THE ETERNAL QUESTION

Why is there so much Evil and Suffering in the World?

The Bible gives the Answer

By Peter Bluer

Why does God, permit, Pain, Suffering and Death, this is the Chief Objection to the Existence of God.

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One day, while I was listening to the radio in my car, I heard a conversation, about the belief in the existence of God and suffering.

The man being interviewed was asked, if he had any religious belief? He replied that he was a lapsed Catholic, but also claimed, he was still deep down a religious person. The explanation he gave for being a doubter, was that he had asked many people none Catholic and Catholic including priests the questions of why did Jesus, have to die for our Sins, and why is there so much evil and suffering in this World.

He said **nobody**, that he had asked, had ever given him **a satisfactory answer** for **the death and suffering of Jesus Christ**. This man further asked, **why could God not, just forgive our sins**, for those who repent of their transgressions, so making the **death of Jesus Christ** unnecessary.

Many believing Christians ponder these questions themselves.

These are fundamental questions and they need proper answers.

The gentleman also said, that he could not believe that God would punish forever and ever and ever those evil people who committed the most heinous acts against their fellow humans beings. He said that he did accept the concept of punishment for evil-doers, but he still could not believe that God would punish these sinners, forever and ever in Conscious Torment. He recognised that men commit the most grievous crimes against each other, and these crimes could not be left unpunished or else, where is the Justice! He also did not believe that God would sentence to this same Everlasting Conscious Torment those who lived some sort of moral life, but did not accept the gospel message either by ignorance, born in the wrong place or for some other reason.

Do they receive the same fate as mankind's mass murderers?
These questions we all consistently ask, why is there so much suffering, why does God, if God is Almighty, allow evil to prosper?
Mankind has suffered the most indescribable pain in this life, and in the end, death comes to all men and women?.

So the questions remain, why are we here on planet Earth? What is this world all about? That's what everyone want to know.

Christianity holds the answer to these profound questions.

The answer lies in the Sovereignty of God and the Freedom of conscious intelligent creatures. You might ask what do you mean by the Sovereignty of God? I will make it clear what this means, and I will answer the main question about Man's suffering, and why Jesus of Nazareth had to Suffer and Die for our Sins.

It all began, before the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth.

It will become very clear, why God finds mankind so *precious* and why He is prepared to sacrifice on the Cross, His *only begotten Son for their Sins* and why God invites them to share His throne in His Kingdom, and makes some of them, *even the Judges of both Men and Angels.*

First this writer accepts the teaching of the Bible, that God created the Heavens and the Earth, as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

I have written elsewhere why Creation is true and Evolution is false.

I have written elsewhere, with evidence, how we prove, that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, sent to Israel at the time of the Roman Empire. Part of this Evidence is found in the 70 weeks of Daniel's Prophecy.

In this booklet I am solely concerned with the question why there is so much Evil, Pain and Suffering in this world and why the Death of Jesus Christ was a necessary part of history.

The explanation for these questions, will be given in several stages.

<u>The Physical Creation</u> has to be <u>built</u> with <u>Components</u> of <u>Absolute precision</u>.

For life to be possible, then **Nature**, **the Physical Creation** of all living things, is **The Ultimate Most Complicated**, **Programmable**, **Electrical**, **Three Dimensional**, **Microscopic**, **Biochemical Machine** that you can possibly conceive and that this biochemical machine "has to function".

By these words, "has to function", I mean, that if you study a living cell with up to 100,000 interacting proteins, then the components of the cell, the protein molecules, have to obey immutable chemical laws or the consequence is that the cells will die and so we ourselves will die.

Every Hydrogen atom, with its electrically charged particles, **one proton** and **one electron** which in that respect, every Hydrogen is exactly the same as every other, so that **each atom of hydrogen and its isotopes behaves exactly** the same as **every other hydrogen atom.**

Physicists have come recently to realise that the components of the Universe, the protons, neutrons, gravity etc have to be exact, finely tuned with there ratio of 1:10³⁷ as we measure them¹, to enable this existence and life of ours possible.

^{1.} Ratio of Electromagnetic Force to Gravity = $1:10^{40}$ Ratio of Electrons to Protons = $1:10^{37}$

We know that a new born baby, is composed of trillions and trillions of cells, with 10,000,000,000 (ten thousand million) neurons that create the baby's brain. These cells are created from a single fertilized egg, one tenth of a millimetre in diameter. One fifth the size of the full stop at the end of this sentence. Can you believe this?

From this size to a complete Human Being, How is it even possible?

This single cell, contains all the instructions how to build a complete human being and for this to occur, all the molecules must obey the immutable laws of Physics and Chemistry for a child to be created.

If this growth from a single cell to a human being did not happen for us to witness, and if the explanation of how it happens was related to us as a story, we simply could not believe it, and don't tell me we would believe it, because we wouldn't. Now why wouldn't we believe it?

Because it defies anything you could possibly imagine!

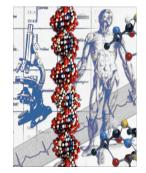
All these trillions and trillions of atoms, and molecules are all doing their pre-program tasks precisely in the right sequence and at the right time.

If the molecules **did not obey** these **immutable chemical Laws**, then life would be **impossible!**

The human genome, is made up of **DNA**, which has four different chemical building blocks. These blocks, abbreviated as **A T C** and **G**, are called bases. In the human genome, there are two sets of *three thousand*

million base nucleotides arranged along the chromosomes in a particular order for each unique individual. To get an idea of the size of the human genome, existing in each of our cells, consider the following analogy.

If the **DNA sequence** of the human genome, was compiled into books, the equivalent of 200 volumes, the size of a telephone book, with 1000 pages each, would be needed to hold all the information. To create a human being, all this biochemistry takes place automatically, without any interference from anyone or anything.



It employs 3D Chemical Programming with Compression, Linear Coding with Recursive procedures. It is Self-reproducing, Self-diagnostic, Self-repairing and has incredible 3D Information Storage and Retrieval methods beyond the wildest dreams of software engineers.

Its **immeasurable organisation** and **unbelievable complexity** is because it was designed by our boundless Creator who created us.

The DNA is just obeying the immutable Laws of nature [God].

What I am trying to get across to the reader, is that for life to exist, these Laws have to be obeyed, by all the particles of the Universe.

There is no choice for any **Hydrogen atom** to **behave differently**, it will **always behave** as a **Hydrogen atom**. You might think all this is rather obvious but it is related to our original question of suffering.

By now, I hope you are convinced that **the Universe** obeys **absolute laws**, **which are immutable—impossible to alter**, and that you have <u>no problem accepting</u> that this is the way **the Universe has "to function**" for life to exist.

Before the Universe was Created.

What the Bible teaches, is that before the beginning, not only did three dimensional space not exist, but also time did not exist. Before the beginning of time and space, we know nothing. All that we know from the Bible is there was a beginning and the proof for that, is that we ourselves, **NOW exist in space and time.** To imagine what was before the beginning, is beyond our mental capacity, just in the same way as asking the question of **where does space begin or end?**

Where space **begins** or **ends**, is *impossible* to answer, but nevertheless we ourselves <u>still exist</u> in the "here and now" of three dimensional space. Just because it is **impossible** to answer this question about Space, does not mean that <u>we do not exist</u> in Space and Time.

It is the same question of what was before our origin, and the same question of those who say, "How does God not have a beginning?" These questions are the ultimate inscrutable Mysteries of the Universe.

What we do know from the Bible, is that God, before He created anything at all, knows the end from the beginning, and God does not have any contingency plans, meaning if **plan A** fails go to **plan B**. The Bible teaches an inscrutable mystery, that all events **are predestined and fore-ordained** by God, **before the Creation of the World,** but **without compromising the freedom of His creatures.**

The Death of Jesus Christ was not just a chance happening.

"Men of Israel, hear these words, Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know, this Jesus, was delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, whom you crucified and killed, by the hands of lawless men." Acts 2:22

"He was <u>destined before the foundation of the world</u> but was made manifest at the end of the times [end of the Jewish age] for your sake." 1 Pet 1:20

By the will of God and for God's own good pleasure, both the Angels and Mankind, were created, so that they would exist forever, in a Universe that "functions". By these words - a Universe that "functions", I mean a Universe that is at peace, and that has billions of creatures, that live together for the mutual benefit of all in the Universal family.

Now this is only possible, if all the intelligent creations freely <u>obey</u> <u>God's immutable Laws of conscious existence</u>, precisely in the same way that <u>inanimate atoms</u> obey the <u>non-conscious immutable Laws of Nature</u> [God].

The question is, how is this possible, because Mankind and the Angels have freedom of their own, to do what they want, unlike the inanimate atoms that have no freedom—the molecules just obey the Laws of nature. **God does not create Robots!** There would be no reason, for this kind of **Robotic existence**, it would be meaningless.

When God designed an inanimate Universe that "functions", then The Creator of all things, (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit), had a Secret Strategy and Purpose to create a Universe that "functions" for existence of intelligent conscious Mankind and the Angels which will never ever fail, and will last for all eternity.

Before I go into the Biblical answer, I would like the reader to consider how the reader might solve the problem.

Let me Re-state what the problem is ?

How could you create a Flawless Universe in which there is total freedom for intelligent creatures to do whatever they want, but nevertheless, there is to be in this existence, perfect harmony and altruistic love so that peace reigns universally.

It is easy to solve with the inanimate creation but **an impossible problem** with **conscious intelligent creatures** who have freedom to choose.

Is it not true that one or more of these **intelligent beings** would challenge the authority of you, the Creator and question whether you had the right, to tell them, how to live and behave?

In other words these beings would have to obey *your laws* of conscious existence. If you think this through, it is impossible to solve! Just look at the world we live in at this very moment. What human beings want is the freedom to do whatever they want, they break the moral Laws so that great wickedness occurs, Evil, Death, Hatred, Adulteries, Fornication, Lies, Bearing False Witness, thousands of Wars and the Worldwide Massacre of Unborn Children.

