

Excerpt from “Understanding Why: the purpose of creation”

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Chapter 1 “Understanding Why – The big picture”

Before there was space or time, before there was even heaven, God existed. This God is unique. There is no other God. He is perfect in every aspect and thus He does not change. This being does not exist at a certain place; nor does He exist in time. He just is. When God revealed Himself to Moses He said that His name was “I am.” He was telling Moses that He alone is self-existent, without beginning, without end, and apart from all human frames of reference.

God is one but simultaneously exists in three distinct states of being which exhibits as three unique persons. Each ‘person’ exhibits unique traits and provides unique function. The Father is absolute law. His very nature defines what is good. He is rigid, immovable, and unchanging. All authority is derived from Him. The Son is absolute creativity. He is the architect of all creation. With Him nothing is impossible. But His creativity is limited by the absolute rigidity of the Father. Therefore, He can design or create anything, but would never create or design something that was in conflict with the absolute nature of the Father. The Holy Spirit is the power, or implementer, of the design of the Son which has been authorized by the Father.

This God is perfect. He defines perfection. He is perfect law, perfect justice, perfect mercy, and perfect love. This perfection is expressed in every thought and action.

Now this perfect God, in an expression of His perfect love, determined to create beings that would be the object of His love. These beings would be His children. The Son prepared a plan for the creation of these children. A plan that would allow for children who would be capable of receiving the love of God and just as important, children who would be able to freely love God in return. This plan would be complex.

God’s unique nature and perfection creates the potential for the opposite to exist. If God is ‘good’, then by definition, anything opposite of God would be ‘evil.’ This concept is fundamental to the perfect God. He is good. There is not a single fraction of Him that is evil. But the knowledge or concept of good and evil is core to His nature. Any being that would be His child must understand what good and evil are. Additionally, perfect love does not demand that love is returned, but rather, perfect love is freely given by choice. For God to have children of perfect love there must be the ability to choose. In order for there to be choice, there must be something to choose other than God. The only other choice than God is evil. Thus, the Son’s plan had to include the potential for evil so that the children would have the opportunity to choose.

The Son completed His perfect plan, the Father authorized its implementation, and the Holy Spirit breathed it into being. And God said, “Let there be. . .”

So God created the heavens and the earth perhaps twenty billion years ago. This creation would be comprised of two distinct planes of existence; the spirit world and the physical universe. Remember, God is outside of time and therefore His place of existence is outside of both the spirit world and the physical universe; both of which are subject to time. God did create within the spirit world a place of existence for His presence by which He would interface and reveal Himself to His creation. This would be His throne room which is found on the 'Holy Mountain of God.' But this throne room was merely a manifestation of God. Here the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit would appear as distinct persons fulfilling distinct functions.

Sometime during the creation process, God created spirit beings to be caretakers of His creation. We call these beings angels. Angels were created complete with inherent powers and authority. Some were incredibly powerful, others very weak, but each was designed for a function and purpose and was endowed with everything he needed to accomplish his work. The greatest of these spirit beings were the Cherubim. Where angels look like men in appearance, Cherubim are unique with wings and the ability to change their shape. The Cherubim are always associated with the presence of God and four of them fly above His throne crying 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'

God's form of government is 'delegated authority.' He gives power, grants authority, and the recipients must assume responsibility for the power and authority. All angelic beings are part of God's government and form regimented armies with each member fulfilling his place according to his inherent power and authority. The Cherubim are the leaders of these armies and have great generals or 'princes' that lead their legions.

One of the greatest of all Cherubim was Lucifer. He was one of the four Cherubim that flew above the throne of God. He was a 'guardian Cherub who covered.' His power and authority is immense. One third of all the angels in the universe answer to him.

Now God established laws for governing His creation and for many billions of years Lucifer faithfully served God. He took great pride in pleasing God. His generals would come and go from his presence as he managed one third of the universe. Somewhere along the line, a subtle change took place in Lucifer's heart. The pride he took in pleasing God became a pride in pleasing himself. This is a very subtle change. When you seek to please another and those you lead fail, you are saddened and filled with remorse at the failure. This leads to repentance and the desire to correct the failure. But when you seek to please yourself and those you lead fail, then you become angry and your pride is wounded. This anger causes you to lash out at those you lead. A time came when this subtle change in Lucifer resulted in him becoming filled with anger and violence. In this, Lucifer has sinned in his heart.

