

HOW LIFE BEGAN

Isn't it time you learn the truth?



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E.G. White

Contents

Chapter 1 – The Fall of Lucifer

Chapter 2 – The New Creation

Chapter 3 – The Temptation and Fall

Chapter 4 – The Plan of Salvation

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Chapter 1 — The Fall of Lucifer

Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His appearance, like that of the other angels, was mild and expressed happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing great intelligence. His form was perfect. His bearing was noble and majestic. A special light beamed on his face, which seemed to shine brighter and with more beauty than around the other angels, but Christ, God's dear Son, had the leading position above the angels. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. Lucifer was envious of Christ and gradually assumed command which belonged to Christ alone.

While Christ was with God in the beginning, He had taken a position among the angels. Now, the Father assembled the heavenly host so He could bestow special honor on His Son in the presence of all the angels. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the angels gathered around them. The Father then informed all the angels that Christ, His Son, was equal with Himself. He explained to them that wherever His Son was, it was like His own presence was there. The word of the Son was to be treated and obeyed the same as that of the Father. He had invested His Son with authority to command the heavenly angels. The Son was to work especially in union with God the Father in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that would exist on the earth. His Son would carry out His will and His purposes, but would do nothing of Himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him.

Lucifer was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. When all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy, high authority, and rightful rule, Lucifer bowed with them, but his heart was filled with envy and hatred. Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God regarding His plans, while Lucifer was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of heaven. His power and authority were to be the same as that of God Himself. Lucifer thought that he was himself a favorite in heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted, but this did not bring him gratitude and praise to his Creator. He aspired to the height of God Himself. He took advantage of his status. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the Father had shone especially upon him. He remembered how the angels had cheerfully obeyed his command. He indulged in pride and wondered why Christ was to be honored above himself.

He left the immediate presence of the Father, dissatisfied and filled with envy against Jesus Christ. Hiding his true motives and purposes, he assembled the angels. He introduced his subject, which was himself. He related the preference God had given Jesus to the neglect of himself, as if he had been mistreated. He told them that from that day on, all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was over. He claimed that a ruler had been put over them to whom they must yield slavish obedience from now on. He

said he had called them together to assure them that he would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs, and that he would never again bow down to Christ. He would take the honor upon himself, which should have been conferred on him, and would be the commander of all who would submit to follow him and obey his voice.

There was a contention among the angels. Lucifer and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. They were discontented and unhappy because they could not look into His unsearchable wisdom and understand His purposes in exalting His Son and endowing Him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son.

The loyal angels of God tried to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator. They explained that God was fair in giving Christ honor, and with clear reasoning, tried to convince Lucifer that he had no less honor now than before the Father had proclaimed the honor which He had conferred on His Son. They explained that Christ was the Son of God, existing with Him before the angels were created, and that He had always stood at the right hand of God. His mild, loving authority had never been questioned, and He had commanded nothing from the heavenly beings except things that were for their own happiness, and in their best interest. They urged that Christ's receiving special honor from the Father in the presence of the angels did not take away from the honor that Lucifer had received before. The angels wept. They anxiously tried to persuade him to turn from his wicked plans

and yield submission to their Creator. They urged that everything had been so peaceful and full of harmony in heaven before, and there was no reason for this rebellious accusation, but Lucifer refused to listen.

Finally, Lucifer turned from the loyal angels, denouncing them as slaves. The angels that remained faithful to God watched in amazement as they saw how successful Lucifer was in his efforts to incite rebellion. He promised them a new and better government than God had given them. One with more freedom. As a result, great numbers accepted him as their leader and chief commander. As he saw the success of his advances, he flattered himself that he would eventually have all the angels on his side, he would be equal with God Himself, and his voice would be heard commanding the entire host of heaven. Again, the loyal angels warned him and assured him what the consequences of his rebellion would have to be if he persisted, stating that the One who created the angels could also overturn all their authority and punish their violent rebellion. To think that an angel would resist the law of God which was as sacred as Himself! They warned the rebellious angels to close their ears against Lucifer's deceptive reasoning and advised him, and all who had been affected by him, to go to God and confess their sin of even questioning His authority.

Many of Lucifer's sympathizers were inclined to listen to the advice of the loyal angels, repent of their dissatisfaction, and be again received to the confidence of the Father and His dear Son. The rebellious leader declared that he was acquainted

with God's law, and if he submitted to obey it, his honor would be taken from him. He would no longer be entrusted with his position. He told them that they had gone too far to go back and should face the consequences, for he would never bow in slavish worship to the Son of God. He claimed that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and seek to gain, by force, the position and authority which was not willingly given them. This is how Lucifer became Satan, the great enemy of God.

