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Magnitude of the End Time Crisis, Part 2

By David Sielaff, September 2022

For background read the accompanying “[September 2022 Newsletter](#)”

Enjoy the September 1, 2022 Commentary “[UFOs In The News And In Congress](#)”

Magnitude of the
End Time Crisis
Part 2

This Part 2 of “The Magnitude of the End Time Crisis”¹ series of articles focuses on the spiritual entities that both oppose and support the plan of God and Christ to reconcile all of God’s creation. Evil humans led and controlled by evil spirits will attempt to target, seek out, seduce, control, remove, or kill as many people as possible who oppose them before Christ returns. Believers in God, especially Jews and Christians, will be their primary targets to be eliminated from what they consider to be their world system under their leadership.

God allows these rulers and powers to believe they control events as they encourage each other to commit evils and horrors against those under their control, whether human beings or against spirit beings. After Christ returns, God’s judgments on humanity will kill multiple billions more people than all the spirits encouraging their evil human servants.

Yet God is righteous and just. **Why?** God who created all things through Christ, allows people to die, and allows them to kill. The creator God can and will bring the dead back to life again. Jesus raised Lazarus to physical life as an example of physical resurrection. God raised Jesus from the dead as a firstfruit example (1 Corinthians 15:20) of resurrection to immortality. Multiple billions of God’s “potential” children — all of them — will be raised to be like Christ is now. This was God’s plan and goal from before creation: to reconcile every intelligent creature to God the Father and the Lord Christ Jesus. God has not failed.

God’s Teaching Will Be Studied; The Learning Will Begin

Remember as you read this article, God is in complete control (Isaiah 46:10–11; Ephesians 1:9–11) of every detail of His creation. Many of God’s created beings will oppose Christ’s return, and God’s judgments will be imposed upon the spirits in the heavens above and on earth. We are told little about them, but evil spirit armies will fight God’s heavenly hosts in ways we cannot understand until we are resurrected to glory. Until then we cannot know how many spirits will be killed, imprisoned, or flee to the heavens.

¹ Read or refer to the first part, “[The Magnitude of the End Time Crisis](#)” for April 2022.

In this article, most all Bible quotes are from the Concordant Literal Version, Old and New Testaments.

The Evil Enemies Opposing God, His People, and You

The combatants on the side of evil will be:

- Satan (Revelation 12:10 and Revelation 20:1–3, see “[Assumptions About Satan](#)”)
- Satan’s army of angels (Revelation 12:7–10), likely more than when Christ was born
- Moloch (the cherub of Ezekiel chapter 28, see “[Lingering Idolatry in the Temple of God](#)” and my Commentary “[Tabernacle of Moloch](#)”)
- Any remaining living Sons of God (Psalm 82:7)
- Demons or evil spirits, some in the world, others loosed from prison (Yes, some of the “gods” of the Gentile nations may have died over time, see my article “[Spirits Can Die](#)”)
- The Prince of Persia (Daniel 10:13, 20)
- The Prince of Grecia (Daniel 10:20)
- All the other supernatural “princes” in charge of various nations (see “[Elohim and the Son of God Part 1](#)”)
- The spirits in the Beast and False Prophet (Revelation 19:19–21)
- The unnumbered stinging locusts (Revelation 9:1–11)
- Their leader Apollyon (Revelation 9:11)
- The 400 million spirits of the army coming out of the Euphrates River (Revelation chapter 9)
- The many categories of spirit beings (discussed beginning on page 5 below) that the apostles mention, particularly the apostle Paul who tells them in more detail. They will likely oppose and fight God’s armies when Christ returns.

For each of these enemies of God, their entire existence will change if they remain alive. Some, like Satan, will be imprisoned. All their power and authority will be taken from them. Christ was given authority over and defeated these spirit entities at His resurrection from the dead. Christ has not yet asserted the power He possesses:

“Being entombed together with Him in [His] baptism, in Whom you were roused together also through faith in the operation of God, Who rouses Him from among the dead ...

[1] **stripping off the sovereignties and authorities, with boldness**

[2] **He makes a show of them,**

[3] **triumphing over them in it.”**

• ***Colossians 2:12, 15***

However, when Christ returns to earth from heaven a new eon will begin. He will take public control of the earth and outward to the heavens to actively “subdue” all creation (1 Corinthians 15:25–28). The goal will be accomplished to reconcile every creature to God (Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:20; Philippians 2:10–11).