In **Britain** since 1968 there have been **7 million abortions** and almost **56 million** in the **U.S.A** and these are the so called **Christian countries**. This puts **Britain** and the **U.S.A** nearly **10 times greater than the holocaust of the Nazis.** There is **115,000 abortions** per day world wide.

It is like slaying the whole population of the U.K—63 million in Total.

I cannot believe they have done this and continue to do so !

You might despair with the fact that the human race is inextricably evil and give the answer—why bother to create anything at all?

We will see what the Bible has to say.

Now to recap: the only way possible for any existence without Sin [wrong doing], is for God's intelligent thinking beings, to obey God's Laws of 'conscious existence' willingly and for those created beings to see clearly—

i.e. "believe in their hearts" that this is the only way possible to have A Universe that "functions".

In this **Everlasting Existence** of **Mankind and the Angels** they will believe and love their Creator and trust His Laws and obey them freely with all their hearts and minds. The question also looms, what about our past sins and our continuing wicked corrupt natures.

The apostle Paul says 'Thus it stands written, "There is not one righteous man. There is not one who is really wise, nor one who is a diligent seeker after God. All have turned aside from the right path; they have every one of them become corrupt. There is no one who does what is right--no, not so much as one." "Their throats resemble an opened grave; with their tongues they have been talking deceitfully." "The venom of vipers lies hidden behind their lips."

"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet move swiftly to shed blood. Ruin and misery mark their path; and the way to peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Rom 3.10-18

Now how does God forgive past sins and undo our corrupt natures?

The Bible has the answer to all these questions, and so we will begin at the time **before** the Earth was created.

Genesis chapter one tells us the order of events from the very beginning.

"In (at) the beginning God created [Heb_bara] the heavens and the earth"
The Scripture tells us in the book of Job, that the Angels were created PRIOR to the foundation of the uninhabited Earth.

Then the LORD answered Job [pron. as in load] out of the whirlwind, "Gird up your loins, like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. "Where were you [Job], when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements, surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together,

and all the sons of God, [the Angels] shouted for joy?" Job 38:1-7.

- "By the word of the LORD, the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of His mouth. [His breath, 'and God said']." Psalm 33:6.
- " all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; and he does according to his will in the host of heaven [Angels] and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can say to him, "What doest thou?" Dan 4:35

Included in <u>the Host</u> of the Heavens, are the Angels. First then, we have the Heavens created for the dwelling of Angels, followed by the creation of the Angels, then the Earth is created in an unformed state for the dwelling of mankind, as revealed in Gen 1.2

The earth [after it was created] was² without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving [brooding] over the face of the waters.

From this it is obvious that the **Creation of the Earth** in an un-fashioned and un-inhabited state **was before** the **Six days began as described in Gen 1.1**. Each of the **Six days** of Creation begins with the phrase,

"And God said" and ends with the phrase the "evening and morning of".

On day one the first creative act was the Creation of Light,

And God said, [His Word, his breath] "Let there be light";

and there was light ... and there was evening and morning of day one.

- 1. The idea that Creation was 'Ex Nihilo' (out of nothing) is not true. Ps 33.6 says the heavens were made by or from the breath of his mouth. The being of God and His Glory is the only thing that actually exists. So then by an inscrutable mystery the Universe is out of God (not Pantheism). We know that the material of the Universe is equivalent to energy and cannot be made or destroyed. God is light (energy) and God's Glory is many times referred to as light. So the Universe by some mystery is out of God NOT 'Ex Nihilo'.
- 2. The Hebrew should be rendered 'The Earth became', or 'The Earth had become'. In Hebrew when the subject is placed ahead of the verb, it is a Hebrew device to convert the perfect to the pluperfect. Also it can be done for other reasons such as emphasis. This is hidden to the casual reader in English. See 'Without form and Void' Arthur C Custance 1970 So the verse could be translated 'And the Earth had become without form and void'

An example is in Gen 19:26 is Lot's wife 'and she became a pillar of salt.'

Other scholars except this translation. Martin Anstey, Alfred Edersheim, Dr E B
Pusey Oxford and many others.

Now we do not know the time allocated between the following events.

First the initial Creation of the Heavens and the unformed Earth.

Interval unknown Length

Next the Creation of the Angels. [they live in Heaven]

Interval unknown Length

Then beginning of the Six Days, The Angels witnessed this creation.

The witness of Angels is described in Job 38.1-7 when God prepared the Earth for man's inhabitation.

There are Biblical reasons, why these different events did not occur simultaneously, and this will become clear as we examine more Scriptures.

In the 6 days [Gen 1.3 - 2.4] God made the Heavens [called the expanse], the earth, the seas and all living things.

"And God said, Let there be a expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expane: and it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. [NOT the astronomical Heaven]

And the evening and the morning were the second day." Gen 1:6-8 This scripture was repeated by Moses in Exod 20.11

" for in six days [NOT in the initial creation] the LORD made [Heb_asah¹] the heavens [expanse] and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; and the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it"

The unformed earth was positioned in what we call the solar system created in verse 1 with the rest of the cosmos, this is *not* the heavens—the expanse of Gen 1.6-8.

This Heaven—expanse is what we immediately see as we look up to the sky. It is **the heavens** where the birds fly and the Sun and Moon appear to reside.

The waters above the firmament formed the water vapour canopy that allowed the earth to have tropical atmosphere before the flood. This canopy disappeared at the time of the Noachian flood.

The common sense reason why 'intervals of time' must have elapsed between the Creation of the Angels and the beginning of the six days

1. Hebrew word 'asah' means: appointed or fashioned, it is NOT the Hebrew word 'bara' which means: created which is used in the first verse 'God created' In Hebrew 'bara' and 'asah' are sometimes interchanged in the same sentence exactly as they are in English so that 'asah' can imply created as well as made or fashioned. A Gap, small are large cannot be implied by the use of 'bara' or 'asah'

for preparing the Earth for human habitation, is that, if 6 days of Creation were instantly to follow the Creation of the Angelic beings, then it would make Satan [Lucifer] only 6 days old¹ when Satan deceived Eve.

Lucifer was not created Evil but became evil.

Lucifer did not even know that God would create Adam until the 6th day. So, as I said before, this does not make much sense and we do not even know how long Adam was in the Garden before he disobeyed God.

This is why I suggest time intervals² between the initial Creation of the Heavens, the Angels, the uninhabitable Earth and the commencing of the Six days described in Genesis 1.3 - 2.4.

It is **very important to our discussion to know** that **the Angels** were created **before** men. **Genesis 1** is not about the creation of **the Angels**. As **the Angels** watched **God**, create the foundations of the Earth.

Though they shouted for joy, they were totally unaware of the secret purpose of God of how He was going to create a Universe that "functions."

As the plan unfolded, during the long ages of human history, **the Angels** were like men, **longing to know**, what was to be the outcome of His plan.

The prophets prophesied of the grace, that was to be yours, searched and inquired, about this salvation, ...the good news, by the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven, the things which [even] the angels long to look into. 1 Peter 1:12

The Nature of Angels, as revealed in Scripture.

I need at this point to explain the nature and existence of the Angels.

I do not wish this study, to be reduced, to a Medieval picture, about the Devil and his demons with horns in their heads hovering over us with pitch forks in their hands, ready to devour us!

The New Testament does not contain that type of Study!

This is a Sane examination of the existence of Evil.

We have to understand that there is another existence of beings who inhabit Heaven apart from our own existence on Earth. Now I am sometimes asked the question, if Angels exist, what do Angels do in Heaven?

The fact is we do not know what their life is like, except for what we are told in the Scriptures.

^{1. 6} days plus the time that Adam and Eve were in the garden before they sinned.

^{2.} These Time intervals have nothing to do with the pre-Adamite "Gap Theory"

Let me illustrate the problem of "what they do" with a simple story. Imagine an Angel, newly created In their dimension, and because he was just created, asked the older Angels about the life of humans and their existence on earth.

What would the older Angels tell the young Angel about our daily lives?

They would tell the junior Angel, that humans sleep at night and are unconscious for about 8 hours. When they awake up the next day, these humans eat food for breakfast to give them energy, and after this they go to work on a number 73 bus.

After working all day for money, they come home, eat again, watch TV, talk to other humans, and then go to bed and become unconscious again. The next day, it is all repeated. I imagine that the junior Angel would find I think, this description as most peculiar and unimaginable, from his own existence.

Now I am just kidding with this very short story but I do wonder if they sleep? The point of this story, is whatever Angels do, I suspect that it would be very strange indeed, compared to our life on Earth. So from our view of their existence, **who knows** what they do each day, if of course they have days?

What we need to do is to examine the Bible to find out exactly what is the nature of Angels compared to man. The Bible teaches that there are *two groups of Angels*, the Holy Angels and the Fallen Angels.

"And war broke out in Heaven, Michael and his angels engaging in battle with the Dragon. The Dragon fought and so did his angels; but they were defeated, and there was no longer any room found for them in Heaven." Rev 12.7.8

There are two Holy Angels mention by name in the scripture.

There is **Gabriel** who stands in **the presence of God** and the [chief] **Archangel Michael**.

Michael¹ is the Special Angel who is the guardian of the people of Israel. He is called "The Angel of the LORD"

The Angel Gabriel was the angel who delivered, the Prophecy of the "70 weeks" to Daniel. This prophecy gives the exact time for the appearance of The Messiah—Jesus Christ.

Gabriel is also the same angel that appeared to **Mary** to tell her that she is to give birth to **Jesus**, **The Messiah**, **the Saviour of Israel**.