The loyal angels immediately returned to the Son of God to tell Him what was taking place among the angels. Upon arrival, they found the Father in conference with His beloved Son to determine how, for the best good of the loyal angels, the rebellion of Satan could be stopped. God could have thrown this arch-deceiver from heaven immediately, but this was not His purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure their strength against His own Son and His loyal angels. In this battle, every angel would be forced to openly choose his own side. It would not have been safe to allow any who united with Satan in his rebellion to continue to stay in heaven. They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God, and this is incurable. If God had exercised His power to punish this chief rebel, the plans of the evil angels would not have been fully seen, and rebellion would have eventually risen again, so God took another course to show the justice of His judgment to the heavenly host.

It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. All of heaven seemed in

commotion. The angels were marshaled into groups, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head. Satan was warring against the law of God because he wanted to exalt himself, and was unwilling to submit to the authority of God's Son, heaven's great Commander.

All the heavenly beings were called to appear before the Father to have each case determined. Satan unblushingly stated how upset he was that Christ had been given a higher position than his. He stood up proudly and said that he should be equal to God. He said he should be taken into conference with the Father and should know His purposes. God informed Satan that He would reveal His secret purposes to His Son alone, and He required all the family in heaven, even Satan, to yield Him implicit, unquestioned obedience, but that he, Satan, had proved himself unworthy of a place in heaven. Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one-half of all the angels, and exclaimed, "These are with me! Will you also expel these and make such a great void in heaven?" He then declared that he was prepared to resist the authority of Christ and to defend his place in heaven by force, strength against strength.

Good angels wept to hear the words of Satan and his exulting boasts. God declared that the rebellious could no longer remain in heaven. Their high and happy state had been held on condition of obedience to the law which God had given to govern the high order of intelligences. But no provision had been made to save those who should venture to transgress His law.

Satan grew bold in his rebellion and expressed his contempt for the Creator's law. He claimed that angels needed no law, but should be left free to follow their own will, which would guide them right, and that any law was a restriction of their liberty. To abolish the law was the reason he rebelled. While Satan claimed that the angels could be happier, the happiness of the angels depended on their perfect obedience to the law. Each had his special work assigned him, and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmony in heaven.

Then there was war in heaven. The Son of God and His angels engaged in conflict with the arch-rebel and those who united with him. Christ and the loyal angels prevailed, and Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from heaven. Once again, the heavens acknowledged and adored the God of justice. Not a taint of rebellion was left. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before, but the angels in heaven mourned the fate of those who had been their companions in happiness and bliss. Their loss was deeply felt in heaven.

The Father consulted His Son about immediately carrying out their purpose to create humans to inhabit the earth. He would place man on probation to test his loyalty before he could be rendered eternally secure. If he endured the test that God saw fit to give him, he would eventually be equal with the angels. He would then have the favor of God and could talk with angels, and they with him, but first, they must endure the test. For the sake of free will, God could not place them beyond the power of disobedience.

Chapter 2 — The New Creation

This chapter is based on Genesis 1.

The Father and Son engaged in the wonderful work of creating the world. The earth came forth from the hand of the Creator, exceedingly beautiful. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, not high and ragged like they are now, but smooth and beautiful. The bare, high rocks were never seen on them, but were hidden beneath the surface, like bones in the earth. The waters were evenly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and beautiful plains were covered with plants, flowers, and tall, majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger, and much more beautiful than the trees we see now. The air was pure and healthy, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels looked and rejoiced at the beautiful and majestic works of God.

In the midst of the garden, God had placed the tree of life, and not far in the distance stood the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When the first people, Adam and Eve, were created, this tree was designed by God to test their obedience, faith, and love for Him. Of this tree, the Lord commanded our first parents not to eat or touch, or else they would die. He told them that they could freely eat from any other tree in the garden, but if they ate of that tree, they would surely die.

When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, they had everything they needed for their happiness. But God chose, in His great wisdom, to test their loyalty before they could be rendered

eternally secure. They were to have His favor, and He was to converse with them and they with Him, but He did not place evil out of their reach. Satan was permitted to tempt them. If they endured the trial, they would be in continual favor with God and the heavenly angels.

Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked at the angels who were once so happy, but who were now expelled from heaven with him. Before their fall, not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect life, but now everything was changed. Expressions which once reflected the image of their Maker were sad and despairing. Strife and discord were seen among them. Before their rebellion, these things had not been seen in heaven. Satan now looked at the terrible results of his rebellion. He shuddered and feared to face the future, and to contemplate the end of these things.

If he could have another chance to be as he was when he was pure, true, and loyal, he would have gladly given up the claims of his authority, but he was lost and beyond redemption for his presumptuous rebellion! And worse than this, he had led others to rebellion, and to the same lost condition as himself. He had misled angels who never thought of questioning the will of God or refusing obedience to His law till he had put it into their minds, convincing them that they might enjoy a greater good, a higher and more glorious liberty. This is the argument he used to deceive them, and the responsibility for their fall now rested upon him, which he didn't want to face.

These angels became irritated with disappointed hopes. Instead of a better life, they were experiencing the sad results of disobedience and disregard of the law. These unhappy beings would never again be led by the mild rule of Christ. Their spirits would never again be stirred by the love, peace, and joy which His presence had inspired in them, to be returned to Him in cheerful obedience and reverential honor.

Satan trembled as he thought of his work. Alone in meditation, he thought about his past, present, and future plans. His mighty frame shook like a tempest, and as an angel from heaven was passing, he called him and asked if he could obtain an interview with Christ. This was permitted. He then related to the Son of God that he repented of his rebellion and wanted to be returned to the favor of God again. He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him and be under His wise command. Christ wept at Satan's words, but told him, as the mind of God, that he could never be received into heaven. Heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. All heaven would be marred if he was received back, because sin and rebellion originated with him. The seeds of rebellion were still within him. There had been no reason for his rebellion, and now he had hopelessly ruined not only himself, but the host of angels also, who would then have been happy in heaven if he remained faithful. The law of God could condemn, but it could not pardon.

Satan did not repent of his rebellion because he saw that he had abused the goodness of God. It was not possible that his love for God had so increased since his fall that it would lead to cheerful submission

and happy obedience to His law, which he despised. The misery he felt in losing heaven, the guilt of his crime, and the disappointment he felt when he did not find the joy he expected, as a result, was the cause of his grief. It was not true sorrow for sin that caused his grief. Rather, the loss of all the privileges of heaven seemed too much for him, and he wanted to get these back.

This great change had not increased his love for God or for His wise and just law. When Satan became fully convinced that there was no possibility of his being reinstated in the favor of God, he manifested his evil intentions with increased hatred and fiery passion.

God knew that such determined rebellion would not remain inactive. Satan would invent ways to annoy the heavenly angels and show contempt for His authority. Since he could not gain admission inside the gates of heaven, he would wait right at the entrance to taunt the angels and seek contention with them as they went in and out. He would seek to destroy the happiness of Adam and Eve and try to lead them to rebellion, knowing this would cause grief in heaven.

His followers were seeking him, and he aroused himself and, assuming a look of defiance, informed them of his plans to wrestle from God the newly created Adam, and his companion Eve. Satan reasoned that if he could lead them to disobey, then God would somehow find a way to pardon them, and then he and the fallen angels would also be able to again gain God's mercy. But if God failed to show mercy, they could unite with Adam and Eve, since

they would then also become subjects of God's wrath, like himself. Their transgression would also place them in a state of rebellion, and they could unite with Adam and Eve, take possession of Eden, and hold it as their home. And if they could gain access to the tree of life in the midst of the garden, they reasoned that their strength would be equal to that of the holy angels, and even God Himself could not expel them.

Finally, Satan held a meeting with his evil angels to explain his idea. They did not all immediately unite to engage in this hazardous and terrible work. He told them that he would not entrust any one of them to accomplish this work. He felt that he was the only one who had enough wisdom to accomplish such an important task. He asked them to consider the matter as he went off by himself to mature his plans. He tried to convince them that this was their last and only hope. If they failed here, all prospect of regaining and controlling heaven, or any part of God's creation, was hopeless.

Satan went off by himself to mature the plans that he felt would best secure the fall of Adam and Eve. He feared the thought that his plan might fail. Even worse, he feared that he would succeed in leading Adam and Eve to disobey the commandment of God and become transgressors of His law without improving his circumstances, but only increasing his guilt.

He shuddered at the thought of plunging the holy, happy pair into the misery and remorse he had fallen into. He seemed to be in a state of indecision: once firm and determined, now hesitating and wavering.

His angels were seeking him, their leader, to acquaint him with their decision. They would unite with Satan in his plans and bear the consequences with him.