God’s Wrath Upon Humanity

Immediately after Christ returns, God’s wrath will fall upon people on earth. The armies opposing Christ will suddenly find themselves without the promised and boasted supernatural aid of the defeated spirits. Dr. Martin’s article, “[New Prophetic Discoveries Concerning the End Time](#),” analyzes some of Isaiah’s important prophecies that give precise geographical markers (mapped in the article) to show routes of the human armies marching on Jerusalem to oppose Christ when He returns. Christ destroys them.

After those challenges are suppressed, the rest of the world will experience God's wrath. Most people before they die will witness how severe and horrific God's punishments can be. Then they will experience it as they die. Only a small remnant of every nation will survive. The size of the remnant will be determined by how they treated God's people, Israel.

God's Reconciliation Begins

This process of reconciliation will begin at the Great White Throne judgment after the 1,000 years of peace on earth. When the victims of God's wrath are resurrected to physical life for "judgment," they will have clear and vivid memories of their actions as well as the terror of God's punishments that killed them.

Then they will pay attention to God calling them. Then they will listen to, hear, and consider God's word for the first time. The Gospel will be available for them in written form, through neighbors, through words of people glorified in the first resurrection, and words directly from Christ who will rule the people on earth at that time. **"Consequently, faith is out of tidings, yet the tidings through a declaration of Christ"** (Romans 10:17). Yes, God will open their minds, lead them to listen, and lead them to be reconciled to their God and to Christ Jesus — just as you and I have learned the truths of God.

Paul says there will be a time when, **"God will be judging the hidden things of humanity, according to my evangel [Gospel], through Jesus Christ"** (Romans 2:16). What Gospel did Paul teach? It is summarized in 1 Corinthians chapter 15:1–11.

Then those same individuals who committed great horrors upon other people, they themselves will begin the lengthy process of reconciling with those they have harmed, done evil to, sinned against. The same will be done for and by every human being who ever lived.

Now, at this moment you, me, and everyone in the world are living in a period of grace, not a period of judgment. We will not suffer the wrath of God in any way. We should be thankful for that gift. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren may live through horrors of sin and evils done to them by men, evil spirits, and they will live through the judgments inflicted on the world by God Himself.

Only now are secret things done in darkness beginning to be revealed about the evils perpetrated in darkness on a scale unimagined in prior generations (1 Corinthians 4:5). There will be a period of transition to when God will begin to judge the earth for those evils before and after Christ's climactic return.

"For the One, Elohim, shall bring every deed into judgment concerning all that is obscured, Whether good or whether evil."

• *Ecclesiastes 12:14*

"So that, be not judging anything before the season, till the Lord should be coming, Who will also illuminate the hidden things of darkness and manifest the counsels of the hearts. And then applause will be coming to each one from God."

• *1 Corinthians 4:5*

There are close to 8 billion people alive on earth now. One or two billion more may be added before Christ returns. The apostle Peter wrote just before his death (around late 67 AD), and comparing the declarations of the prophets with the precepts of the apostles²:

"I am writing to you ... to remind you of [1] the declarations which have been declared before by the holy prophets, and of [2] the precept of your apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first, that in the last days scoffers will be coming with scoffing, going according to their own desires and saying,

'Where is the promise of His presence? For since the fathers were put to repose, ALL is continuing thus from the beginning of creation.

² For the circumstances of when the epistles of First and Second Peter were written, see "[Chapter 25: The Completion of the Canon](#)" from Dr. Martin's book [Restoring the Original Bible](#).

For they want to be oblivious of this, that there were heavens of old, and an earth cohering out of water and through water, **by the word of God**; through which the then world, **being deluged by water, PERISHED.**

Yet the heavens **NOW**, and the earth, **by the same word**, are stored **with fire**, being kept for **the day of the judging and destruction** of **IRREVERENT MEN** [Greek, *anthropon*, human beings].”

• **2 Peter 3:1–7**

This prophecy of destruction has not occurred worldwide since Peter wrote it in 67 AD. It will occur worldwide (as the flood was worldwide) in our future. Millions, perhaps even one or two billion people will die because of evil supernatural beings influencing human underlings to kill them, before Christ judges the earth at his coming. Those same spirits in ancient times posed as “gods.”³

At present Satan is doing the following and God allows Satan to do so ...

“... the god of this eon **blinds the apprehensions of the unbelieving** so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, **does not irradiate them.**”

• **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Still later, before punishment, destruction, and death comes from God, the world will show a sudden furious hatred toward their God and Creator. It will occur just before Christ returns, God Himself will allow the truth to be further hidden from unbelievers:

“God will be sending them **an operation of deception**, for them to believe the falsehood, **that ALL may be judged** who do not believe the truth, but [they will] **delight in injustice.**”

• **2 Thessalonians 2:11–12**

This hatred of God will be promoted by lies and false claims of spirits, and particularly by the Antichrist and his False Prophet. The words “**delight in injustice**” sounds so benign, but it means they “**delight**” in inflicting pain, horror, and death. God is speeding the process of what Jesus gave details in Matthew 24:3–14.