^{1.} See my Booklet 'The True Identity of Michael the Archangel'

There are two other classes of spiritual beings called **Cherubim and Seraphim.**

They are mentioned in the books of **Genesis**, **Isaiah and Ezekiel**. When Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden, God placed **the Cherubim** at the entrance to **Eden** to prevent anyone again from entering the Garden.

"He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." Gen 3.24

The Garden of Eden was eventually destroyed in the world flood of Noah.

The Cherubim and Seraphim seemed to be distinguished from the other angels. **The Seraphim** appear in the book of Isaiah. They surround and are above the throne of God. Their names mean "**fiery Ones**".

They are spoken of in Heb 1.6,7

And again, when he brings the first-born [Jesus] into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "Who makes his angels winds [spirits], and his servants flames of fire [Seraphim]."

When the Creation of intelligent beings takes place, the only way we can have a perfect **Universe that "functions"**, is that all these free intelligent creatures, must obey the Law of God, because they freely want to.

It seems quite easy for us to accept without question the physical laws of God that operate the Universe, and we also accept, that these laws have to be obeyed for life to exist.

But now when it comes to the God's Spiritual, moral laws, we are rebellious and do not want to obey these Laws of conscious existence.

The reason is, we are driven by our attitude, that we are wiser than God who created us and we just want to do, what we want to do no matter what the consequences are! There is something, very illogical and incongruous with the way the corrupt human mind thinks.

As regards the spiritual laws of conscious existence, the first most important spiritual Law that Jesus emphasised is,

And Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Now what about the number of Angels ?

It has been estimated, that there have been 40 thousand million people who have lived on this earth, since Adam was created.

Jesus said He could call on **12 legions of Angels**. A legion can consist of **6000** Roman Soldiers. This gives **72,000** angels. Matt 26.52,53

Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

The Prophet Daniel tells us, "As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his seat; his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. Dan 7.9,10

Also in the book of Revelation tells us in chapter 5:11,

"Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,"

One Myriad is equal to 10,000, so a Myriads of Myriads, is minimum of 100 million. Conclusion, there are an innumerable number of Angels?

Angels do not marry, procreate and produce offspring.

Jesus in an argument with the **Sadducees**¹ about the resurrection of the dead, revealed to them, that when men and women are brought back to life in the resurrection, they are like the Holy Angels, who do not marry.

...Jesus said to the Pharisees, "...you know neither the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they [mankind], neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as angels in heaven" Matt 22.29.30

The promise is that, we shall become immortal as Angels are immortal.

"The men of this age," replied Jesus, "marry, and the women are given in marriage. But as for those who shall have been deemed worthy to find a place in that other age and in the Resurrection from among the dead, the men do not marry, and the women are not given in marriage.

^{1.} The sect of the Sadducees did not believe in Spirits, Angels or the Resurrection of the dead.

For indeed they <u>cannot die again</u>, they are like <u>angels</u>, and are sons of God through being sons of the Resurrection. Luke 20.34-36

The Angel Gabriel gave Daniel the '70 weeks Prophecy' in the sixth century BC and the same Angel Gabriel came five and a half centuries later to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to announced His birth.

Mankind suffers pain and death with a limited life span, but there is no record that **Angels have ever suffered death.**

The lives of Angels span thousands of years, but we are told by **Jesus Himself** that **the Fallen Angels** eventually will be punished for their sins.

"Then will He say to those at His left, 'Begone from me, with the curse resting upon you, into the Fire of the Ages, which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels." Matt 25.41 The meaning of this scripture is explained later.

Humans while they are flesh and blood cannot see God, lest they will die, but there are Angels who always see the face of God.

Moses said, "I pray thee, show me thy glory. ... But," He said, "you cannot see my face; for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand upon the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen." Exod 33.18-20

Jesus said, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven, their angels, always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" Matt 18.10

In Scripture Angels are called Spirits because they are not made of flesh and blood.

But to which of the angels, did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?" Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister, for those who shall be heirs of salvation? Heb 1.13,14

We must dismiss the popular notion or belief that the Holy Angels are the Spirits of dead Children or People who once lived on Earth.

When human's die the Bible teaches they are asleep until the time for the resurrection. This idea that dead people, are changed into Angels after death, is not taught in the Bible.

Just as Men and Nations, fight wars with one another, be not surprised, so do the Angels engage in wars.

When the **Angel Gabriel** was sent by God to Daniel, to give the Vision about the future of Israel during the Persian and Greek Empires, the **Angel Gabriel** was in combat for three weeks with another **Spirit Ruler**.

Then he [Gabriel] said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

The [Angelic] ruler of the kingdom of Persia fought me twenty-one days; but Michael [Chief Archangel], the head of the chief rulers, came to help me, so I left him there with the ruler of the kingdom of Persia and came to make you understand what is to befall your people [Jews] in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." Dan 10.10-14

After giving Daniel the Vision, **Gabriel** said, in verses 20 – 21,

"...But now I will return to <u>fight</u> against <u>The</u> [Angelic] <u>Ruler of Persia</u>, and when I am through with him, lo, <u>The</u> [Spirit] <u>Ruler of Greece</u> will come. But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth, there is none who <u>contends</u> by <u>my side</u> against these [Fallen Angelic Rulers] except <u>Michael</u>, your Ruler.

The Chief enemy of God is Lucifer—Satan, the intelligent and powerful being that was created. The Bible says he was perfect in beauty, full of wisdom, and blameless until unrighteousness was found in him. Ezek 28.

This magnificent creature wanted to be worshipped as God.

The Gospels of Matthew (24), Mark (13), Luke (21) and the book of Revelation (12) all tell us that **the Kingdom of God** was **opened in Heaven in AD 70 when Jerusalem was desolated by the Romans.**

"But when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that her desolation is at hand. Then let them that are in Judea flee unto the mountains; and let them that are in the midst of her depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter the city" For these are days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled [In Daniel 9.27, Deut 28.].

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled...Even so you also, when you see these things [desolating of Jerusalem] coming to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh. Truly I say unto you, This generation [those then living] shall not pass away, till all things be accomplished. Luke 21.21

Previously before the birth of the Messiah this Chief enemy of God, Satan, was thrown out of Heaven. Revelation chapter 12 says:

"Now <u>WAR</u> arose in heaven, Michael and His angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven,

Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of His Christ have come
Prior to this War in Heaven, Satan was able
to go between Heaven and Earth.

The book of Job 1.6,7 relates that in Old Testament times before the coming of the Messiah, that there was access by Satan to both the realm of the Heavens and to the realm of the Earth.

Now there was a day when the sons of God, [the Angels] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD,

"From going, to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

The Holy Angels can act as God's deliverers or God's executioners.

"when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His <u>mighty angels in</u> <u>flaming fire, inflicting vengeance</u> upon those who do not [choose not to] know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 1 Thess 1.7.8

When the Angels are acting as God's executioners, they do not **Sin**, because they are **obeying the will of God**.

"And that night the angel of the LORD went forth, and slew a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; and when the men arose early in the morning lo, there were all dead bodies." 2 Kings 19.35

There are in **the Bible** about **350 scriptures** that give the descriptions and exploits of **the Angels of God**. By studying the texts you can come to a greater understanding of what their part is, in the Salvation of Mankind.

Let us now return to our main theme how to produce a perfect Universe.

God knows, that the Physical Universe by obedience to His Physical Laws of Nature make **this life possible**, and so, in the same manner the conscious created beings by obedience to His Spiritual Laws, will produce the perfection that He wants, that is without any transgressions. This will guarantee that **Sin**, **disobedience** will **never ever** occur in the future, to ruin His Creation. I can already hear some readers saying.

"Why should we obey God, why cannot we decide what is right and wrong?"

Men and women act like God's Teenagers! [apologies not all teenagers]

It is precisely because we have the freedom to choose our own way, that this freedom will inevitably produce evil, death and suffering. This is the reason for God to have a secret plan before the beginning of the Universe.

Without His plan a perfect existence is not possible and that was the original question which we started with.

God knows that absolute obedience from a willing heart is the only way for a perfect existence. It can be likened to the law of gravity, which we know has to exist, or else this human existence is not possible and under certain circumstances if we disobey it, we will suffer and die. We know that if we break certain physical laws we will die immediately so we protect ourselves.

If we had the power to alter the Laws of nature and if we did alter them, I suggest (know) that the Universe would end up in destruction.

This is because we do not have the intelligence or the knowledge, of how all the billions of processes, which interact with each other, that make the Universe work.

As I write I have just heard that scientists wish to mix human DNA with animal DNA. *Is there no line that humans will not cross?*

Disobedience to God, is by definition, a transgression of the Law of God. The consequences of breaking His Law is death. It is given in Ezek 18.4,

"Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine, the soul that sins it shall die...

Or as the Apostle says, in Romans chapter 5 verse 12,

Therefore, as Sin came into the world through one man, and death through Sin, and so death, spread to all men, because all men have sinned.

These Laws of God are **unconditional** and they cannot be broken, without **dire consequences**.

To break them is **totally incompatible with perfection of existence.** Just look at the world around us, for absolute proof of this.

I can feel the rebellion from the reader to the above statements.

We simply do not want to obey the LORD Above.

I will repeat again that we have **no difficultly** in accepting and believing the Laws of God in Nature, so why do we **rebel against His spiritual Laws of 'conscious intelligent existence.'**

We have this <u>insane belief</u> that man must have complete freedom to do what he wants, no matter what the consequences, but this is impossible in a **Universe that "functions"**.

The whole history of man's inhumanity to man and the evil and suffering, proves that disobeying God's Laws has **unthinkable consequences**.

Before I go back to the original questions that were asked, I hope I have set the scene about the existence of Angels as taught in the Bible, and you already know the history of mankind with all its evil, pain, death and suffering.

To summarize, the Physical Universe that "functions", always obeys immutable Laws of nature, and for the existence of creatures in perfection, they too have to obey, what I would call the spiritual Laws of 'conscious existence' given by the LORD God.