Satan cast off his feelings of despair and weakness and, as their leader, fortified himself to brave out the matter and do all in his power to defy the authority of God and His Son. He told the fallen angels about his plans. If he boldly confronted Adam and Eve, and openly complained about God's own Son, they would not listen to him for a minute, but would instead be prepared for this kind of attack. If he tried to intimidate and bully them with his power and strength, being so recently an angel in high authority, he would still accomplish nothing. He decided that deception would be able to do what force could not accomplish.

In heaven, God assembled the angels to take measures to avert the threat. It was decided that angels must visit Eden and warn Adam and Eve that they were in danger of this fallen angel. Two angels sped on their way to visit our first parents. The holy pair received them with joyful innocence, expressing their grateful thanks to their Creator for surrounding them with such an abundance of His goodness. Everything lovely and attractive was theirs to enjoy, and everything seemed so wisely adapted for their wants, but what they prized more than anything was their friendship and communion with the Son of God and the heavenly angels. At every visit, they had so much to share with them about their new discoveries of the beauties of their lovely Eden home. They also had many questions to ask about so many of the things they could not fully comprehend.

The angels graciously and lovingly answered their questions before sharing with them the sad history of Satan's rebellion and fall. Finally, they informed them that the tree of knowledge was placed in the garden to be a pledge of their obedience and love to God, and that they were in a similar situation. The high and happy estate of the holy angels was only to be retained on condition of obedience. They could obey the law of God and be inexpressibly happy, or disobey, only to lose their high estate and be plunged into hopeless despair.

They told Adam and Eve that God would not compel them to obey—that He had not removed their power of choice to go contrary to His will. They were moral agents, free to obey or disobey. God gave them only one restriction. If they disobeyed that command, they would surely die. They told Adam and Eve that the most exalted angel, next to Christ, refused to obey the law of God, which He had given to govern the heavenly beings, and that this rebellion had caused a war in heaven, which resulted in the rebellious being expelled from heaven. They explained how every angel who united in this rebellion of questioning the authority of God was driven from heaven, and that this fallen angel was now an enemy of all who were associated with God and His Son.

They told them that Satan planned to harm them, and they needed to be on their guard, because they could come in contact with this fallen enemy. Still, he could not harm them as long as they remained obedient to God's command, for if necessary, every angel of heaven would come to their help before God would let Satan harm them. However, if they

disobeyed the command of God, then Satan would have the power to annoy, perplex, and sink them into despair. If they remained steadfast against the first insinuations of Satan, they would be as secure as the heavenly angels, but if they yielded to the tempter, He who did not spare the rebellious angels would not spare them. They must suffer the penalty of their sin, because the law of God was as sacred as Himself, and He required implicit obedience from all.

The angels warned Eve not to separate from her husband in her work, or she might come into contact with this fallen foe. If separated from each other, they would be in greater danger than if together. The angels told them to closely follow the instructions God had given them about the tree of knowledge. They would be safe in perfect obedience, and this fallen angel would have no power to deceive them. God would not permit Satan to follow them with continual temptations. He could only have access to them at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam and Eve assured the angels that they would never transgress the express command of God because it was their highest pleasure to do His will. The angels united with Adam and Eve in holy strains of harmonious music, and their songs arose from Eden. As Satan heard the sound of their strains of joyful adoration to the Father and Son, his envy, hatred, and malignity increased. He expressed his eagerness to his fallen followers to incite Adam and Eve to disobedience and at once bring down the wrath of God on them. Satan longed to change their songs of praise to hatred and curses against their Maker.

Chapter 3 — The Temptation and Fall

This chapter is based on Genesis 3.

Satan takes on the form of a serpent and enters Eden. In the beginning, the serpent was a beautiful creature with wings. While flying through the air, its appearance was bright, resembling burnished gold. It did not slither on the ground, but went through the air and ate fruit. Satan entered into the serpent and took his position in the tree of knowledge, where he commenced leisurely eating of the fruit

Eve separated from her husband in her work around the garden unconsciously at first. When she became aware of the fact, she initially feared that she might be in danger, but thought she was strong enough, even if she did not remain close beside her husband. She felt that she had the wisdom and strength to know if evil came and to resist it, but the angels had warned her against this. Eve found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration at the fruit of the forbidden tree. She saw that it was very lovely and began to wonder why God so strictly prohibited eating or touching it. Now was Satan's opportunity. As if reading her thoughts, he asked, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'" (Gen. 3:1)? With soft, pleasant words, and a musical voice, he addressed the curious Eve. She was startled to hear a serpent speak. He praised her beauty and complimented her for her exceeding loveliness, which was highly flattering and pleasant to Eve. In addition, she was also amazed by the creature, because she knew God had not given the serpent the power of speech.