When God’s judgment (termed “**the Day of the Lord**” in the King James Version, and “**the Day of YHWH**” in Hebrew), is ended, the few human survivors will be severely traumatized. The loss of life will be nearly total. Many billions will be killed in a brief period. After God’s judgment people will search for others who survived. Lot and his daughters thought the entire world had been judged by fire in their time. They thought they were the only survivors (Genesis 19:30–38, see Dr. Martin’s “[Bible Secret # 84: Was Incest Justified?](#)”)

Today humanity has accomplished one command of God — to be fruitful and multiply after the flood (Genesis 8:17, 9:1, 7). Each person, although born in the image and likeness of God, each is a sinner and comes short of the glory of God, subject to God’s judgment. The death toll after these post-flood world judgments of God will be so great that the remnant of Israel’s survivors will be larger than most every nation. This will help make Israel to soon become the leading nation during the 1,000 years reign of Christ.

The true God will kill most every human being in the world — leaving a small remnant of people alive. This destruction will be by fire and not water. Pray now that God will turn the minds of the people in your country to not oppose God, to not fight His servants, or His people Israel. God’s prophecy and promise to Abram (later renamed “Abraham”) is still applicable (Genesis 3:1–12).

Just before Israel crossed from east of the Jordan River to enter the western portion of land YHWH stated Israel would inherit, He also said they would perish if they disobeyed and worshipped other gods:

“It will come to be that if you forget, yea forget Yahweh your Elohim, and you go after other elohim and serve them and bow yourself down to them, I testify against you today that **you shall PERISH, yea PERISH.**”

³ See three articles: “[Idolatry - The Curse of Religion](#),” “[Idolatry and God's Punishment](#),” and “[Idolatry and the Sons of God](#).”

Like the nations which Yahweh is destroying before your face so shall you PERISH,

[Why?] inasmuch as you do not hearken to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim.

Hear, Israel! Today you are ready to cross over the Jordan, to enter to dispossess nations greater and more substantial than you, cities great and DEFENDED TO THE HEAVENS ...”

• *Deuteronomy 8:19–9:1*

“**Perish**” is the term YHWH uses three times in this passage to emphasize His threat to punish Israel’s idolatry.

- God warned the people before the flood, but saved a remnant of only eight people.
- Lot and his two daughters were the remnant saved when Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim were destroyed (Deuteronomy 29:23; 2 Peter 2:6). Jesus used that event as an example of conditions before His return to earth:

“Yet on the day in which Lot came out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rains from heaven and destroys them all. In accord with these will it be on the day in which the Son of Mankind is unveiled.”

• *Luke 17:29–30, continue reading to verse 37*

- God warned the northern ten tribes of the Kingdom of Israel by His many prophets. He would punish their idolatry, and only a remnant would remain. Most of the remnant moved to the southern Kingdom of Judah and were called upon to repent (2 Chronicles 30:1). A different remnant survived their exile in the lands of Assyria, and were present when the remnant of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi were brought to Babylon.
- God warned the southern Kingdom of Judah against idolatry, and prophets told Judah that God would kill most of the people and exile a remnant to Babylon. Some of their descendants would return to Judea. Most decided to stay and were scattered around the ancient world.
- The disciples of Jesus warned Jews to leave Galilee and Judea. Some did so, but over 1 million people perished in the Jewish revolt, and perhaps an equal number were enslaved (See my November 2021 Commentary, “[The Folly of Setting Prophetic Dates](#).”)

The Apostle Paul’s Categories of Spiritual Powers

With this background I want to give analysis by Oxford Professor C.B. Caird, an author with a somewhat distinct perspective toward the information about God’s created spiritual powers, particularly those spirit entities that presently oppose Christ, God’s people Israel, believers in Christ’s resurrection, and those who are the Body of Christ. Caird accepts Paul’s words as written, and he believes that all the “powers” will be reconciled to God. This indicates to me that Caird believed in universal salvation.

Caird’s small 1954 book is titled *Principalities and Powers: A Study in Paul’s Theology*.⁴ In it Caird catalogues Paul’s evidence that I present below. His list is in addition to the list I compiled beginning on page 2 of this article. Please note the format of my presentation of Caird’s writing.