The Secret Purpose of God.

Let us go back to before the beginning of time in what I would call eternity, when God decreed to bring into existence intelligent forms of life whether Men or Angels. Remember God knows everything and He does not have any contingency plans, that is, if plan **A fails we go to plan B.**

God knows that for His Universe to be perfect, His Laws must be obeyed and **He absolutely knows** that eventually at some point, after intelligent creatures came into existence, that **one or more of these created beings will challenge His sovereignty** and will rebel against Him.

One of these created beings will inevitably say, (and Lucifer did so)

"Why cannot I do what I want to?

God says, because He created me, He has the right to tell me what to do. Where's the freedom in that ?".

God knows others will follow this way of reasoning and this is **exactly** as **we humans behave** in our daily lives.

It is the nature of conscious existence, that we will think freely and will wonder about who is this God who created us and what is His nature?

We cannot read the mind of God, therefore all that we can know about God, is what He teaches us, or what we can see in the design of the Physical Creation and what we have seen Him do in history.

We know from the design of the DNA in the living cell that it shows "<u>nigh</u> on infinite intelligence" in its construction and I like to call this intelligence "frightening". This is the Almighty's work.

Jesus Christ tells us "All things have been delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither knows any man the Father, except the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." Matt 11:27

This freedom of thought is not imperfection but the nature of conscious intelligent creatures.

God also knows in advance, in His infinite wisdom, what created beings, do not know in advance, about the consequences of disobedience to His Laws of conscious existence, and how this disobedience, eventually, inexorably, will produce suffering on an unimaginable scale.

Let us learn from the Scriptures the truth of how God is to create,

The Perfect Universe that "functions"

In God's Secret plan, the first thing God did was to entered His Own Finite Creation as the Archangel Michael¹. This explained in Prov 8.22 Michael is the only Archangel known to Holy writ.

The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.

The next Creation was the Angelic forms of intelligent life created, by the Word Of God (Christ). This occurred when He created the Heavens and then its inhabitants.

There are several visions of these inhabitants of the heavenly places given in the Bible and I will quote one from the book of Revelation. The apostle John sees In one particular vision in Chapter 4, where it says,

After this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door... I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne,... and around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty four elders, clad in white garments, with golden crowns upon their heads, and the twenty-four elders fall down before him, who is seated on the throne, and worship Him who lives for ever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the

^{1.} See my booklet "The True Identity of the Archangel Michael"

throne, singing, "Worthy art thou, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created."

These inhabitants of Heaven, the 24 elders and the Angels, do not require faith to believe that God exists because they all live in Heaven with God.

You believe that God is one, and you are quite right, evil spirits also believe this, and shudder." James 2.19

What the Angels have to believe, is that God is absolutely truthful, and they have to trust him as we humans who believe—trust God. They need to accept without any reservation that He is the total righteous ruler of the Universe. But this was not to be, because of the freedom that God gives to His intelligent creation.

In the due process of time, amongst the Angels, the rebellion of Satan, who the Bible calls Lucifer eventually took place. This rebellion, by an intelligent being(s) against the sovereignty of the Almighty God, was exactly as God, in His omniscience had foreseen.

Now God could have destroyed **Lucifer** immediately, with all the other **rebellious Angels** who followed **Lucifer**.

The dictators Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot, all murdered their opposition.

The annihilation of Lucifer and his Angels would of course make the other Holy Angels begin to wonder if Lucifer was right after all.

They would begin to wonder whether God really tells the truth.

Therefore this solution of annihilation of all opposition is no solution at all. It would be based on fear not the greatest gift of all, love. God intends all created beings to trust and believe Him because He always tells the truth.

When Lucifer rebelled against God, Adam had not yet been created.

I hope the reader can now begin to perceive, that the whole basis of a Universe that "functions", depends on the condition of who you believe.

This Question of "Belief" is essential to Perfect Existence.

By belief in God, I mean to put **the absolute trust** in Him as the Author of our lives, because the Lord God knows exactly what we need. Our belief in Him **must be complete**, so that we trust Him with all our hearts, our minds, and our very existence, forever and ever.

The entire opposite of this, is the attitude and thought processes of Lucifer, as depicted in Isaiah 14:

"How have you fallen from heaven, O Day Star, [Latin Lucifer], son of Dawn. ... You said in your heart,

'I will ascend to heaven, above the stars of God, I will set my throne on high. ...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, <u>I will make myself like the Most High.</u>'

Again we have Satan's mind set, alluded too, in Ezekiel chapter 28,

Because your heart is lifted up, and you have said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods... So says the Lord Jehovah... You were full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, the topaz, the emerald, and gold, ... In the day you were created, they were prepared. You were with the anointed cherub that covers [defends], and I had put you in the holy heights of God, where you were.

You walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, until iniquity was found in you... and you sinned. So I cast you defiled from the height of God, ...from among the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.

The Bible tells us it is **impossible for God to lie** (Heb 6.18) because this is the very nature and character of **God**. When **God as the Creator of all things** is **praised**, **obeyed**, **magnified and worshipped**, then because of His intrinsic nature, **He does not suffer from pride and conceit**.

HE IS the way HE IS. Or as He said to Moses

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: " Exod 3.14

He does not change and there is no variation in His Nature.

"Every gift which is good, is from above, and comes down from the Father, who is the source of all Light.

In Him there is no variation nor the slightest suggestion of change." Jas 1.17

Now with created beings their nature is different. They are subject to learning and change as they grow in experience. When they are praised, obeyed, magnified and worshipped they will suffer from pride become conceited and corrupt because they are not God.

We see this, time and time again, when the Stars of the entertainment world are adored and worshipped by thousands of their fans, and how the adoration changes their personalities and they start to believe and act as if they are like gods. They forget that all their talents, beauty, intelligence, and strength are all given by Almighty God.

This is the precise Nature of created beings because they are <u>capable</u> of <u>change</u>. This is exactly what happened to <u>Lucifer</u>, because he was beautiful, powerful and full of wisdom he wanted to be like the Most High.

Because he was *a created being*, the inevitable happened, he became conceited, corrupt and evil. We see this in the saving

"Power corrupts and absolute Power corrupts absolutely".

Our World is filled with rulers that have proved time and time again the truth of this statement.

As we examine the history of the world, and as the plan of God unfolds, you will see it is the most incredible plan which you **could never** have imagined. It contains *a Special Secret* that was kept hidden until **Jesus Christ** came into the world. It was hidden in **the Old Testament**, but **it was only** revealed in *its full Glory in the New Testament*.

Satan could *never*, *never* have conceived what God was going to do!

This Secret what was it? We shall see.

This Chief Enemy of God, is the Angel who we now know as the Adversary, he is called in Scripture, **Satan**, **the Devil**, **the Serpent or the Dragon**. It is suggested by Rev 12.4,9, that the followers of **Satan**, is about a **third of all the Angels**.

"The Dragon's tail, swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman, who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child, when she brought it forth, ...And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

Jesus Christ tells us, He was an eye witness, to the original rebellion and the fall of Satan and Jesus previously as Michael the Archangel defeated Satan and cast him out of Heaven.

The seventy [disciples] returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And He said to them,

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10.17

The question in Heaven is this, who do the Angels trust, God the Creator or Satan the adversary. Who is telling the Truth?

The next step of God's plan, was the fore-ordained Creation of Adam and Eve, and then the rest of Mankind. Mankind, is going to be the means, by which God establishes His Sovereignty and shows that <u>He speaks the truth</u>, and proves forever to all the Creation that Satan is the Liar.

Remember no created being knows what this plan is. Satan himself did not have a clue!

When God created the Earth, and prepared it for our inhabitation, the Bible tells us that the Holy Angels shouted for Joy as they watched the creative Hand of God. **This is told to us by God Himself**,

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, ...Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements, surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God [the Angels] shouted for joy? Job 38.4

The Scriptures tell us, that when man was created he was created, as a **lower** creature than the Angels. Heb 2.9

"we see Jesus, [as Man], who for a little while was made lower than the angels"

After THE LORD GOD gave Adam, the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. but

Satan appeared immediately in the Garden ready to ambush

the New Creation, in the disguise of the Serpent, in order to deceive Eve.

It is intriguing that if this incident were **not true**, and as such it was written into the Genesis narrative, then it would have had **no meaning at all** in the early stage of the history of religion. It only makes sense as the redemption unfolds in the subsequent history of mankind.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God [really] say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;

but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, <u>lest you die</u>.'''

But the serpent [The Liar] said to the woman, "You will not die.

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The fruit on the tree is not important, it is who you believe.

Satan the Liar challenged God's Sovereignty [truthfulness].

Again it is the same challenge, who do you trust God or Satan?

Satan knows, that if Adam disobeys God, then the Man will have to die according to God's Law.

"The soul that sins it shall die."

Satan now demands the death penalty for Adam and Eve according to God's express command. God has to execute His punishment so as to show to the Angelic onlookers that He is not a liar. Now Satan displays this Sin of Adam and Eve before the Angels to prove that God cannot create a man or woman to be obedient to God, making God's Creation flawed. Remember when Adam and Eve had Sinned, it was only Eve that Satan deceived. She believed Satan instead of The LORD GOD.

When Adam obeyed his wife and disobeyed God, Satan thought he had outwitted God. The issue is who should we listen to, God or Satan, Christians or the Atheists. When Adam broke God's Command, Satan thought he had triumph over God and established his own credibility among the Heavenly Host. What Satan was not aware of, is that by causing *Men and Women to Sin* it is all part of the fore-ordained plan of God. God because of His infinite wisdom outwits Satan at every turn in the History of our world.

This plan is going to take thousands of years, to come to fruition.