Eve's curiosity was aroused. Instead of running, she listened to hear a serpent talk. It did not occur to her that this might be the fallen foe using the serpent as a medium. It was Satan that spoke, not the serpent. Eve was beguiled, flattered, and infatuated. If she had met a powerful-looking creature in the form of an angel, she would have been on her guard. While that strange voice should have driven her to her husband's side to question why another would address her so freely in this way, instead of running, she entered into conversation with the serpent, answering his question, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" The serpent answered, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:2-5). Satan implied that God had deceived them and was trying to keep them from obtaining some hidden knowledge that would make them equal to God Himself.

God had said, "If you eat, you shall surely die." The serpent said, "If you eat, you shall not surely die," but the tempter assured Eve that as soon as she ate the fruit, she would receive a new and superior knowledge that would make her equal with God. He called her attention to himself. He ate freely of the tree and found it not only perfectly harmless, but delicious and exhilarating, and told her that it was because of its amazing ability to impart wisdom and power that God had prohibited them from tasting, or even touching it, because He knew about its

wonderful qualities. He told her that eating the fruit of the forbidden tree was what gave him the power of speech. He suggested that God would not really carry out His word. It was only an empty threat to intimidate them and keep them from becoming great. He also told them that they could not die because they had eaten of the tree of life which perpetuates immortality. He said that God was deceiving them in an attempt to keep them from more exalted happiness. The tempter plucked the fruit and passed it to Eve. She took it in her hand. Now the tempter said, "You were prohibited from even touching it lest you die." He told her that she would realize no more sense of evil and death in eating than in touching or handling the fruit. Eve was emboldened when she did not feel the immediate signs of God's displeasure. She thought the words of the tempter were wise and correct. She ate and was delighted with the fruit. It seemed delicious to her taste, and she imagined that she realized within herself the wonderful effects of the fruit.

She then plucked for herself of the fruit and ate, and imagined she felt the quickening power of a new and elevated existence as a result of the exhilarating influence of the forbidden fruit. She was in a strange and unnatural excitement as she sought her husband with her hands filled with the forbidden fruit. She related to him the wise words of the serpent and wanted to go with him at once to the tree of knowledge. She told him she had eaten of the fruit, and instead of her feeling any sense of death, she realized a pleasing, exhilarating influence. As soon as

Eve had disobeyed God, she became a powerful medium to bring about the fall of her husband.

As Adam listened to the words of his wife, a sadness came over him. He was afraid and astonished. A struggle was going on in his mind. He told Eve he was quite certain that this was the enemy they had been warned about, and if so, she would have to die. She assured him that she felt no deadly effects, but rather a pleasant influence, and she urged him to eat.

Adam knew that his companion had violated the only prohibition God had given them as a test of their fidelity and love. The serpent had said they would not really die, and Eve reasoned that his words must be true because she felt no signs of God's displeasure, but rather a pleasant influence, as the angels must have felt.

Adam regretted that Eve had left his side, but now the deed was done. He must be separated from the one he loved. How could he lose her? His love for Eve was strong, and in utter discouragement, he decided to share her fate. He reasoned that Eve was a part of him, and if she had to die, then he would die with her. He could not bear the thought of separation from her. In this mindset, he lacked faith in his merciful and benevolent Creator. He did not think that God, who had formed him out of the dust of the ground, into a living, beautiful form, and had created Eve to be his companion, could supply her place in the same way He had in the beginning. In vain hope, he wondered if the words of the serpent could be correct. Eve stood before him just as lovely, beautiful, and apparently as innocent as before the act

of disobedience. She seemed to express greater love for him than before her disobedience as a result of the fruit she had eaten. He could see no signs of death in her. She had told him of the happy influence of the fruit and of her deep love for him, and he decided to brave the consequences. He took the fruit and ate it quickly, and like Eve, felt no initial negative effects.

After Adam's transgression, he at once imagined that he felt himself rising to a new, higher existence, but soon the thought of his transgression terrified him. The air, which had been of a mild and even temperature, seemed to chill them. The guilty pair had a sense of sin. They felt a dread of the future, a sense of emptiness, a nakedness of soul. The sweet love, peace, and happy, contented bliss were gone, and in their place, a desperate feeling of want came over them as they had never experienced before. For the first time, they turned their attention to the external. They had not been clothed, but were covered with light, like the heavenly angels. This light that once covered their nakedness had now gone. To relieve the sense of emptiness and nakedness that they felt, they tried to make a covering for themselves. How could they meet the eye of God and angels unclothed?