[**Editor’s Note:** The text with the BLACK vertical line on the left are quotes from Caird’s book in the 2003 Wipf & Stock reprint edition. Caird identifies in footnotes the verses of Paul. I quote several of Caird’s references in full, using my usual **in red bold** text from the *Concordant Version of the New Testament*. The portions quoted are from the Introduction, pp. vii–x. [Words in brackets are mine, as are the expanded biblical citations. DWS] Here are Caird’s words:

⁴ C.B. Caird, *Principalities and Powers: A Study in Paul’s Theology* (Wipf & Stock reprint, Eugene, OR, 1954, 2003). No PDF of Caird’s book is available. This small book arose from “The Chancellor’s Lectures for 1954 at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario (Canada).”

[T]he idea of sinister world powers and their subjugation by Christ **is built into every fabric of Paul's thought**, and some mention of them is found in every epistle except Philemon.

1. There is the “*Satan*” who is constantly frustrating Paul’s missionary work.⁵ **“... because we want to come to you, indeed, I, Paul, once — even twice — and Satan hinders us”** (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

“Wherefore also, [Reason 1] lest I should be lifted up by the transcendence of the revelations, there was given to me a splinter in the flesh, a messenger [angel] of Satan, that he may be buffeting me, [Reason 2] lest I may be lifted up” (2 Corinthians 12:7).

2. There is “*the mystery of lawlessness,*” which Paul at one time believed to be on the point of open rebellion against God.

“For the secret [mystery] of lawlessness is already operating. Only when the present detainer may be coming to be out of the midst” (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

3. There are “*the elemental spirits of the world,*” by which both Jew and Gentile were held in bondage, and which appear to have close links with the law on the one hand and with astrology on the other.

“Thus we also, when we were minors, were enslaved under the elements of the world [kosmou]” (Galatians 4:3). Then:

“Beware that no one shall be despoiling you through philosophy and empty seduction, in accord with human tradition, in accord with the elements of the world [kosmou], and not in accord with Christ” (Colossians 2:8). And ...

“If, then, you died together with Christ from the elements of the world [kosmou], why, as living in the world, are you subject to decrees” (Colossians 2:20).

4. There is ‘*the god of this age*’:

“... in whom the god of this eon blinds the apprehensions of the unbelieving [why?] so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, does not irradiate them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

5. There is the ruler of the authority of the air, who is also described as ‘*the spirit now at work among the sons of disobedience.*’

“in which once you walked, in accord with the eon of this world, in accord with the chief of the jurisdiction of the air, the spirit now operating in the sons of stubbornness” (Ephesians 2:2).

6. There are the rulers of this age, who crucified the Lord of Glory and thereby compassed their own downfall.

“Yet wisdom are we speaking among the mature, yet a wisdom NOT of this eon,⁶ neither of the chief men [“chiefs,” plural in Greek] of this eon, who are being discarded” (1 Corinthians 2:6).

[Caird understood the correct translation from Greek manuscripts (and I agree with him) for the phrase to be **“the chief[s] of this eon.”** These were not humans, but were supernatural beings. Most translators believe that this verse refers to humans. DWS]

⁵ The term “Satan” is a title and a name, distinguished by context. Satan ultimately fails in his purpose. DWS

⁶ The translation is correctly **“eon.”** The King James Version translates both occurrences in this verse as “world.” DWS

7. There are the sovereignties and authorities [**“principalities and powers”** in the King James Version] over which Christ celebrated his triumph on the Cross.

“... stripping off the sovereignties and authorities, with boldness He makes a show of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15).

8. Despite this defeat, the world-rulers of this darkness are still operative, and the Christian must wrestle with them;

“... for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness [from where?] among the celestials” (Ephesians 6:12).

9. They still hold the whole creation in bondage to futility, though they cannot separate the Christian from the love of God.”

“For to vanity was the creation subjected, not voluntarily, but because of Him Who subjects it, in expectation” (Romans 8:20 and following).

Only intelligent beings created by God can be subject to vanity. Paul continues in this chapter:

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord” (Romans 8:38 and following).

10. But the day must come when every principality and every authority and will yield to Christ, since he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.’

“thereafter the consummation, whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to His God and Father, whenever He should be nullifying all sovereignty and all authority and [all] power” (1 Corinthians 15:24).

11. ... he [Paul] came to believe that they were created beings, created **in and for Christ**, whether thrones or lordships or principalities or authorities.

“for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him ...” (Colossians 1:16).

“And you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of every sovereignty and authority ...” (Colossians 2:10).

12. And that it was God's purpose that they should be reconciled to him by the blood of the Cross,

“and through Him to reconcile all to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens” (Colossians 1:20).