Adam then suffered the penalty, for sinful disobedience, by his eventual Death. Also **the Physical Creation** [Gen 3:17-19] **was cursed** immediately, [all things bad including viruses] and what would follow from this is **Sin, Death, Murder, Jealously and all the Evil** that would come into the world because of this breaking of **God's Laws of 'conscious existence.'** All the suffering in the world that you see, is because of this original attack on **the sovereignty of Almighty God** and the breaking of His perfect Laws for '**conscious existence.**'

Now God gave a prophecy, to counteract this apparent triumph of Satan.

"I [God] will put enmity, between you [Satan], and the woman [Eve], and between your seed [The Liars, opposers of God], and her seed [Mankind, Eventually the Messiah], He [Messiah], shall bruise your head [Fatally], and you [Satan], shall bruise His heel [At the Crucifixion]." Gen 3.15

This Prophecy at that time, was a complete mystery to the future generations, and especially **Lucifer**. *A very strange Prophecy!*

It is only as history unfolded, did even we began to understand its full meaning. **Satan** continued to deceive men and women by what ever means he can.

The greatest deception in the history of Mankind is to say that God did NOT create the Universe, namely Darwinism—Evolution and Evolutionary—Cosmology

Satan is fighting for his sovereignty, against God's Sovereignty.

This is a real battle of good against evil,

not just some religious mythical story told to entertain us.

God could have allowed Adam to die with no offspring, thus the end of the Human race, but this is not the plan. Now God allows Adam, to produce future generations of men and women, and among them, there appears some who believe in God, and obey Him willingly. They believe and trust God even though they do not see God, unlike those who live in Heaven who behold Him. The whole of the Bible, is the History of those who believe and trust in God and the man Abraham is a prime example of a man of faith.

I need to explain at this point, the difference between **the Revealed will of God, and His Secret will.** The story of Abraham will establish my point. When God physically appeared and spoke to Abraham, God promised Abraham a Son who was to be called Isaac.

Later on God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only Son Isaac, even though he was born according to God's promise. Abraham was ready to obey the Lord but was under very great distress, as he took Isaac to the mountain and raised the knife to slay him. Gen 22.9-12 tells us what happened.

The revealed will of God was that Isaac was to be slain.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the Angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham. And he said, Here I am. And He said, Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him. For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from ME [God - the Angel of the Lord]

But now, the secret will of God was finally revealed.

The killing of Isaac was never to happen, even though, the revealed will of God, was for Abraham to slay Isaac, for Abraham believed that Isaac could be raised from the dead Heb 11.19.

Unlike Satan, Abraham had trusted and believed God's words.

The book of Genesis chapter 15, says because of his trust in God, then God considered Abraham's trust in **Himself to be given as Righteousness to Abraham.** [Abraham is declared as if he was a **righteous person** because of his faith and trust in God]

Our duty is to always obey the revealed will of God.

And the Lord brought Abraham outside and said,

"Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

And he believed the LORD, and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

If we turn to the book of Job in Chapter 1 & 2, we have an encapsulation of this battle between Good and Evil, **Belief and Unbelief.**

Let us, read the account in full. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east....

Now there was a day when the sons of God [the Angels], came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from"

Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [this was before Michael threw Satan out of Heaven]

And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?

Have you not put a protection about him, and his house, and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself, do not put forth your hand." [This only by God's permission]

So Satan went forth, from the presence of the LORD. Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job, and said,

"The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said,

"The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house;

and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped. And he said,

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

'In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong'

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came among them to present himself before the LORD.

And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From going, to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause."

Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to your face."

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life." [Again only by God's permission]

So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores, from the sole of his foot, to the crown of his head. And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

'In all this Job did not sin with his lips.'

Job and these persons who died: the children of Job, were totally unaware that they were being used by **Satan** in this battle of belief and unbelief. Because of this, **mankind**, **suffers pain and death**, it has become clear the battle ground for **the sovereignty of God**, is being fought here on Earth. God has willed it this way, **to prove** for **all eternity**, that **He speaks the Truth and that Lucifer is the Liar**.

Mankind does not have the benefit of seeing the LORD in Heaven, as the Angels behold God, therefore we humans need to believe in His existence and have faith in the promises.

These heavenly beings do not need faith as we need faith to believe.

The question is who do we believe? Satan is a mighty angelic creature and we are so weak compared to him and yet unlike Satan we believe and trust God.

This makes Lucifer insane with rage.

It is man's <u>faith, trust and belief</u> in The LORD that establishes <u>God's Sovereignty</u> even though we suffer p<u>ain and death</u>.

This now explains why God loves mankind with such passion, and why He gave His **only Son to die for our sins**, and why He exalts us to the highest station, where we who believe and trust Him shall share His life with His Son. We show that God is <u>Truth</u> and Satan is a <u>Liar</u>.

Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"

"Thomas, one of the twelve--surnamed 'the Twin' --was not among them when Jesus came. So the rest of the disciples told him, "We have seen the Master!" His reply was,....

"Unless I see in his hands the wound made by the nails and put my finger into the wound, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe it."

A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them, when Jesus came-though the doors were locked--and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be to you."

Then He said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and feel my hands; bring you hand and put it into my side; and do not be ready to disbelieve but to believe." replied Thomas,

"The Lord of me and the God of me!"

"Because you have seen me," replied Jesus, "you have believed.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

There were also a great number of other signs which Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

But these have been recorded in order that you <u>may believe</u> that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, <u>through believing</u>, you may have Life through His name.

Another example of belief without seeing is the declaration of the thief crucified with Jesus.

And one of the malefactors that were hanged railed on him, saying, Art not thou the Christ? save thyself and us. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, Dost thou not even fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds [he repented]: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said, Jesus, remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom. And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee today,

"thou shalt be with me in Paradise"

Because the thief *believed* in the Son of God and repented of his sins, then all his sins were immediately cancelled. To *believe* and trust God is the essence of Christianity.

To deny this sacrifice of the Son of God is to remain in your sins.

Before Christ came to Earth, Satan knew that according to the Divine Law as sinners we must all die. **Satan goes before God and accuses us of being transgressors of God's Law**, and demands that we suffer death as the punishment because of this Law of God. Satan says to God,

"the soul that sinneth it shall die"

Satan uses the Divine Law against us.

Satan was totally unaware, of what God planned to do before the Universe was created, that is, to bring about **a Universe that** "**functions**", in perfect harmony with everyone living with Him forever and ever—never to die.

The Law of God, the Torah, tells us that Sins, must be punished by the death of the offender, the Sinners life, his blood has to be shed as the payment for their Sins.

This is a real immutable Universal Law of 'conscious existence', just the same as gravity is a real immutable Law of the Physical Universe.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you upon the altar, to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood, that makes atonement, by reason of the life." Lev 17:11.

Even though God's Law, condemns to death the sinner, God has provided through His Son, the Life—the blood, that pays for our Sins. His death on the Cross.

This was prophesied in Old Testament Book of Isaiah chapter 53.1-12,

My servant shall be exalted; He was rejected by men;
a man of sorrows; acquainted with grief.
He was despised, we esteemed Him not.

He has borne our sorrows;

we esteemed <u>Him</u> stricken, smitten by God.

He was pierced for our transgressions,

bruised for our iniquities;

upon <u>Him</u> was the chastisement that made us whole and with His wounds we are healed.

We like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned everyone to his own way;
the LORD laid on <u>Him</u> the iniquity of us all.

<u>He</u> was oppressed, afflicted,
yet <u>He</u> opened not <u>His</u> mouth;
like <u>a lamb</u> that is led to the slaughter,
before its shearers is dumb.

The prophecy goes on to describe the redeemer's death and how this is the ultimate sacrifice for Sin so that others will be declared righteous by His suffering on their behalf.

He was taken, He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made His grave with the wicked, with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.

Yet it was the will of The LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief; when He makes Himself an offering for Sin, by His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; He shall bear their iniquities.

He poured out His soul to death,

He poured out <u>His</u> soul to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet <u>He</u> bore the Sin of many."

This Scripture, was given **2700 years ago** by **Isaiah** that is **700 years**<u>before</u> the coming of **Jesus Christ.**

It looks like an account of the Crucifixion written after it happened, but it is pure prophecy, history written in advance. Here we see the answer to our original question, of why Jesus Christ had to suffer and die.

He paid the penalty for our Sins by substitution according to God's immutable Law, or else there is no redemption. By substitution means that our Sins are put upon Jesus and He takes the punishment meant for us satisfying the Law of God — then by substitution, His perfect righteousness is given to us and so the Law of God finds us innocent.

Satan has no case against us. If Jesus does not pay the penalty for our sins we would die in our Sins.

The real hidden truth which Satan never knew, was that *Divine Justice* was to be satisfied by the Death of Jesus Christ, and so that perfect justice would be served. Anyone who disobeys God, breaks the divine law, and justice has to be executed by the supreme court of the Universe.

Sinners must pay the ultimate price of death. The Law condemns to death, but God provides the Ransom for Sin with No corruption of the perfect Law of God.

The Physical Creation demands perfect immutable Laws or else we would not exist, and so it is the same with the perfect Laws of conscious existence. Remember the Heavenly beings the Angels, good or bad and the Arch Enemy Satan—Lucifer are the witnesses of this,

The Invincible Plan created before the Beginning of Time.

Now I will tell you what Satan, all the Angels and Mankind never conceived, what The Secret was that God was going to reveal. The Holy one of God, the sacrificial lamb of God was called The Son of God.~~

The mystery that was kept Secret, is that The Son of God,
Is in fact THE LORD GOD HIMSELF, who paid the price as the Son.
This Secret is called the Deity of The Lord Jesus Christ.

This is expressed by the Apostle John in John 1.1,14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into existence through Him, and apart from Him nothing that exists, came into existence... and the Word [God] became flesh and dwelt amongst us"

I have written elsewhere, proving from the Scriptures, that this is the fundamental teaching of Christianity. Without it, Christianity fails.