Now a perfect God cannot allow sin to reside in His throne room and presence. He is compelled by His righteous nature to deal with Lucifer, but because He is the just and righteous Judge, He must do so in a manner consistent with His perfection. Lucifer has not broken any of the laws or commands of God. Thus he cannot be declared guilty of a crime and sentenced to

punishment. But Lucifer's position in the throne room of God is a privilege and the equivalent of a job. The Father calls all the angelic powers together and then calls Lucifer to account for the condition of his heart.

God proclaims that sin has entered Lucifer's heart and that he will no longer be allowed to hold his place of honor in God's throne room. He is 'fired.' And then God expels Lucifer from His presence.

Lucifer's wounded pride leads him to the decision to create evil. Up to this moment in time, evil had not existed in creation. Lucifer now shakes his fist at God and declares, "God, you are good, therefore I will become the opposite, I will be evil. You are love, I will be hate." He has made a choice to become the opposite of God and thus he is the author of evil. Now Lucifer has not broken any laws or commands of God. He continues to serve in a leadership position over one third of the universe. His angelic armies continue to follow him. Lucifer is biding his time. The millennia pass but the embarrassment does not heal. He wants revenge.

All of these events are not a surprise to God. He had foreseen them before the very first "Let there be" and would use this for His purpose and plan.

At just the right moment, on a small planet in the third of the universe that was under Lucifer's control, God plants a garden on this planet and then creates a man and woman to be His children. Perhaps twenty billion years have passed from the very act of creation. But time is irrelevant to a God who exists outside of time.

Lucifer watched in fascination as God created man in His image. God has created living beings in the physical universe that look just like Him and has placed them in a garden and established laws that they must obey. The temptation is more than Lucifer can stand. Here is his chance for revenge. He must be careful though, he knows that God's laws must be obeyed. He has spent twenty billion years following them and is not about to break one now and incur God's judgment. Lucifer watches the man and woman. He senses that the woman's desire for her husband can be used as a weapon against her.

Lucifer devises a plan and changes his shape into that of a serpent. Now, a twenty billion year old Cherub, one of the most powerful beings in all of creation, matches wits with a human who is naïve, and has existed for barely a blink of the eye. It was no contest. Eve, desiring to help her husband become wiser, eats of the fruit that God has commanded them not to eat. She gives the fruit to her husband who eats as well. Lucifer sneers at God in his heart as he has corrupted God's children and now God must judge them. Adam and Eve have fallen into his trap and have done something that He, Lucifer has not! They have broken the law and must be judged! But Lucifer is shocked when God pronounces judgment. It was not what he expected. God declares that the man and woman would die. But not right away. He also declares that one day one of Eve's descendents would crush Lucifer's head and destroy his power. Suddenly the rules have changed. There are new rules that must be adhered too and God places a ban on angels crossing over into the physical universe.

These events are viewed by us as tragic. But to God they had been foreseen and were part of His plan to have children who would choose to love Him. Indeed, He declares to those about Him that “man has become like us, knowing good and evil.” Man has taken the first step to truly knowing God, he now understands the difference between that which is God, that is good, and that which is not of God, that which is evil.

Lucifer suddenly finds himself in a precarious place with no frame of reference. God has promised that a descendent of Eve would destroy him. He must therefore strike first. Eve gives birth to two sons, Cain and Able. Both men claim to have a heart after God, but the twenty billion year old Lucifer quickly determines that he can use Cain. Able is a righteous man. Could he be the descendent that will destroy Lucifer? Cain has a flaw and Lucifer recognizes it at once. Able’s heart is to please God. Cain wishes to please God but for his own pride. When God rejects Cain’s sacrifice, Lucifer whispers to Cain and fills him with the very anger and violence that had led to Lucifer’s expulsion from the Holy Mountain. Cain rises up and kills Abel and Lucifer discovers a new tool in his battle with God. Abel is not only a physical being, but he has a spirit as well. Abel is under a sentence of death like all of mankind who sins and thus when he dies his spirit cannot go into the presence of God, but rather descends into the grave. The grave will become a prison for the spirits of all men who sin. And Lucifer will hold the keys.