13. [T]hat angelic as well as human tongues should confess Jesus as Lord,

“that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, [1] celestial and [2] terrestrial and [3] subterranean, and every tongue should be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, the Father” (Philippians 2:10–11).

14. [T]hat to the principalities and authorities in the heavenly places there might now be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God.

“that He may be giving you, in accord with the riches of His glory, to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man within” (Ephesians 3:16).

Caird summarizes his list of Paul's references to spiritual powers:

“From this very rapid survey of a dozen or more passages from the epistles it is apparent that the concept of world powers reaches into every department of Paul’s theology, and that it cannot be dismissed as a survival of primitive superstition.

Paul is using mythological language, **BUT**

- his language has a rational content of thought;
- he is working with ideas which have had a long history, but
- he is describing spiritual realities with which he and his fellow Christians have personal acquaintance.”⁷

One Other Pauline Mention of Spirit Beings

There is one other teaching by Paul about spirit beings in the Book of Hebrews. That document was likely a transcribed sermon and not originally an epistle or letter, until it was circulated to Christian *ekklesias*. Paul corrects mistaken Jewish traditions about angels believed by his Hebrew audience. It established truths about angels in the New Testament, particularly showing what angels are not:

1. Angels are **not** creators like the Son of God, who “made” the eons (Hebrews 1:2).
2. Angels are **not** Sons of God, nor will they ever be called “Sons” (Hebrews 1:5).
3. Angels are **not** equal to Christ, but they are commanded to worship Him (Hebrews 1:6).
4. Angels will **not** sit at the right hand of God the Father, as the Son sits now (Hebrews 1:7–13).⁸
5. Angels did **not** found the earth. The Son did so (Hebrews 1:10, Psalm 102:25–27).
6. Angels will **not** receive the subjection of the world (Hebrews 1:5).
7. Angels did **not** have authority over the Son after He was born as a human being (Hebrews 2:7).
8. Angels did **not** receive the “**seed of Abraham**,” the Son received it (Hebrews 2:16).

These eight corrections by Paul are forcefully presented in the first two chapters of Hebrews. They were derived from what Paul refers elsewhere as being as “**Jewish myths**” (Titus 1:14, 1 Timothy 1:4; 2 Timothy 4:4). If Paul had not corrected these errors, the misunderstanding of angels would have continued to our present day.

Victory in Christ Is Completed Now, But Fully Realized in the Future

Of course, readers of ASK know that all creation will be reconciled to the Creator, which is clearly stated by the apostle Paul. But Caird, a traditional Scottish scholar, understood this important point. Here is a place in Caird’s book where he writes about Paul’s later understanding. Words in brackets are mine.

Caird continues about the apostle Paul ...

“In his earlier letters he speaks only of the defeat of the powers, and if he looks at all beyond defeat it is to their destruction; but in his imprisonment epistles he looks beyond defeat to their reconciliation to God.

- But whether he is thinking in terms of defeat or of reconciliation, his thought still falls into the same threefold pattern.

⁷ Caird, *Principalities and Powers*, “Introduction,” pp. viii–x.

⁸ We are seated with Christ legally and figuratively. When He returns we believers shall rule with Him, displacing spiritual beings (Ephesians 1:19–23). First Peter 3:21–22: “... **Jesus Christ, Who is at God's right hand, being gone into heaven, [1] messengers [angels] and [2] authorities and [3] powers being subjected to Him.**” Those are three categories of spirit powers. Paul and Peter understood what they meant, even if we are unsure exactly what and who they are in our day.

1. Christ has won his victory;
2. [Christ] has **'disarmed the principalities and authorities ... triumphing over them in it'** [Colossians 2:15];
3. [Christ] has been exalted **'far above every principality and authority and power and lordship'** [Ephesians 1:21].

Yet the battle continues, and Christians must still contend **'against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness'** [Ephesians 6:12]. The time between the Resurrection and the Parousia [Christ's second coming] is the reign of Christ during which he is reducing to impotence **'every principality and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet'** [1 Corinthians 15:24 and following]" (Caird, pp 81–82).

Caird accepted the Scriptures as written and he understood Paul correctly: that Christ is reconciling not only all humanity, but also every spirit being in creation. This is clearly stated by Paul in Ephesians chapter 1, Philippians chapter 2, and Colossians chapter 1. It certainly seems that Caird believed just as Paul said: God will reconcile to Himself every human being and every spirit being according to His own schedule and in a manner suited to the individual beings involved.