If Christ be not God it means that God used someone else, a created being, to die for our sins. Lucifer would then have accused God of passing the horrific task to someone else. The Truth is that it was The LORD GOD our Creator that paid the ultimate price for our Sin.

Satan is totally defeated by this Truth. It is God Himself, in the Person of the Son Jesus Christ that is prepared to suffer human death and pain, so that we can inherit eternal life with Him.

Satan never ever imagined, what Almighty God would do for us!

The ability of humans to suffer, [Jesus was truly human] is part of the plan of God but to us this seems inconceivable but it is the proof that God has took part in our pain suffering. You cannot accuse God of indifference to this pain and suffering.

"...explaining and <u>proving</u> that it was necessary for <u>the Christ to suffer</u> and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." Acts 17.3

When **Satan** tried to thwart **Jesus** in the temptation, he had no idea who it was he was dealing with. **Satan** did not know it was **his old enemy MICHAEL** the **Archangel** who was previously known as the **ANGEL** of the **LORD**—who was a manifestation of the **LORD** GOD HIMSELF.

Satan and his Angels did not know the true identity of Michael who became Our Lord because Satan was thrown out of Heaven by Michael before the Incarnation.

The fallen angels who followed Satan, believed that Satan was right in his challenge to God, but now know he is Totally Vanquished by the Death of Christ and Satan was the liar.

Absolutely—completely defeated by this Invincible Plan.

Now to remind you why Lucifer has the Power of Death over Mankind.

It is because we are all found **guilty of sin** and we all break **God's Laws** and so **Satan** demands that **God** condemns us **to death** according to **God's own immutable Law.**

"the soul that sins it shall die" Ezek 18.4

Christ's death which redeems us, means that Satan no longer has the power to invoke this law of death upon Mankind.

Now here's Paradox. Lucifer brought about the death of Jesus and thus fulfilling the plan of God.

After the resurrection when all became clear to men and angels and especially **Lucifer**, then **Lucifer** became insanely angry himself as he now knew his time was short.

"And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet". Rom 16.20,

So be glad, heavens, and those who live in them! How terrible it is for the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that his time is short!" Rev 12.12 (AD 70)

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has

the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. Heb 2.14

All we have to do for us to be saved from our sins
[not saved from the popular notion of Hell fire, which is untrue]
 is to believe and trust in God.

The Jewish listeners, asked Jesus, **what work**, must we do, to be doing **the work of God.** What did Jesus say to them?

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him, whom He has sent," John 6.28,29.

If you do not believe, trust and accept this sacrifice of the Son of God, then you will have to pay, the penalty for your own Sins, according to God's immutable Law.

I told you, that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins, unless you believe that I am He," John 8.24

The reason we have "belief" in God, is because we see manifested

- (1) the design intelligence in Creation
- (2) the Existence of Israel
- (3) the Prophecies about Jesus Christ and His appearance as The Messiah and most of all
- (4) His death on the Cross to die for our sins.

We believe in Him whom we cannot see, and we have established before **the heavenly host** that we totally trust in **Almighty God**. In spite of our suffering and our eventual death, we believe by faith what God did for us and how He has given us **Eternal life with Him**.

This has established God's sovereignty for all time.

If God was prepared and did so in History, to suffer the pain of this life and taste death for everyone, who can possibly be against us.

The Heavenly Host, including **Satan** and his **Angels**, also witnessed this **astonishing love of God** for all His creatures, whether in Heaven or Earth. **All the Angels** have **witnessed those events on earth** of men and women who having faith in the unseen God, **have not loved their lives even in the face of death**.

Christianity was established in circumstances that were the most appalling man has ever witnessed. **The Antichrist, the Roman Emperor, Nero**, (name in Hebrew is **666**) crucified thousands and thousands, of Christians in the first century because **Nero** declared himself **as God** and no Christian would worship him.

Christianity was established by the sacrifice of Blood, by Jesus Christ's Death, and the thousands of Deaths of the early Christians!

The apostle Paul says "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the assembly [of believers]" Col 1:24

We, by our suffering and our pain, and our continuing to believe by faith, that we trust God, show that Satan is the Liar.

Because of this **belief and trust in God**, the Bible reveals to us

what Satan says to God about these believers in Jesus Christ?

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, <u>for the accuser of our brethren</u> has been thrown down, <u>who accuses</u> them [of Sin] <u>day and night before our God</u>. But <u>they have conquered him</u> [how] <u>by the blood of the Lamb</u> and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Rev 12.9-11

If you re-read the New Testament with this knowledge, you will see clearly that the battle is for **the Sovereignty of God.** You will understand that by having **unfeigned repentance and just by believing** in God's provision of **Jesus Christ** you can be **saved from your Sins** and be given **Eternal life in a Universe that** "functions".

You are **never going to cease to exist**, because God loves Mankind, just as a Parent who loves his own children and is prepared to die for them.

Those that deny God's existence [Atheists] and those who tell us that Evolution created the world [Evolutionists] or any religion that denies that Jesus Christ died for our sins [Islam¹ Quran 4:157] bears false witness to this plan of God.

1. Quran 4:157 "Behold, we have slain the Christ Jesus, son of Mary, [who claimed to be] an apostle of God!" However, they did not slay him, and neither did they crucify him, but it only seemed to them [as if it had been] so; [171] www.islamicity.com/QuranSearch/

Thus, the Qur'an *categorically denies the story of the crucifixion of Jesus*. There exist, among Muslims, many fanciful legends telling us that at the last moment God substituted for Jesus a person closely resembling him (according to some accounts, that person was Judas), who was crucified in his place.

Satan's attempted to defeat The Son of God.

When Jesus was baptized, He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit of God, for an **assault by Satan.** Jesus could not fail, or the Devil would have won, and the battle for **God's sovereignty would have been lost.**

Matt 4.1-11 At that time, Jesus was led up by the Spirit, into the Desert, in order to be tempted by the Devil. There He fasted, for forty days and nights, and after that He suffered from hunger. So the Tempter came and said, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to turn into loaves." "It is written," replied Jesus, "' It is not on bread alone, that a man shall live, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Then the Devil took Him to the Holy City and caused Him to stand on the roof of the Temple, and said,

"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, "To His angels He will give orders concerning you, and on their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any moment you should strike your foot against a stone."

"Again it is written," replied Jesus, "'you shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Then the Devil took Him to the top of an exceedingly lofty mountain, from there, he caused Him to see all the Kingdoms of the world, and their splendour, and said to Him,

"All this I will give you, if you will kneel down and worshio me."

"Begone, Satan!" Jesus replied; "for it is written, `To the Lord your God you shall worship, and to Him alone you shall serve."

Thereupon the Devil left Him, and angels at once came and ministered to Him..

Notice the Holy Angels came to Jesus, to help Him.

Notice also that **Satan has control of the Kingdoms of this world** where he is allowed to deceive Mankind but this is only by God's permission.

Jesus knows, that He has to give His life, as a Ransom according to the Law of God, so that the price can be paid to save Mankind from their sinful state.

We now realized the full meaning of those words on the Cross,

" It is finished!"

As soon as Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "<u>It is finished.</u>" And then, bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit. John 19:30 Satan is vanquished before all the inhabitants of Heaven.

We can see also the full implication of the rebuke by Jesus to the Apostle Peter when Peter tried to say that Jesus would not die, because Peter did not know of the unseen battle of Satan against God's sovereignty.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter,

"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men." Matt 16.21-23

The suffering of Man is necessary, to answer the taunt of Satan. Do men only serve God and believe Him, as long as they do not suffer?

Men and women will still **serve and believe Him** just as Job did, even with the terrible consequences of this world.

Without suffering Satan cannot be defeated.

Now the teaching of Christianity, is **that God** has **completely shared**, in our pain and suffering by **Christ's death on the Cross**.

The amazing truth is, that this was all planned **before Heaven and Earth** were even created [the foundation of the World] and was designed to create a **Universe that** "functions"

This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world." Matt 13.35

Then the King will say 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; Matt 25.34

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. Eph 1.4

God will cherish us forever and ever because we believe and we have faith in Him, as our Redeemer.

This is the most *Electrifying News* you have ever heard of in your life.

It means you are going to live forever and ever.

The Apostle Paul tells us, that the Christians fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the unseen forces, that govern this world.

Put on the complete armour of God, so as to be able to stand firm against all the stratagems of the Devil. For ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the despotisms, the empires, the forces that control and govern this dark world, the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare.

Therefore put on the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground on the day of battle, and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field. Stand therefore, first fastening round you the girdle of truth and putting on the breastplate of righteousness as well as the shoes of the Gospel of peace, a firm foundation for your feet.

And besides all these take the great shield of faith, on which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the Wicked one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Eph 6.11-17

We can see that these words of Paul of fighting against the unseen forces of Satan, is the real battle of the Universe.

I mention previously of just how many scriptures there are in the Bible, that describe the activities of Angels.

By studying these it will become very clear that **the Sovereignty of God** is so vital, and God's plan, is for an everlasting existence with Him in a **Universe that "functions"**, where everyone will know, that He cares for us like a Father for His Children.

We can now get rid of the false notion that Jesus Christ's suffering and redemption of mankind was necessary to appease an angry God.

The real reason that Christ died was that the penalty of the Law of God for Sin, is death. Jesus our Saviour died in OUR place to satisfy the Supreme Court of true Justice so that Satan cannot accuse God of breaking his own immutable Laws.

Remember that for the Universe to "function" then God's Laws are absolute. (the laws of nature have to be obeyed or life is impossible).

When Jesus was raised from the dead as the sinless Lamb of God, the Bible teaches that we who accept ourselves as sinners and have unfeigned repentance for our sins and believe in Him as our Saviour, then we are clothed with His righteousness, and therefore we are found according to the Law of God to be without sin and therefore we can enter the Most Holy place called the "Kingdom of God" to dwell with God for all eternity.