All of this is for a purpose. Just as the angels operate under the principles of God’s government, so must mankind. God Himself operates under this universal principle. He is God, He has all power. He has all authority. But He must exercise His power and authority in a God like or responsible way. His nature demands that power and authority is exercised according to His righteous nature. Mankind must also learn this principle in order to become God’s children. Thus God created into man the power to create human life and then gave man the authority to be “fruitful” and to fill the earth. But with this power and authority comes a grave responsibility. Man must use his power to create life according to God’s law. Men and women must come together in marriage and after the children are born, must assume responsibility for their care and must guide them into a relationship with God. This responsibility belongs to man. God will not interfere. Mankind must understand that there are consequences for behavior. Some consequences affect not only the parents, but their descendents for generations. Although God will not interfere with the power and authority He has delegated to mankind, Lucifer will. He will make every effort to break men and cause them to abuse this power and authority and then deny responsibility.

Time passes and the population of mankind grows. Lucifer calls in reinforcements from among his legions to keep control of mankind and to assure their deaths and imprisonment. This is a new game and Lucifer and his angels must follow the new rules. They discover that there is a severe punishment when the rules are broken. A number of Lucifer’s angels are fascinated with the physical universe. There are pleasures, smells and tastes that are different from the spirit world. Some of the fallen angels cross over into the physical universe and have sexual relationships with women. God pronounces a judgment and these angels are bound in chains and locked in a place of darkness where they will await a future and final judgment. All the

angels of creation take note and Lucifer determines that he will be careful to never cross the line and break a law. Even when given permission to attack and harass a saint as with Job, Lucifer is careful to only go as far as permitted. Only a fool would risk the consequences. And Lucifer is no fool!

Millennia pass and Lucifer and his fallen angels discover how to manipulate mankind. There are very few men that follow God but they all have one thing in common. All men sin and thus are under a judgment of death. The spirit prison of death is divided into two areas. Paradise is a pleasant place where the spirits of the righteous go. Hell is a hot arid place where the spirits of the wicked are confined. In either case, all are under a sentence of death and remain locked in the grave.

God begins to reveal Himself to mankind again. Remember that men originally knew God but over the years this knowledge and relationship was lost. So God reveals Himself to Abraham and chooses him as the father of a line of people from which the promised descendent would come and defeat Lucifer. Abraham and his descendents become the focus of Lucifer's hatred. He will continually attempt to destroy them hoping to eliminate the promised descendent. Prophets are sent to the people delivering God's words and Law. Lucifer tries to make sense of the promises given by God to the people. The promised Messiah; is He a King or a suffering servant? The writings of the prophets are too veiled. He will have to wait patiently and plan his battles wisely. Men have learned to live by a simple principle of God; "Obey the law and live in blessing on the earth." It will be Lucifer's job to make sure as few men as possible live up to this principle.

Thousands of years pass and millions of men have lived and died. Lucifer, now called Satan, (the Deceiver) has mastered the game. It has become simple. He and his angelic beings all have incredible inherent powers. Each has billions of years of knowledge and experience. Mankind is rarely a match for them. Everyone sins, everyone dies, and everyone goes into the grave. It is all becoming routine. If only he could destroy the descendents of Abraham. Then he could rest in peace knowing that there was no way for his power to be broken or destroyed.

In the fullness of time God implements the next step in His plan to have children. For thousands of years God has revealed to His children two principle aspects of His nature; His absolute holiness and His absolute law. It is now time to reveal His perfect mercy and perfect love.

Remember, God exists outside of time. He is not limited to the past, present, or future as He exists simultaneously in all three at once. The spirit world like the physical universe is linear. There are distinct events that transpire sequentially thus establishing a time line of the past, present and future. God who is outside of time created a place in the spirit world where His presence could be understood. In His throne room He exists in three distinct persons although God is actually but one. The Son, the One who designed the entire creation, who exists in the throne room separate yet part of the Father, leaves the spirit world and becomes a man being born as a baby.

Lucifer realizes that God is making His play. It is now all or nothing. Lucifer calls all of his fallen angels from across their third of the universe down to the earth. They must find a way to destroy this Jesus the Messiah before He destroys them. Lucifer orchestrates the death of every toddler in Bethlehem trying to kill baby Jesus, but it is too late. Jesus has been taken by his parents to Egypt. He has escaped. But Lucifer will bide his time.