Later Caird gives us an overview of Christ's victory and eventual total reconciliation of the spiritual powers back to God. He presents three characteristics of Christ's defeat of the spiritual powers (Caird, pp 83–84):

'Firstly, then, the powers are subordinate authorities [formerly] raised to a position of absolute authority, and

they are defeated by a revelation of the true nature and purpose of God.

Secondly, the powers represent organized evil, evil embedded in the structure of society or woven into the fabric of the universe; and

they are defeated by the identification of men with a new organic unity over which evil has no power.

Thirdly, the powers owe their hold upon the world and upon humanity in particular to sin, and

they are defeated by the unyielding obedience of Christ."

So ... Who Or What Are The Pagan "gods"?

The apostle Paul correctly identifies who and what they are in the epistle of First Corinthians. They are termed "gods" in Greek and *elohim* in Hebrew. Paul explains while instructing the Corinthian *ekklesia* about idols and their relationship to "gods":

"Then, concerning the feeding on the idol sacrifices: We are aware that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God except One.

For even if so be that THERE ARE those being termed gods, whether in heaven or on earth, even as THERE ARE many gods and many lords, nevertheless FOR US there is

**one God, the Father, out of Whom all is, and we for Him, and
one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom all is, and we through Him.**

But not in all is there this knowledge ..."

• 1 Corinthians 8:4–7, CLV

Paul makes a distinction between these **"many gods"** who are actually alive, and the idols through which people suppose they worship these "gods" but are really **"nothing."** The idols are simply non-living wood and metal. Ancient people knew the idols were not gods. Yet the objects were thought to "hold" power in some way. Hence, they often have incantations written on them. Those objects of wood, stone, and metal received

the worship by people which was somehow transmitted to and received by the “god” in some way. We should not care except that Israel was caught up and suffered greatly from their idolatry, and so did Gentiles until God opened their minds to receive the truths of God.

Paul finishes his statement by saying who the true God is, the Creator, and who the Lord Jesus Christ is, through whom all creation comes. I like to give an incomplete analogy by saying God is the owner, operator, and architect of all projects called “creation,” and Jesus Christ was and is the prime contractor to see to the completion of all those projects. You are one of God’s and Christ’s projects, and so am I. They will bring you to completion and the result will be that you shall be like Christ is now, a child of God.

The “gods” Can Perish

The prophet Jeremiah gives us an understanding of the scope of the defeat of the spiritual powers.

“Yet Yahweh is Elohim in truth; HE is the living Elohim and the eonian King; At His wrath the earthquakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation. You [Jeremiah] shall say this to them:

‘The elohim that did not make the heavens and the earth,

These [elohim] SHALL PERISH [1] from the EARTH and [2] from under the HEAVENS.’

Yahweh is the Maker of the earth by His vigor, The Establisher of the habitation [world] by His wisdom, And by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.”

• **Jeremiah 10:10–12, CLV**

The “**elohim**” will “**perish from the earth and from under the heavens.**” There may be *elohim* **in** the heavens and off the earth that may escape and not perish. How many “gods” is YHWH referring to? We do not know. No time frame is given as to when they will “**perish**” but they will do so. There could possibly be some, or perhaps many of these particular *elohim* still living. Or YHWH may be referring to millions, perhaps billions who come to earth and the area around earth to confront Christ when He returns. They will all “**perish.**”

Elohim, both good and evil, can manifest physically on occasion with varying degrees of ability and power.⁹ Angels can manifest physically as in Genesis when angels appear to Abraham, to Lot, and Jacob wrestled with an *elohim*. Paul wrote in Hebrews 13:2: “**Be not forgetting hospitality, for through this some were oblivious when lodging messengers.**”

The *elohim* referred to “**did not make the heavens and the earth.**” The beings referred to did not participate as “sub-creators” or spirit “construction workers.” They did not act on God’s behalf in creation.¹⁰ YHWH made the earth by wisdom “**And by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.**” Note what YHWH says about the idols Judah worshiped at:

“Every human is proved irrational, without knowledge; Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carving, For his molten image is falsehood, And there is no spirit in them [the idols]. Vanity are they, a work of aberrations [errors]; In the era of their visitation they shall PERISH.”

• **Jeremiah 10:14–15**

Again, God (through Jeremiah) was not threatening and judging non-living idols of wood and metal. The

⁹ Satan manifested himself to Eve in the Garden in the physical form of a serpent, a *nachash*, Genesis 3:1 and several other verses. The Sons of God were spirit beings that had physical intercourse and bred children from human women in Genesis chapter 6. See my article “[Who Are the Nephilim](#)” and “[Elohim and the Son of God Part 1](#).” The offspring were said to be “**from Adam.**” See my Commentary “[Anakim Are from Adam](#).” In my article “[Spirits Can Die](#)” the Sons of God “**shall die like men**” as it says in Psalm 82:7 and other verses. To “**die like men**” means they must be “**like men**” and somehow are limited to the physical realm.

