. Satan has brought only darkness, ugliness, imperfection, violence. Verse 1 shows the creation of a perfect earth, glorious and beautiful. Verse 2 reveals the result of the sin of the angels.

"And the earth was [became] without form, and void." The words "without form and void" are translated from the Hebrew *tohu* and *bohu*. A better translation is "waste and empty" or "chaotic and in confusion." The word "was" is elsewhere in Genesis translated "became," as in Genesis 19:26. In other words, the earth, originally created perfect and beautiful, had now become chaotic, waste, and empty, like our moon, except its surface was covered with water.

David was inspired to reveal how God renewed the face of the earth: "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth" (Ps. 104:30).

Now another surprise for most readers. Here is another bit of the missing dimension in knowledge, actually revealed in the Bible, but unrecognized by religion, by science, and by higher education.

From verse 2 of Genesis 1 on, the remainder of this first chapter of the Bible is *not* describing the original creation of the earth. But it is describing a renewing of the face of the earth, after it had become waste and empty as a result of the sin of the angels.

What is described from verse 2 on, in the supposed "creation chapter" of the Bible, did occur, according to the Bible, approximately 6,000 years ago. But that could have been millions or trillions of years after the actual creation of the earth described in verse 1!

I will comment later on the length of time it might have taken before all earth's angels turned to rebellion.

The earth had become waste and empty. God did not create it waste and empty, or in confusion. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). This same Hebrew word — *tohu* — meaning waste and empty, was inspired in Isaiah 45:18, where it is translated "in vain." Using the original Hebrew word, as originally inspired, it reads, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain [tohu], he formed it to be inhabited."

Continue now with the remainder of verse 2 (Gen. 1).

The earth had become chaotic, waste, and empty:

"And darkness was upon the face of the deep [the ocean or fluid surface of the earth]. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness" (verses 2-4).

Satan is the author of darkness. The rebellion of the angels had caused the darkness. God is the author of light and truth. Light displays and enhances beauty, and also exposes evil. Darkness hides both.

The verses which follow in this first chapter of the Bible describe the renewing of the face of the earth, with the production of that yielding beautiful lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetation — then the creation of fish and fowl, animal life, and finally man.

#### The Great Lucifer

But first, before coming to man, we need to fill in the prehistory portion.

How did this sin of the angels come to take place? How did it start?

Remember, God the Creator *preserves*, improves and enhances what he creates by his government. What he creates is created to be used. This earth was to be inhabited and used by angels, originally.

When God placed angels — apparently a third of all (Rev. 12:4) — on the newly created, perfect, beautiful and glorious earth, he set over them, to administer the government of God, an archangel — a great cherub Lucifer. There were only two other cherubs of this extremely high rank, Michael and Gabriel.

So far as revealed, these are the supreme pinnacle of angels or spirit-composed beings within God's power to create. This Lucifer was a super being of awesome, majestic beauty, dazzling brightness, supreme knowledge, wisdom and power — perfect as God created him! But God of necessity created in him the power of choice and decision, or he could not have been a being of individuality and character.

I want you to grasp fully the supreme magnificence of this towering pinnacle of God's created beings. Two different biblical passages tell us of his original created state.

First, notice what is revealed in Isaiah 14: "This famous chapter begins with the time, shortly ahead of us now, when the eternal God shall have intervened in this world's affairs. The people of Israel (not necessarily or exclusively the Israelis or Judah) shall have been taken as captive slaves, and God shall intervene and bring them back to the Palestinian homeland.

"And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, that thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath. . . he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth" (verses 3-6).

This is NOT speaking of the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. The time is yet ahead of us — but shortly ahead. It is speaking of the modern successor of that ancient Nebuchadnezzar. It is speaking of the one who will be RULER of the soon-coming resurrected "Holy Roman Empire" — a sort of soon-coming "United States of Europe" — a union of ten nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today.

Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come. This united Europe will conquer Israel — if you know who Israel is today, and I do *not* mean Judah, known as the Israelis today. All that involves a number of other prophecies, which there is not room to explain here.

But this "king of Babylon" shall at the time of this prophecy have been utterly defeated by the intervention of the living Christ in his power and glory. Continue on:

"The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice . . . and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us" (verses 7-8).

I want to interpose an interesting bit of information right here. The cedars of Lebanon, biblically famous, are almost totally cut down. Only one small clump of these trees remains, high in the mountains. I have seen and photographed them. However, perhaps the finest specimen of the cedars of Lebanon surviving on earth are on the Ambassador College campus in England. We have prized them highly. It is interesting to see that this prophecy, written some 500 years B.C., should record the fact that these beautiful and stately trees should have been so largely felled.