You have to believe that **the spiritual Laws of 'conscious existence'** are **immutable** and they have to be obeyed just as in the physical creation.

Therefore the Son of God was destined to suffer pain and death and He did it in the permanent HISTORY of Mankind

Now what about the destiny of the fallen Angels and the rest of mankind who Satan has deceived?

They too will finally be redeemed [after the fire of the ages], as Jesus Christ, reconciles the whole Universe whether in Heaven or Earth.

1 Pet 3.18,19-4.7 "for in him, [Christ] all things were created, in heaven

and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities, all things were created through him, and for him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together, ...the first-born from the dead, that in everything He might be pre-eminent.

For in Him, all the fulness of God, was pleased to dwell, [His Deity], and through Him, to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth, or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross." Col 1.16-20

This is why Jesus after His death went to preach to the Spirits in Prison,

1 Pet 3.19 - 4.7 "because Christ once for all died for sins, the innocent One for the guilty many, in order to bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which He also went and proclaimed His Message to the spirits in prison, who in ancient times had been disobedient... Jesus Christ, who is at God's right hand, having gone into Heaven, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him"

... Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human passions but by the will of God... but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the good news was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. The end of all things is at hand; therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers

[This is what the apostle Peter says, which shows that he knew that the Second Coming was imminent in his lifetime—that generation, i.e. at the opening of the kingdom of God in AD 70, at the destruction of Jerusalem] Luke 21.20-24, 27-33

Usually when you ask Christians about the destiny of the people who died by God's wrath as an example of **Sodom and Gomorrah**, they usually say **they are doomed forever**.

Now this is a Colossal error.

The cities who witnessed the miracles of Jesus, and yet were unrepentant, are to be punished more than those sinners in Sodom.

If the unrepentant cities and the Sodomites all end up in the same place—the eternity of Hell Fire, then this statement of Jesus Christ has no meaning. The truth is that the destiny of each one varies according to what they have done and will be judge by God accordingly. This is true Justice That Jesus gives hope to unrepentant sinners is proved by

Matt 10.14,15 "And whoever refuses to receive you or even to listen to your Message, as you leave that house or town, shake off the very dust from your feet. I solemnly tell you that it will be <u>more tolerable</u> for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of Judgement than for that town"

What does <u>more tolerable</u> mean other than their punishment will be less severe than the unrepentant cities who witness the miracles but still rejected the Lord.

This all means that the **two groups** do not all end up in the same **Everlasting Torture** of **Hell Fire** popularly preached by Catholics and Evangelical Protestants. They have a **mistaken understanding** of the **New Testament** teaching of **the final destiny** of all **created beings**.

The Bible tell what glorious times await for us in the future.

"but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that <u>had been hidden</u>, which God foreordained, <u>before the worlds</u> unto our glory, which none of the rulers of this world had known, for had they known it, they would not have crucified, the Lord of glory, but as it is written, things which the eye had not seen, and the ear had not heard, and it had not entered into the heart of man, the things that God, had prepared for them that love him." 1 Corth 2.7-9

This predestined plan is summarized by Paul as being willed by God, all before time began and there was

Absolutely no contingency plan.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us.

For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will. Eph 1.3-11

The Summary

The Physical Universe has to be in an ordered state, for it to even exist and function, so God has decreed the absolute Laws of Nature.

The Universal Law of gravity is an example for us all to see.

Now to have a Universe with conscious intelligent beings that have the freedom to choose, they too must by their own will obey;

The Spiritual Laws of 'Conscious Existence' or else chaos will reign.

The breaking of these Laws in the Bible is called Sin.

The consequences of Sin is what we have seen and witnessed throughout the History of Man.

These consequences are **horrific** and produce great Evil, with Death and Suffering on an **unimaginable scale** which we can all testify as witnesses.

The solution is for all of us to believe with all our heart, mind and soul that to obey God's Laws is the only possible solution for a **Perfect Universe** that "functions".

If this had been accepted from the beginning of Creation and if the Laws of God had been obeyed without any challenge by any of God's Created beings, then existence would have been perfect.

The Universe would then have been without blemish forever, and it would have been a Universe that "functions".

But there is a obvious *flaw* in all this.

We would never—never have known how righteous and how absolutely Good and Holy—God is, and how much He loves His Creation.

Because of our **love for our own Children**, for whom we would give our lives, we learn how much **God loves** His Sons and Daughters and the Angels such that He was prepared through **Jesus Christ to die for the Sins of the whole Universe**.

God knew before He created anything, that with **freedom of Choice**, there would be **someone who would challenge Him**. The One that challenged **God's Sovereignty** is **Lucifer** and because of this God could have annihilated **Lucifer** but this was not the answer, and so **the Lord in His Wisdom** has willed to create a perfect Universe in an infallible way. The other way is to let the Creation continue, which will **inevitably** produce suffering and death, because of the breaking of **God's Laws of 'conscious existence.'**

This Paradox will produce invincible proof of the truthfulness and righteousness of Almighty God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God has not separated Himself from us in our suffering, but has partaken in this suffering and has tasted human death with all its pain. He has done this by paying the price of the Supreme court of Justice, where Sin's penalty is Death. Jesus sacrificed His life in our place to pay for the Sins of the whole world.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not be lost but have Eternal life. John 3.16

If you ask the question "When Lord, are you going to bring it all to a conclusion?" the answer lies "in the not to distance future".

You now ask "What do you mean, in the not to distance future?"

The **order of events**, I have explained in great detail elsewhere but here is a **quick outline**.

Jesus came and died 2000 years ago.

Now because of Israel's rejection of the Messiah, God destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70 by means of the Romans and scattered Israel to the four corners of the Globe.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! you who murder the Prophets and stoned those who have been sent to you! how often have I desired to gather your children to me, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not come! See, your house will now be left to you desolate!

For I tell you that you [the Jewish people] will never see me again until you say, 'Blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Matt 23. 36 - 39.

About Jerusalem He prophesied,

"But when you see Jerusalem with [Roman] armies encamping round her on every side, then be certain that her overthrow is close at hand. Then let those who shall be in Judea escape to the hills; let those who are in the city leave it, and those who are in the country not enter in.

For those are the days of vengeance and of fulfilling all that is written.

...for there will be great distress in the land, and anger towards this People. They will fall by the sword, or be carried off into slavery among all the Gentiles. And Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles,

until the appointed times of the Gentiles have expired. Luke 21. 20-24.

Jesus prophesied at the close of His ministry, the physical signs of the desolation of Jerusalem and the signs of His Second Coming that occurred at the end of that generation.

The 2nd Advent = The Desolation of Jerusalem = Heavenly Kingdom.

Verse 31, 32 So also, when you see these things happening, you may be sure that the Kingdom of God is near. I tell you in solemn truth that the present generation [the generation of the Apostles] will certainly not pass away.

Matt 16.27 "For the Son of Man is <u>soon</u> to come in the glory of the Father with His angels, and then will He requite every man according to his actions.

I solemnly tell you that some of those who are standing here will certainly <u>not</u> taste death till they have <u>seen the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.</u>"

Now these events all came to pass exactly as the Lord had said.

This fulfillment of prophecy always creates faith in God's promises and makes it sure, that the things yet to happen will take place.

"I have now told you <u>before it comes to pass</u>, that when it has come to pass you may believe." John 14.29

Jesus said to Jews of His generation.

I tell you in solemn truth that all these things will come upon the present generation. [the generation in the first century] Weymouth Translation

When Jesus ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives the Apostles asked him the same Question. When was the Kingdom of Israel and the promises given to Abraham going to be fulfilled. Jesus said to them.

...after giving instruction through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen, He was taken up to Heaven. He had also, after He suffered, shown Himself alive to them with <u>many sure proofs</u>, appearing to them at intervals during forty days, and speaking of the [Heavenly] Kingdom of God.

And while in their company He charged them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promised gift, ...before many days will have passed you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they were with Him, they asked Him, "Master, is this the time [in that generation] at which you are about to restore the kingdom of Israel?"

"It is NOT for you," He replied, "to know times or epochs which the Father has reserved within His own authority; and yet you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the remotest parts of the land.

"When He had said this, and while they were looking at Him, He was carried up, and a cloud closing beneath Him hid Him from their sight.

Jesus gave signs of His Second Advent so Christians would have advance knowledge but as to the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel He said it was NOT for them to know any advance signs. Therefore the Restoration of Israel is NOT the same event as the Second Coming.

Now what does the Bible say about the Future of Israel?

The Apostle Paul when faced with this same question: concerning Israel's rejection of Jesus of Nazareth gives his answer from the Book of Isaiah and explained in Rom 11:25.

^{1.} The Apostles did <u>not</u> get to preach the Gospel to all the cities of Israel before the Lord Returned in AD 70. Matt 10.23

"I want you to understand this mystery, brethren: a hardening [their unbelief] has come upon part of Israel [the Nation], until the full number of the Gentiles come in [to the Kingdom of God i.e. become believers over the last 2000 years].

Therefore in this manner [How it will happen as prophesied by Isaiah] shall all Israel be saved; because it is written: "The Deliverer [Messiah, Jesus Christ] will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob [unbelieving Israel] and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins 'as regards the gospel they [Israel] are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards choice they [Israel] are beloved for the sake of their forefathers [Abraham].

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Just as you [Gentiles] were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy, so they have been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you, they [Israel] also may receive mercy [at the end of the Gentile Times, in the near Future]"

Hosea 3:5 says of the latter days when God Blesses Israel:

"the children of Israel shall dwell many days without a king, prince, sacrifice or pillar [Which is their position now].