When Jesus is thirty years old He prepares to begin His public ministry by being baptized in water by John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit of God descends upon Jesus and now the Son, filled with the Holy Spirit, obeying the will of the Father, prepares to take the battle to Satan. But first something very interesting takes place. Jesus is both God and man. He therefore must obey the laws of both the spirit world and the physical universe. God's law of government is 1) the giving of power, 2) the granting of authority, and 3) the recipient's acceptance of the responsibility. The Holy Spirit, that is the power of God, has come upon the man, Jesus. The Father is going to issue the authority to use the power, but Jesus first must assume responsibility for it. The Holy Spirit compels Jesus into the wilderness where He fasts for forty days. Satan is waiting for Him. But Satan does not attack at once; rather he waits until Jesus is at His weakest point before tempting him. Jesus rebukes Satan with the Word of God. Lucifer has lost this battle and leaves Jesus until a more opportune time. The Bible says that Satan is the accuser of the saints and stands before God day and night accusing them of their sins. Satan, disgusted with the outcome of his temptation of Jesus, returns to the throne room of God where he presents his accusations. Jesus leaves the wilderness not only full of the Holy Spirit, but having accepted the responsibility for the power and proven Himself obedient, He goes up into Galilee with the authority to use the power, granted to Him by the Father.

Jesus goes about doing good. Lucifer's fallen angels can't do anything with him. Jesus is casting out demons, healing the sick, and preaching the good news to the poor. Things are not going well for Lucifer. But Jesus is only one man, in one place, at one time. In the grand scheme of things, how much trouble can he cause? Lucifer is about to find out as Jesus calls seventy of His disciples to Him and grants them the power and authority to heal the sick and cast out demons. These seventy fan out across Israel like a wild fire. Suddenly the legions of Lucifer are under attack in an unprecedented manner. Word reaches Lucifer. Things are getting out of control. He must do something at once or risk losing the entire earth. He leaves the throne room of God and streaks towards earth, angry and ready to do battle.

Lucifer has been saving his favorite play for now. He must get this Jesus out of action at once. He finds a weakness in Judas one of Jesus' disciples. At the right moment Lucifer possesses him and uses him to betray Jesus to the demonic led leaders of the people. A mockery of trial follows and Jesus is sentenced to death. Lucifer's plan is flawless. Jesus is led out of the city to a hillside and then crucified. Now Lucifer is in control as the spirit of Jesus descends into the grave. Lucifer has won. He has defeated Jesus and the Son of God Himself is now imprisoned in the grave. Lucifer is safe; he can breathe a sigh of relief.

But things are about to go very badly for Lucifer. He has unwittingly fallen into God's plan for His children. God has meticulously engineered the revealing of Himself to His children. They understand His absolute holiness and law. They are about to be shown His perfect love and mercy. God's law demands that the soul that sins or breaks the law, is under a sentence of death. All men have sinned, all die. The law demands that blood be shed in payment of sin. God will now show mercy to His children. He will pay the demands of His own law through an act of perfect love; He will die in their place. This is such a brilliant plan. The perfect and just Judge must pronounce the sentence of death. But His perfect mercy demands that a way of escape be given to His children. So the perfect God demonstrates His perfect love for His children by paying the price demanded of the law Himself, by giving His own Son to die in man's place. Now that's a perfect plan!

And thus Jesus, the Son of God, willingly allowed Himself to be crucified by Lucifer and his fallen angels. Jesus' body dies and is buried and His soul and spirit then descends into the grave to the place called Paradise. He then preaches a remarkable sermon to the saints that have been imprisoned there for thousands of years. He proclaims to them the plan of God and how God demonstrates His own love and mercy to them, in that He, Jesus the Messiah, has died for them. Sermon complete, He gathers the saints around Him and marches to the gates of Hell. Suddenly there is an earthquake and the gates of Hell come off of their hinges as Satan and his fallen angels attempt to stop the 'prison break.'

Lucifer demands that Jesus play by the rules and remain in the grave. Jesus asks by what authority must He obey. Lucifer quotes the Law which says, "The soul that sins shall die." To which Jesus replies, "True. So, what was my sin for which you murdered me?"