Their crime was now before them in its true light. Their transgression of God's express command had become clearer. Adam censured Eve's foolish decision in leaving his side and being deceived by the serpent. Nevertheless, they flattered themselves that God, who had given them everything to make them happy, might excuse their disobedience because of

His great love to them, and that their punishment might not be so bad after all.

Satan exulted in his success. He had now tempted the woman to distrust God, to question His wisdom, and to seek to penetrate His all-wise plans. And through her, he had also caused the overthrow of Adam, who, in consequence of his love for Eve, disobeyed the command of God and fell with her.

As the news of man's fall spread through heaven, every harp was hushed. Angels threw their crowns off their heads in sorrow. All heaven was in agitation. The angels were grieved at the ingratitude of man in return for all God had given them. A council was held to decide what must be done with the guilty pair. Angels feared God would allow them to eat of the tree of life and immortalize the existence of sin in the universe.

The Lord finally prepared to confront Adam and Eve, to explain the consequence of their disobedience. As they heard God's majestic approach, they tried to hide from the presence of the One they delighted to meet with while still in their innocence and holiness. "Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?'" (Gen. 3:9-11). The Lord did not ask this because He wanted information, but for the conviction of the guilty pair. How did you become ashamed and fearful? Adam did not acknowledge his sin because he was sorry for his disobedience, but to

cast blame on God. The words, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate,” were aimed at God as being the fault of his sin. God then addressed the woman, asking, “What is this you have done?” Eve answered, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (Gen. 3:12, 13).

Finally, the Lord addressed the serpent. “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life” (Gen. 3:14). As the serpent had been exalted above the beasts of the field, he would now be degraded beneath them all and be detested by man, since he was the medium through which Satan acted. “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it,’: Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground” (Gen. 3:17-19).

God cursed the ground because of their sin in eating of the tree of knowledge, and declared, “In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.” He had initially given them the good but withheld the evil. Now He said they shall eat of it, that is, they would be acquainted with evil all the days of their lives.

The race from that time forward was to be afflicted by Satan’s temptations. A life of perpetual toil and anxiety was appointed to Adam instead of the happy, cheerful labor he had once enjoyed. Adam

and Eve would now have to face disappointment, grief, pain, and eventually death. They were made of the dust of the earth, and they would one day return to dust.

They were informed that they would have to lose their Eden home. They had yielded to Satan's deception and believed the word of Satan, who convinced them that God would lie. By their transgression, they had opened a way for Satan to gain access to them more easily. It was no longer safe for them to remain in the Garden of Eden in their state of sin for fear they would gain access to the tree of life, and immortalize sin.

They admitted that they had forfeited their rights to stay in Eden, but begged God to let them remain. They promised they would implicitly obey all God's commands in the future, but they were informed that in their fall from innocence to guilt, they had not gained moral strength, but great weakness. They had not preserved their integrity while they were in a state of holy, happy innocence, and they would have far less strength to remain faithful and loyal in a state of conscious guilt. They were filled with the most horrible anguish and remorse as they now realized that the penalty of sin was death.

Angels were immediately commissioned to guard the path to the tree of life. Satan planned to lead Adam and Eve to disobey God, receive His disapproval, and then partake of the tree of life to perpetuate a life of sin, but holy angels were sent to block their way to the tree of life. Around these angels flashed beams of light on every side, which had the appearance of glittering swords.

Chapter 4 — The Plan of Salvation

Sorrow filled all of heaven when the heavenly universe realized that mankind was lost and that the world God created would now be filled with people doomed to misery, sickness, and death, with no way of escape. Jesus then informed the angels that a way of escape had been made for lost man. He told them that He had been pleading with His Father, and had offered to give His life as a ransom to take the sentence of death upon Himself, that through Him man might find pardon; that through the merits of His own death they would have another chance to live forever. Jesus told them that He would stand between the wrath of His Father and guilty man. He said He would take the punishment for sin, but only a few would accept Him as the Son of God. Nearly all would hate and reject Him.