Afterward the children of Israel shall return [Palestine] and seek the LORD their God, and David their King and the fear of the LORD in the latter days"

We know that this was the state of things in the close of the first century and throughout the centuries until the present time, but now, it is now God's appointed time to bring unbelieving Israel back into the land of Palestine. We have the British partitioning Palestine in 1917 and creating a Homeland for the Jewish people. Because of the Holocaust during World War II, the Jews in Europe were spurred on to return to Palestine. Then we have the formation of the State of Israel in 1948 and then in the 1967 war, they re-established their control of Jerusalem. All this is has happened in the land of Palestine while the spiritual state of Israel is still in unbelief of Jesus of Nazareth.

This has all happened in the last 100 years. What will happen next?

The Nation of Israel according to the Prophecies in the Bible will become a "burdensome stone" to all the Nations and because of this, the Nations [Islamic, & others] will gather against Israel to defeat them. In their darkest hour when the Nations attack the people of Israel in the land of Palestine, the Bible tells us that to save them, the Lord Jesus will appear on the Mount of Olives to the Jewish people and

"they will see Him, whom they pierced"

the Holy Spirit will be poured upon Israel and they will recognize and accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Saviour.

"In that day the LORD will put a shield about Jerusalem, so the feeblest of them on that day shall be like David, like God, like the Angel of the LORD [Messiah], at their head. On that day,

<u>I will destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem.</u>

I will pour on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and when they look on <u>Him</u> whom <u>they have pierced</u> [the Lord Jesus, the Messiah], they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weeps bitterly over Him " Zech 12.8-10.

After the conversion of Israel to accepting Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah, the whole world will then be changed by divine intervention. The promises made to Abraham will be fulfilled. World peace will follow these events. This is called the Davidic Kingdom.

The scripture in Zech 14 is fulfilled at the end of the Davidic Kingdom.

The word which Isaiah ...saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, ...and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD, saiah 2.1 - 4.

The History of Mankind shows we have never learned not "To War".

What is the Destiny of those persons who have not had an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour or those who have rejected this salvation from Sin by Jesus Christ.

There are men and women who have never heard of this salvation through Jesus Christ by which mankind is saved from Sin and Death. These are those who lived before and after Christ and have tried to live their lives morally according to their consciences. There are those children who were still born and those untold millions of unborn children who have been slain in the womb in more recent times by the hands of human wickedness. There are those who reject this free gift of Eternal because of their own wickedness, prejudice caused by upbringing, bad conduct by Christians, previous indoctrination, the belief that God is going to Torture the vast majority of Mankind in a hideous place call Hell and many other legitimate reasons. The Hell doctrine, everlasting torture is not a teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For when Gentiles who have no Law obey by natural instinct the commands of the Law, they, without having a Law, are a Law to themselves; since they exhibit proof that a knowledge of the conduct which the Law requires is engraven on their hearts, while their consciences also bear witness to the Law ...on the day when God will judge the secrets of men's lives by Jesus Christ, as declared in the Good News as I have taught. Rom 2.14

These **moral persons** are all included in God's provision and God alone knows who they are. The Bible teaches these ones will be raised from the dead in the general resurrection in the final eternal Kingdom.

Then I saw a great white throne and One who was seated on it, ...And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing in front of the throne.

And books were opened; and so was another book - namely, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged by the things recorded in the books in accordance with what their conduct had been.

Then the sea yielded up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades yielded up the dead who were in them, and each man was judged in accordance with what his conduct had been. Rev 20.11-14.

They are Judged by what they have done, <u>not their opinions</u>. [beliefs] The question is what happens to all those who exhibit and **practice real evil and wickedness** who will **not repent** of their evil deeds.

When we see in the Media the horrendous crimes and wickedness perpetrated by humans on others, our sense of justice demands that God will avenge the Evil.

"... I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, do you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? Rev 6.10

So will they be punished by God, as His Law and Justice demands?

The answer is Yes! But the question How will this be done?

The Scripture above in the book of Revelation continues with,

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of fire; this is the Second Death - the Lake of fire. And if any one's name was not found recorded in the Book of Life he was thrown into the Lake of fire. 1

This is the wrath of God at its worst.

^{1. &}quot;The Lake of Fire" spoken of by Jesus, and mentioned in the symbolic book of Revelation is not to be taken literally any more than the "water of life" is not taken literally and in saying this I do not wish to undermine the wrath of God. In the book of Revelation (13) there is told of a 7 headed beast and a Dragon and we all take these symbols to stand for an Empire, Kings and the Devil. It is the same with the Lake Fire, it symbolises for a very severe punishment and chastisement by God.

Jesus Christ refers to this and says:

"Then will He say to those at His left, "Be-gone from me, with the curse resting upon you, into the Fire of the Ages, which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels ...and these shall go away into the correction [Greek kolasin 1] of the Ages, but the righteous into the Life of the Ages." Matt 25.46

This word the 'ages' [Greek aionion] and its other expression in the New Testament the 'ages of the ages' [Greek aionas aionon] does NOT necessarily mean forever and ever.

These Greek words are words that change their meaning according to what they are associated with.

The words could be translated age, aeon, epoch, period or era.

There is **the era or age** of a man's life span - 70 years. There is **era** of the Jewish **age** from Moses to AD 70 - 1600 years. When **the ages of the ages** is associated with the **New life in Jesus Christ** it means as long as God exists, which is for all time.

Also this word "ages - aionion" is the equivalent of the Hebrew word 'olam' which again does not necessarily mean forever as there is no actual Hebrew word for "forever."

Now in the Greek language there is a special Greek word which actually means "forever" in its proper sense of eternity, namely 'aidios'.

It is used in Romans 1.20 by the Apostle Paul to describe God's truly **Eternal Power.**

"For, from the very creation of the world, His invisible perfections—namely His <u>eternal</u> [aidois] power and divine nature..."

This word 'aidios' is never used by Jesus on any occasion.

The other mis-understanding is the **Greek word** for punishment "kolasis". This word means "to chastise, to correct" in order that reformation can take place. "kolasis" is from the root "to prune", meaning not to destroy the tree but to remove the dead wood so as to form new growth on the same tree. The Lord could have used the Greek word 'timoria' for vindictive punishment but He did not! So the object of the dreadful lake of fire is not to punish forever-eternity but is punishment for a very long time until reformation takes place.

You could call it **age-lasting correction** or **the ages of ages correction**. It is long period of time spanning **the Era of the ages** depending on what God has decreed.

^{1.} Strong's 2849 "To correct, chastise, to prune, remove dead wood ".

This is the proper understanding of Holy Scripture!

There are all shades of Sin from Grey to Black, and the Bible teaches there are all shades of punishment from Grey to Black.

"But unbelieving, and the abhorrent, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with <u>fire and brimstone</u>: which is the second death." Rev 21.8

The purpose of the Lake of fire is to reform.

In the lake that burns with "fire and brimstone", *Charles Pridgeon*, in his scholarly work on the subject of **BRIMSTONE** says:

"The Lake of Fire and Brimstone signifies a fire burning with brimstone; the word 'brimstone' defines the character of the fire. The Greek word theion translated 'brimstone' is exactly the same word theion which means 'divine.'

Brimstone was sacred to the deity among the ancient Greeks; and was used to fumigate, to purify, and to cleanse and consecrate to the deity. In Homer's Iliad (16:228), one is spoken of as purifying a goblet with fire and brimstone.

The verb derived from theion is theioo, which means to hallow, to make divine, or to dedicate to a god (See Liddell and Scott Greek-English Lexicon, 1897 Edition). To any Greek, or any trained in the Greek language, a 'lake of fire and brimstone' would mean a 'lake of divine purification.' The idea of judgment is not be excluded. Divine purification [Chastisement] and divine consecration are the plain meaning in ancient Greek."

Strongs definition says under Brimstone "divine incense, because burning brimstone was regarded as having power to purify, and to ward off disease"

This a very brief explanation of the so called " **Eternal Punishment** " but you can download more information from **www.biblemaths.com**¹.

Eventually the whole Creation will have accepted the Sovereignty of God and his provision for Eternal life through the sacrifice of Christ's Blood for the Atonement for our Sins.

This will produce a Sin Free Universe that perfectly "Functions"

N.B If you are already a Christian you should re-read the New Testament carefully and you will see clearly that this is the real battle of Good against Evil and that Jesus was fully aware of this Battle against Satan.

Again I will repeat what I said earlier, I do not approve of anyone that uses this work to create a Medieval view of The Devil and his demons. Peter Bluer

^{1.} You can download the book on my web site by Thomas Thayer "The Origin and History of the Doctrine Endless Punshiment"

You should now watch the DVD or read the Seven Unusual Numbers booklet. This will give you the unassailable evidence that you need which proves that the Bible is indeed the true revelation to Mankind. It shows by Prime Numbers that the words in Hebrew of Genesis 1.1 and the Greek words of John 1.1 are the exactly the right number of words and letters that there should be. No more and no less!

Now what can we say about the Messiah - Jesus Christ?

The Religions of Ancient Rome could not compete

with the promise of the God of Israel
the promise of Eternal life in the Kingdom of God
and with the entrance into his Kingdom having been paid for by the blood of His Christ - His own Son.

The Promise is the <u>free gift</u> of eternal life.

You cannot work for it.

They said to Jesus,

" What must we do, to do the works of God?"
Jesus answered them.

"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom He has sent."

All the Prophets from Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah never spoke like this Man!

The Prophets all confessed their Sins but this man never gave the slightest hint that he was a sinner, for in Christ the "whole fulness of the Deity dwells bodily"

Also He made the most amazing statements that no Prophet had ever uttered:

Jesus said to them

" you will die in your sins unless you believe that <u>I am He</u> "
" I say to you, if anyone keeps my word,

he will never see death "

"I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

and whoever lives

and believes in me shall never die

To <u>see</u> the Evidence for why the Bible is True watch the DVD.

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