In an instant, Lucifer recognizes his mistake. Every human in history had sinned and was thus under the sentence of death. They all sinned, they all died. It had never occurred to Lucifer than Jesus would be an exception. But, Jesus was perfect; He had never sinned and thus was not under a sentence of death. Thus, when Lucifer betrayed and crucified Jesus, he broke the law by murdering an innocent man. In that moment the Father on the throne pronounced judgment. Lucifer's power and authority was broken and Jesus ascended out of the grave leading all of the saints into the presence of God.

Lucifer knew he was in trouble. God could lock him into chains and darkness until the day of final judgment. But God does something that is strange. He allows Lucifer to remain free. Lucifer believes that God has done this because he still has influence over those that follow his evil. But that is not the primary purpose.

From the very beginning it was God's purpose and plan to have children; children who would be like Him and who would choose to love Him. Now God is the King. Therefore He rules over all that He has created. It is His plan for His children to one day rule and reign with Him. In order to do so they must learn how to use power and authority in obedience to the Father's will. It is not God's desire that His children club each other over the head with His power and authority as they discover how to use it. Rather, God had a perfect plan. When Jesus arose from the

dead He appeared to his disciples and proclaimed that all power and all authority had been given to Him. Therefore, His disciples were to go and make other disciples all over the world. God wanted His children to learn how to use power and authority by practicing on Lucifer. Lucifer's power and authority is broken. He no longer has any authority over mankind except that which man gives to him.

Christians are now endued with power through the Holy Spirit and granted the authority to use it by the Son. Christians now have authority over Lucifer and his fallen angels. The children of God are now in school where they will learn power and authority in its most basic implementation, warfare. They will have one lifetime, perhaps eighty years in which to learn these principles. It is their task to overpower the forces of Satan and to preach the Gospel thus releasing mankind from the grip of Satan. Lucifer's power and authority have been stripped from him. But he still has the inherent attributes of a Cherub. He is billions of years old and extremely devious. He now resists the children of God through deception and cunning.

This era is called the church age. The next era is soon to come. Jesus will return one day and the Trumpet of the Lord will be sounded. In a moment, all of the spirits of the dead children of God will be given brand new supernatural bodies that will never die. Simultaneously, all the children of God who are still alive upon the earth will be changed into immortal beings and together they will meet the Lord in the sky. This event will trigger cosmic events that will usher in a seven year period of severe tribulation upon the earth. Lucifer knows that his time is now very short. Three and one half years into this tribulation, Lucifer gathers his armies of fallen angels from across the universe and attacks the throne room of God. He knows that he doesn't have much chance at success, but what does he have to lose? His army is not strong enough and he, along with them, are ejected out of presence of God and cast down to the earth.

Lucifer gathers all the armies of the Earth and prepares to defend the earth from the coming invasion of Jesus and the children of God. At the end of the seven years of tribulation, Jesus and the children of God return to the earth. Lucifer's armies are defeated and Lucifer is bound and cast into the grave, a bottomless pit for a thousand years.

Jesus now sets up His government upon the earth and all the children of God will rule with Him upon the earth for one thousand years. They will rule over all of fallen mankind who survived the tribulation. God in His perfect plan now has His children attend the graduate school of power and authority. They learned the basics of power and authority in their conflict with Lucifer during their mortal lives. Now they will learn the more refined and sophisticated implementation of power and authority in government. This education will take a thousand years!

The marvel of God's perfect plan is that the children will not practice power and authority over each in this education process. They will learn power and authority in government by ruling over the sinners who are still alive.

At the end of this millennium, Lucifer will be released for a short period of time. He will lead all the sinners who are left upon the earth in a rebellion against Jesus and His brethren, the children of God. There will be one last battle and all the wicked will be destroyed. Lucifer will then be cast alive into a burning lake of fire that had been prepared for him and all his fallen angels. All of humanity who never chose to become a child of God will now be judged. Since they did not choose to follow God, by default, they chose to follow Lucifer. They followed him in their lives upon the earth; they will follow him in their deaths into the lake of fire.

Finally, all things come to an end and the day of inheritance has arrived for the children of God. A new capital city descends from the sky. This New Jerusalem will be the new throne room of God. The gates of the city will never close and the children of God will rule all of their inheritance from this new capital. Jesus has been appointed the heir of 'all things' which includes the entire physical universe and the entire spirit world. On that day the children who are called 'joint heirs' will share in this inheritance. Those who were faithful in their lives with little will now be placed in charge of much as the children rule and reign over the entire universe, coming and going from the presence of God while exercising His power and authority.