¹⁰ Some select angels have been given the high honor to speak for YHWH in His name. Such angels gave Israel details about the Law that became part of the Law of Moses (Acts 7:53 and Galatians 3:19).

human artists creating the idols, they will perish. The objects they create are meaningless. However, the *elohim* in 10:10–12, are living beings that YHWH says, “**shall perish.**” The word “**perish**” is an interesting Hebrew term. The *elohim* YHWH is referring to are spirits that may have been alive since creation, who continue to live UNTIL God causes them to “**perish.**” They will cease to exist in any form. Other *elohim* are in prison (2 Peter 2:4), others are in chains (Jude verse 6), some will be imprisoned (Revelation 20:1–10). They shall perish later.

All beings (humans or spirits) who sin, will die (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). All who die will be made alive again and reconciled to God. I believe the apostle Paul fully understood Jeremiah’s statements. He was told (probably by Christ, 2 Corinthians 12:1–10) that all spirit entities will exist again, and all will be reconciled to God.

As mentioned elsewhere, Ephesians 1:10, Colossians 1:20 and Philippians 2:10–11 tell us that all *elohim* in heaven and earth will exist again some time after they “**perish.**” They must exist in order for them to be reconciled to their Creator. However, these beings will never become children of God (as Scripture tells us, see Hebrews 1:5). Some glorified humans, particularly those of the Mystery, will help Christ reconcile these spirit beings to God and Christ.

The Idols Are Nothing, but the “gods” Are Real?

Yes, the pagan “gods” are real, and they exist, but the idols of those gods merely represent the gods. The idols have no power. An unidentified and unknown psalmist wrote Psalm 115:

“Not to us, O Yahweh, not to us, But to Your Name give glory, On account of Your benignity [mercy], on Your faithfulness.

Why should the nations say, ‘Where, pray, is their [Israel’s] Elohim?’ Indeed, our Elohim is in the heavens; **All that He desires, He does.**

Their fetishes [idols of the *elohim* or “gods” of the nations] are silver and gold, The work of human hands;

**They have a mouth, but they cannot speak;
They have eyes, but they cannot see;
They have ears, but they cannot hear;
They have a nose, but they cannot smell;
Their hands, they cannot feel;
Their feet, they cannot walk;
They cannot even mumble in their throat.**

Like them, may their makers become, all who are trusting in them.”

• **Psalm 115:1–6**

Attacks By Spirits Against the Children of Adam

There have been many battles of spirits attempting to harm and even attack God’s chosen people Israel (His Old Covenant believers) and God’s anointed children in the New Testament (His believers after Christ’s resurrection). Their object was to physically harm or kill human beings. It still is their goal today, if allowed to do so. To put it bluntly, they hate you, and they want you to suffer and die.

When prevented from directly killing or harming people, they seek to distract human beings from worshipping YHWH, the Creator God. Their best tactic so far has been to entice humans to worship anything other than YHWH. The apostle Paul vividly describes that process in Romans 1:18–32. Here are some examples of spiritual attacks on human beings.

- Adam and Eve were attacked by temptation when Satan gained Eve’s attention and told her the first lie any human ever heard, causing her to sin through Satan’s stealth. God permitted it to occur.

- Satan attacked Jesus by tempting Him after 40 days and 40 nights of fasting. Angels helped His physical body to be strengthened again (Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; and Luke 4:1–13). Satan failed.
- The “Sons of God” attacked mankind by seducing and taking daughters descended from Adam, apparently marrying them, impregnating them to give birth to the *nephilim* as told in Genesis chapter 6.¹¹ The offspring by the physical union of the Sons of God and daughters of Adam (mankind) led to horrendous and violent sins and evils being committed. The evils got worse until the flood. These events were also intended to pollute the generations of humans to prevent the future coming of the Messiah, the Savior. That attempt failed.

Remember, YHWH “**set the cherubim and the flame of the revolving sword to guard the way to the tree of life**” which was in the midst of the Garden (Genesis 3:3, 24). Did cherubim stay at the entrance to the Garden for the entire pre-flood period? Perhaps so. The Tree of Life was transferred to New Jerusalem in heaven where it is now (Revelation 2:7, 22:1–2, 14). The apostle John saw it in his vision. We will see it and we will be able to eat the fruit from it.