The angels fell on their faces before Him, many even offering their own lives. Jesus informed them that He would save many by His death, but the life of an angel could not pay the debt. Only His life would be accepted by His Father as a ransom for man. Jesus told them they would have a part to act, to help Him, and to strengthen Him. He explained how He would take man's fallen nature, and His strength would not even be equal with theirs; that they would be witnesses of His humiliation; and that, as they would witness His sufferings and the hatred of men toward Him, they would be stirred with the deepest emotion. Through their love for Him, they would want to rescue Him from His murderers, but He told them they must not interfere. He said they would play a

part in His resurrection, that the plan of salvation was already formulated, and that His Father had accepted the plan.

With a holy sadness, Jesus comforted and cheered the angels and informed them that after these things, those whom He would redeem would be with Him. He explained that by His death, He would rescue many and finally destroy him who had the power of death. And His Father would give Him the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, and He would possess it forever and ever. Satan and sinners would be destroyed, nevermore to disturb heaven or the purified new earth. Jesus appealed to the heavenly angels to accept the plan that His Father had devised and to be happy that through His death, fallen man could again obtain favor with God and gain eternal life in heaven.

Upon receiving the news, inexpressible joy filled heaven, and the heavenly host sang a song of praise and adoration. They played their harps and sang a note higher than they had ever sung before, for the great wisdom and mercy of God in giving up Christ to die for a race of rebels. Praise and adoration were poured forth for the self-denial and sacrifice of Jesus, that He would be willing to leave the peaceful presence of His Father, to choose a life of suffering and anguish, and to die an ignominious death, in order to give life to others.

We must be careful not to think the Father allowed Jesus to die for humanity without any struggle. It was a terrible struggle for the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish or to give His beloved Son to die for him. Even the angels were

so interested in man's salvation that some offered to give up their lives for perishing man, but that would have accomplished nothing. The transgression was so great that an angel's life would not pay the debt. Nothing but the death and intercession of His Son would pay the debt and save lost man from hopeless sorrow and misery.

The work of the angels was assigned to them, to ascend and descend from heaven, encouraging, strengthening, ministering to, and soothing the pain of the Son of God in His sufferings. Their work would also include guarding and keeping God's faithful followers from the evil angels, and from the darkness constantly thrown around them by Satan. Because it was impossible for God to alter or change His law to save lost, perishing man, He had to let His beloved Son die for man's transgression.

Satan rejoiced with his angels, that by causing the fall of Adam and Eve he was able to pull the Son of God down from His position in heaven. He told his angels that when Jesus came to take man's fallen nature, he would overpower Him and stop Him from implementing the plan of salvation.

While Satan was once a happy, exalted angel, he had changed dramatically. He still bore a kingly form. His features were still noble, since he was an angel, but the expression on his face was full of anxiety, fear, unhappiness, malice, hatred, mischief, deceit, and every form of evil. He bent himself on evil so long that every good quality was now corrupted, and every evil trait was developed. His eyes were cunning, sly, and showed great concentration. His frame was large, but the flesh

hung loosely around his hands and face, wrinkled by worry and care. As he contemplated what he had done, his chin rested on his left hand. He appeared to be in deep thought. A wicked smile was on his face fierce enough to make men tremble, so full of evil and satanic slyness. This smile is the one he wears just before he makes sure of his victim, and as he fastens the victim in his snare, this smile grows more and more horrible.

In humility and inexpressible sadness, Adam and Eve left the lovely garden where they had been so happy until they disobeyed the command of God. The atmosphere was changed. It was no longer perfect like before the fall. God had to clothe them with coats of skins to protect them from the sense of chilliness, and then of heat, to which they were exposed.

All heaven mourned over the disobedience and fall of Adam and Eve, which brought the wrath of God on the whole human race. They were cut off from communing with God, and plunged into hopeless misery. The law of God could not be changed to meet man's necessity. Given as a divine wall of protection, even the smallest part of God's law could never be set aside or lose its power.

The angels of God were commissioned to visit the fallen pair and inform them that although they could no longer keep their Eden home because of their transgression of the law of God, their case was not completely hopeless. They were then told that the Son of God, who had conversed with them in Eden, had been moved with pity as He viewed their hopeless condition, and had volunteered to take the punishment due to them on Himself. He would die

for them so that they may still live through faith in the atonement Christ offered to make for them. Through Christ, a door of hope was opened that man, in spite of his great sin, would not be under the full control of Satan. Faith in the merits of the Son of God would so elevate man that he could resist the devices of Satan. Probation would be granted him, in which, through a life of repentance and faith in the atonement of the Son of God, he might be redeemed from his transgression of the Father's law and be again elevated to a position where his efforts to keep His law could be accepted.