This passage in Isaiah 14 speaks of the doom of this coming king at the hands of the glorified, all-powerful Christ. It refers to him as Satan's chief political ruler and military destroyer, totally deceived by Satan in the years very shortly ahead of us.

Then, coming to verse 12, this human earthly type of Satan the devil suddenly leaps to Satan himself — the former archangel, Lucifer:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" A better translation here is: "How art thou, who didst weaken the nations, cut down to the ground." The RSV translates it: "How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!" This the former Lucifer did through the human political-military leader in his power — spoken of in the first eleven verses.

The name "Lucifer" means "shining star of the dawn," or "bringer of light," as God first created him. Now continue: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God."

Notice, Lucifer had a throne; he was a ruler. His throne was on earth, for he was going to ascend into heaven. Continue:

"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" (verses 13-14). Actually, it is plain that Lucifer had nothing less in mind than knocking the Creator God off his throne and becoming supreme god himself.

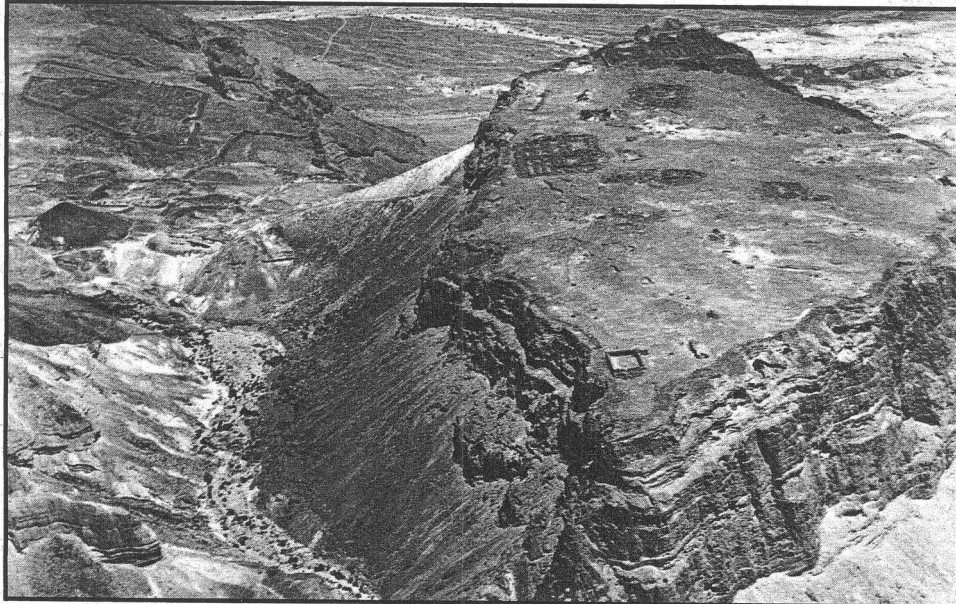
Apparently he planned to put himself in place of God over the universe.

But finally, as the context returns again to the human type: "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell [Heb. *sheol*], to the sides of the pit" (verse 15).

From that point, the thought returns to the human king. Here was the supreme masterpiece of God's creative power, as an individually created being, threatening to turn on his own maker — as a frankenstein, to destroy his own maker — and assume all his powers to rule the whole universe.

His was NOT a government based upon the principle of love — of giving, of outgoing concern for the good of others, but based on SELF-CENTEREDNESS, on vanity, lust and greed, on envy, jealousy, the spirit of competition, hatred, violence and destruction, on darkness and error, instead of light and truth, on ugliness instead of beauty.

Turn now to the other biblical passage (Continued on page 14, col. 1)



ISRAEL'S MASADA and the ramp (left) which the Romans built to capture the rock.

P. Gross — Orient Press Photo

## MASADA: Symbol of Israel's Resolve

by Brian Knowles

After the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Masada, a boat-shaped rock rising more than 1,300 feet above the western shore of the Dead Sea, remained as the last undefeated outpost of the Zealot defenders.

According to Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Masada was first fortified by Jonathan the priest.

But the man who made Masada a formidable fortress was Herod the Great — the same man who had built the great Temple in Jerusalem!

Between 36 and 30 B.C. Herod built a casemate wall around the top of Masada, defense towers, storehouses, great water cisterns, barracks, arsenals and palaces.

In A.D. 66, when the Jewish rebellion against the Roman occupation began, the Zealots captured Masada and held it throughout the entire war.

Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70 but Masada refused to be conquered. It became a point of frustration to the Roman strategists who tried time after time, but in vain, to take the fortress.

Following Jerusalem's collapse, a few surviving patriots joined the defending group of Zealots on Masada. The number of defenders rose to 960 men, women, and children.

With Masada as a base of operations, a band of Zealots would occasionally leave the fortress and launch a raid on a nearby Roman garrison. Harassed for nearly two years by these raiding parties, the Romans became increasingly infuriated.

Masada had become more than just a rock out there in the desert. Now it was a symbol. It was the last surviving outpost of Jewish rebellion against the invincible might of Rome, a rallying point for the fanatical Zealots.

In A.D. 72 the Roman governor, Flavius Silva, resolved to crush this irritating, frustrating outpost of resistance. He spared no effort in making his preparations.

### Sylva's Siege

Sylva marched to the site of Masada with his Tenth Legion, accompanied by auxiliary troops and thousands of water-carrying prisoners of war. They marched across the barren desert with timber and provisions for a prolonged struggle.

Atop Masada, Eleazar ben Mair, leader of the Zealots, prepared to defend the rock. Supplies and water were rationed and fortifications were again made ready.

Sylva and his men established a garrison at the base of the fortress and constructed a wall that completely surrounded the rock of Masada to prevent any Jews from escaping into the desert.

At the same time the Roman governor and his men began construction of a massive ramp of earth and stones on the rocky site of the western approach to Masada where the cliffs were lowest. When the ramp was completed, the Romans built a siege tower and under a covering fusillade of stones and spears from its top, they moved a powerful battering ram up the ramp. After repeated efforts the Romans breached the wall in A.D. 73. Then it was only a matter of time before the legions broke through.

### A Testimony of Silence

When the soldiers of Sylva finally poured through the breach, they were met not with defending Jews but with an unexpected silence. Where were the defenders? Had they escaped through some unknown passage?

None had escaped. All but two women and five children were dead. But not at the hands of the Romans!

The defenders of Masada had agreed that surrender to the Romans was untenable. "I cannot but esteem it a favour that God hath granted us, that it is still in our power to die bravely, and in a state of freedom," said Eleazar, their leader, in urging mass suicide. ". . . And let us spare nothing but our provi-

sions; for they will be a testimonial when we are dead that we were not subdued for want of necessities, but that . . . we have preferred death before slavery."

They believed it better to die than to submit. They took their own lives rather than give the Romans the satisfaction of surrender.

### Israel — A National Masada?

Today the nation of Israel is under constant siege, constant threat of attack. Yet the Israelis are determined to hang on, to survive as a sovereign nation. The historic homeland of the Jewish people has become a national Masada. It is the land their God gave them when he brought them out of Egyptian slavery. It is a place where Jews can live in dignity and self-respect. And it is a land worth defending — no matter what the cost.

Noted Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, who headed up the team that excavated Masada in the sixties, summed it all up when he wrote: ". . . Masada represents for all of us in Israel . . . a symbol of courage, a monument to our great national figures, heroes who chose death over a life of physical and moral serfdom" (*Masada, Herod's Fortress and the Zealots Last Stand*, p. 13).

Today's Israeli sees the present military situation as the modern equivalent of the Roman legions of the first century. Greatly outnumbered by millions in the surrounding Arab nations, the modern Israeli must look to such symbols to bolster his courage in the face of apparently overwhelming odds against his survival.

It is not the Israelis' desire to emulate the Zealots' suicidal example. Rather they believe the siege of Masada teaches them they must keep their country strong enough so that they will never be faced with the Zealots' desperate choice. That is why recruits of the Israeli Armored Corps swear this oath of allegiance on its summits:

"Masada shall not fall again." □

**The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...**

(Continued from page 7)

describing this supreme angelic creation of God, in Ezekiel 28.

**Lucifer a Created Being**

Actually, the entire concept here in chapter 26 speaks of the ancient great commercial city of Tyre. It was the commercial metropolis of the ancient world, even as Babylon was the political capital. Tyre was the New York, the London, the Tokyo, or the Paris of the ancient world. The ancient Tyre, port of the world's shippers and merchants, gloried *herself* in her beauty, even as Paris in our time.

Chapter 27 carries on with comparisons to passages in the 18th chapter of the book of Revelation referring to a politico-religious leader to come (vs. 9-19).

But coming to chapter 28, the theme comes more completely to the time just now ahead of us, the same time depicted in Isaiah 14, that speaks of the prince of Tyre, an earthly ruler. God says to the prophet Ezekiel: "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus [actually referring to a powerful religious leader to arise soon, in our time]. Thus saith the Lord God: Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God [cf. II Thess. 2:4], in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: with thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures [or "treasures" - RSV], and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations. . . they shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas" (Ezek. 28:2-8).

**What a Super Being!**

But at this point, as in Isaiah 14, the lesser human type lifts to a greater spirit antitype. This is the same Lucifer.

Ezekiel the prophet continues: "Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (verses 11-12).

Please read that again! God would never say anything like that of a human man. This superb spirit being filled up the sum total of wisdom, perfection and beauty. He was the supreme pinnacle, the masterpiece, of God's creation, as an individually created being, the greatest one in the almighty power of God to create!

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God" (verse 13), yet he had inhabited this earth. His throne was here. "Every precious stone was thy covering. . . the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (verse 13). He was a created being - not born human. He was a spirit being - not human flesh. Great genius and skill in music were created in him. Now that he has become perverted in all thinking, acting and being, he is the real author of modern perverted music - of discordant moans, squawks, shrieks, wails - unhappy, discouraged moods. Think of all the supreme talent, ability, and potential in a being created with such capacities. And all perverted! All gone sour - all dissipated, turned to hatred, destruction, hopelessness!

Yet, take courage. The awesome human

potential, if we care enough about it to resist Satan's wiles and evils and discouragements and to persevere in God's way, is infinitely superior and higher than Lucifer's - even as created, before he turned to rebellion and iniquity!

But continuing this particular revelation of the crucially important missing dimension in knowledge: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so," says God of this Lucifer. This takes us back to the 25th chapter of Exodus, where God gave Moses the pattern for the Ark of the Covenant. The description begins with verse 10, and verses 18-20 show, in the material pattern, the two cherubs who were stationed at each end of the very throne of God in heaven - the throne of the government of God over the entire universe. The wings of the two cherubim covered the throne of God.

**Trained at Universe Headquarters**

This Lucifer, then, had been stationed at the very throne of God. He was trained and experienced in the administration of the government of God. God chose such a being, well-experienced and trained, to be the chief executive in the administration of the government of God over the angels who inhabited the whole earth.

Continue: ". . . thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." This is not talking about any human being. But continue:

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). He had complete knowledge, understanding and wisdom. But he also was given full powers of reasoning, thinking, making decisions, making his choice. And, with all this foreknowledge - even of results and consequences - this superb being, the highest that even God could create, turned to rebellion against his maker - against the way that produces every good. He turned to lawlessness. He had been trained in the administration of perfect law and order. As long as Lucifer continued in this perfect way, there was happiness and joy unspokeable over the whole earth. There was glorious peace - beautiful harmony, perfect love, cooperation. The government of God produced a wonderfully happy state - as long as Lucifer was loyal in the conduct of his administration.

**What Caused Angels' Sin?**

What caused the angels on earth to sin, to turn to lawlessness? Certainly the ordinary angels did not persuade this great superb being to turn traitor. No, it was in him that iniquity was found. But, after how long? We don't know. God does not reveal that! It could have been any number of years from one or less to millions times millions.

And then, even after Lucifer himself made the decision to rebel and try to invade God's heaven to take over the universe, it is not revealed how long it took him to persuade all of the angels to turn traitor and follow him.

I know the method he used. He uses the same method still today in leading deceived humans into disloyalty, rebellion, and self-centered opposition against God's government. First, he turned one or two to envy, jealousy, and resentment over an imagined injustice - then into disloyalty. Then he uses that one or two, like a rotten apple in a crate, to stir up resentment, feelings of self-pity, disloyalty and rebellion in others next to them. And, as each rotten apple rots those next to it until the whole crate is rotten, so Satan proceeds.

If, in the government of God today, the "rotten apples" are not thrown out early enough, they would destroy the whole gov-

ernment. But, once thrown out of the crate, they cannot do any more damage to those in the crate.

But think how long it must have taken the soured and embittered Lucifer to turn millions of holy angels into resentment, bitterness, disloyalty, and finally open and vicious rebellion. It could have taken hundreds, thousands, or millions of years. This was all before the first human man was created.

All this happened after the original creation of the earth; described in verse 1 of Genesis 1. Verse 2 of this "creation" chapter describes a condition resulting from this sin of the angels. The events described in verse 2, therefore, may have occurred millions of years after the original creation of the earth.

The earth, therefore, may have been created millions of years ago. But continue this passage in Ezekiel 28: "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy [remove] thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground. . ." (verses 16-17). At this point the context returns to the soon-to-appear, human, religious-political ruler - of whom the prince of ancient Tyre was a forerunner.