The angels told the couple of the grief that was felt in heaven when it was announced that they had broken the law of God, which made it expedient for Christ to make the great sacrifice of His own life.

When Adam and Eve realized how high and sacred the law of God was, and realized the horror of the sin that cost such a great sacrifice to rescue them and their offspring from utter ruin, they begged to let them die themselves, or to let them and their offspring endure the punishment of their transgression, instead of letting the beloved Son of God suffer for their sins. The anguish of Adam was increased. He saw that his sins were so great that they involved fearful consequences. Was this the only way? Did heaven's honored Commander, who had walked with him and talked with him while in his holy innocence, whom angels honored and worshiped, have to be brought down from his exalted position to die because of his sin?

Adam was told that an angel's life could not pay the debt. The law of God, the foundation of His

government in heaven and on earth, was as sacred as God Himself. Because of this, the life of an angel could not be accepted by God as a sacrifice for its transgression. God's law is more important in His sight than even the holy angels around His throne. The Father could not abolish or change one precept of His law to meet man in his fallen condition. But the Son of God, who had united with the Father to create man, could make an atonement for man that was acceptable to God, by giving His life as a sacrifice and bearing the wrath of His Father. Angels informed Adam that just as his transgression brought pain, wretchedness, and death, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ would bring life and immortality to light.

Adam was given a vision of the future, from his expulsion from Eden, to the Flood, and onward to the final return of Jesus Christ to earth. God's love for Adam and his offspring would lead the Son of God to take human nature, and through His own humiliation, to elevate all who would believe in Him. While the sacrifice of Christ was of sufficient value to save the whole world, only a few would accept the gift of eternal life offered to them through this amazing sacrifice. Many would not accept the conditions required of them to be partakers of His great salvation, but would prefer a life of sin and transgression of the law of God instead of repentance and obedience, relying by faith upon the merits of the sacrifice offered. Still, for those who accepted it, this sacrifice was of such infinite value as to make a man more precious than gold or the most costly diamonds.

As Adam was carried down into the future, he saw the increase of crime, guilt, and defilement

resulting from man yielding to his naturally strong inclinations to transgress the holy law of God. He was shown the curse of God resting more and more heavily on the human race, on the cattle, and on the earth because of man's continued transgression. He was shown that iniquity and violence would steadily increase, but through all the human pain and misery, there would always be a few who would preserve the knowledge of God, and remain pure and holy in the middle of the growing moral decline and darkness. Adam was made to comprehend what sin is — the transgression of the law. He was shown that moral, mental, and physical degeneracy would result from the transgression of God's law until the world would be filled with human misery of every type as a result.

While people originally lived for hundreds of years, their lives were shortened because of their own transgression. The race became so depreciated that it appeared almost valueless. People were unable to fully appreciate the mystery of the cross, the sacrifice of Christ in dying for them, and the great offer of eternal life, because their carnal mind was so damaged by sin. Still, in spite of human weakness, and enfeebled mental, moral, and physical powers of the human race, Christ, true to the purpose for which He left heaven, continues to pursue His interest in the feeble, depreciated, degenerate specimens of humanity, and invites them to hide their weakness and great deficiencies in Him. If they will come to Him, He will supply all their needs and save them for eternity.

When God first told Adam to make a sacrificial offering for sin, it was a very painful ceremony. He

was told to raise his hand and to take the life of an animal, which God alone could give, to make an offering for sin. This was the first time he had witnessed death. As he looked at the bleeding animal, writhing in the agonies of death, he was called to look forward by faith to the Son of God, whom the victim pointed forward to, who was to die as man's sacrifice.

This sacrificial offering, commanded by God in the Old Testament, was to be a constant reminder to Adam of his guilt, and also a penitential acknowledgment of his sin. This act of taking life gave Adam a deeper and more perfect sense of his transgression, which nothing less than the death of God's dear Son could restore. He was amazed at the infinite goodness and matchless love of a God who would ransom His own life to save guilty humans. As Adam killed the innocent victim, he felt like he was shedding the blood of the Son of God by his own hand. He knew that if he had remained faithful to God and His holy law, there would have been no death of beast or man. Still, in the sacrificial offerings that pointed to the great and perfect sacrifice of God's dear Son, there appeared a star of hope to illuminate the dark and terrible future, and relieve it of its utter hopelessness and ruin.

The following book is adapted and abridged from a larger work by Ellen White. If you liked the following book and would like the rest of the story, pick up the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, by Ellen White.

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