Earlier in this installment, I showed you how physical destruction, ugliness, and darkness had covered the face of the earth, as the result of the sin of Lucifer (who is now the Devil) and these "angels that sinned" (now demons), and how in six days God had renewed the face of the earth (Gen. 1:2-25).

But why did God create man on the earth (Gen. 1:26)?

Look at this situation as God does. God has given us human minds, the mind of God, only inferior and limited, God made us in his image, after his likeness (form and shape), only composed of matter instead of spirit. But God says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). We can, to some degree, think even as God thinks. How must God have looked at the situation, as he started renewing the face of the earth - after the colossal debacle of the angels?

He had created a beautiful, perfect creation in the earth. He populated it with holy angels - probably millions of them. He put over them, as kings, on an earthly throne, the archangel - the cherub Lucifer. Lucifer was the supreme masterpiece of God's creative power as a single separately created spirit being. He was the most perfect in beauty, power, mind, knowledge, intellect, wisdom, within the almighty power of God to create. God can create no higher or more perfect.

Yet this great being, knowledgeable, trained and experienced at God's own throne in heaven over the universe and the administration of the government of God, had rejected that government, corrupt in his own way, rebelled against administering or even obeying it. He had led all his angels astray and into the sin of rebellion and disloyalty.

Now consider further. Apparently the entire universe had been created also at the time of the earth's creation. There is no evidence either in God's revealed Word, nor in science that any of the planets in endless outer space had been inhabited with any form of life. But God does nothing in vain. He always has a purpose.

Apparently all such planets in the entire universe now are waste and empty (*tohu* and *bohu*) like the earth was, as described in Genesis 1:2. But God did not create them in such conditions of decay - like our moon. Evidently if the angels had maintained the earth in its original beautiful condition, improved it, carried out God's instructions, and obeyed his government, they would have

been offered the awesome potential of populating and carrying out a tremendous creative program throughout the entire universe. When they turned traitor on earth, their sin must have also brought physical destruction to the other planets throughout the universe, which were potentially and conditionally put in subjection to them.

As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy, he must have realized that since the highest, most perfect being within his almighty power had turned to rebellion, it left God himself as the only being who would not and cannot sin.

And God is the father of the divine God family.

Notice John 1:1-5. The "Word" who was "made flesh (verse 14) has existed always - from eternity - with the Father. God the Father has created all things - the entire universe - by him who became Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17).

When Jesus was on earth, he prayed to God, his father in heaven. The Father spoke of Jesus as "my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus lived on earth as a human, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

The fourth word in all the Bible is "God" (Gen. 1:1). And the original Hebrew word is "Elohim," a uni-plural noun like the word family, church, or group. The family is God. There is one God - the one family, but more than one person.

God saw that no being less than God, in the God family, could be *certainly* relied on never to sin - to be like God - who cannot sin. To fulfill his purpose for the entire vast universe, God saw that nothing less than himself (as the God family) could be absolutely relied upon to carry out that supreme purpose to the entire universe. God then purposed to reproduce himself, through humans, made in his image and likeness, but made first from material flesh and blood, subject to death if there is sin there - yet with the possibility of being born into the divine family fathered by God the Father.

God saw how this could be done by Christ, who gave himself for that purpose.

And that is why God put man on the earth. That is what caused God to do this most colossal, tremendous thing ever undertaken by the supreme, almighty God.

In Part V will appear an eye-opening, surprising explanation of the super-colossal PURPOSE! □

**BLOODY BABY BANNED**

The March 31 cover of *Newsweek* magazine depicted a severely injured Vietnamese baby in the arms of its mother. Although the sex of the child was not immediately obvious, newstands in Dallas chose to cover it up as if it were *Playboy* or *Penthouse*.

But which was the true obscenity, the child's nudity or the smeared blood, caked dirt, painful burns, and open wounds on the baby's nude body? Could the good denizens of Dallas call this child "obscene" but the war which injured it *not* obscene? Apparently so.

This upside-down morality is also evident in movie ratings and textbook burnings. A movie showing the female form is R-rated; if a male caresses that form, it is X-rated; but if he chops her apart with sword or knife, it's G-rated. It seems America's love affair with violence is exceeded only by its violent reaction to love affairs.

It's time we reevaluate the meaning of obscenity. How about this definition: "Obscenity, noun; that idea, word, or action which hurts another human being." But since most of us would rather make war than love, "obscenity" will continue to mean naked bodies and four-letter words - like B-A-B-Y. □