Remember, after Adam and Eve’s sin they were still permitted to remain in Eden itself, but not enter the Garden. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden within Eden. Cain and Abel went into Eden to sacrifice at the altar within Eden near the entrance to the Garden guarded by Cherubim. Anyone who wanted proof of supernatural beings in the pre-flood world would only need to go to Eden and go to view the Garden and Cherubim.

Were the cherubim guarding the entrance against Adam’s children, mere human beings? True, the text says God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden (Genesis 3:22–24). No doubt many people tried to enter through various means. (There must have been a fence or a barrier of some kind, if not, why was there a gate?) Simple swords would have sufficed against human beings; but the Cherubim had flaming “revolving” swords. Whatever that meant, it must have been interesting. Supernatural beings were in front of the entrance to the Garden of Eden, day and night, until the Garden was destroyed by flood.

Or were they also guarding against non-human spiritual beings who sought to pollute the Garden, the Paradise of God?¹² Perhaps they were guarding against powerful “Sons of God” and their super-strong *nephilim* physical hybrid offspring who sought to desecrate the Garden of Eden. The cherubim were there for a reason. Sometime before the flood the tree of life was taken to heaven, and is there at this moment, according to John’s vision in Revelation 2:7. It is translated as “**tree of life**” in most other English translations.

- The Israelites were seduced to worship foreign gods after the Exodus from Egypt. This violation of Israel’s covenant with YHWH led to the deaths of thousands in the wilderness. Moabite women (descended from Abram’s nephew Lot) led the idolatrous seductions. The foreign gods the Israelites worshipped were real. These “gods” of the nations existed, and some still may exist today. They were designated by El to die like men (Psalm 82:6–7). Some may still be alive. They were real, but the idols of wood and stone were not living.
- There was a war in heaven when Jesus was born of Mary (Revelation 12:7). Satan and his angels tried to prevent that birth or kill Jesus. This event is covered at length in the original article “[The Magnitude of the End Time Crisis.](#)”

¹¹ God considers the Nephilim and other giants to be human. See footnote 11.

¹² In John’s vision, Revelation 2:7, the “**tree of life**” is in the “midst” or “center” of the paradise of God. It is a real place (Luke 23:43). It exists at this moment. The apostle Paul (like John) was taken to “paradise” in vision (2 Corinthians 12:4). I believe Paul was allowed to speak and write about some of those heavenly things in the Book of Hebrews.

- That was not the first time such wars occurred. There are indications in the Old Testament about conflicts in heaven above the earth while crucial events were taking place on earth. Whenever the presence of God's angelic host is made visible and revealed, they are not there just to appear. They are there to defend or protect God's interests, or defend God's people, or to carry out God's orders either on the offensive or defensive against other spiritual powers. Did you ever notice how often they have swords at the ready? Do you think it takes an army to kill armies of human beings? No. The army of God's host gathers to fight other spirit forces.
- In a July 2002 Commentary I answered the question, "[Why Does God Need an Army?](#)" The answer is simple, God chooses to delegate responsibilities to His servants. God delegated responsibility to the cherub of Ezekiel chapter 28 (who is not Satan) and it failed its responsibility. See Dr. Martin's September 2000 article "[Lingering Idolatry in the Temple of God.](#)"

There Will Be More War in Heaven

The Gospel of Luke was the synoptic Gospel to Gentiles, written by a Gentile physician named Luke. The information in that Gospel was information the apostle Paul wanted told in both Luke and Acts. Luke compiled his Gospel from eyewitness accounts of events in Christ's life and ministry (Luke 1:1–2 and Acts . Luke quotes Jesus talking about a future time just before the Son of God will return.

"Then He said to them, 'Roused shall be nation against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Besides, there shall be great quakes and, in places, famines and pestilences. There shall be fearful sights besides great signs also from heaven.'"

• *Luke 21:10–11*

Whenever you read about signs, in or from heaven, that is an indicator of an attack from or by spirit beings. Later in Luke chapter 21, Jesus goes into detail about those "**great signs also from heaven**" that will occur immediately before He returns to earth. These signs will be widely visible to the world, not just in Judea:

"And there shall be signs in

- [1] **the sun and**
- [2] **the moon and**
- [3] **the constellations, and**
- [4] **on the earth pressure [distress] of nations in perplexity, at the resounding of the sea and the shaking, at the chilling of men from fear and apprehensiveness**
- [5] **of that which is coming on the inhabited earth, for**
- [6] **the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.**

And **THEN** they shall be seeing the Son of Mankind **coming in a cloud with power and much glory**. Now at the beginning of these occurrences, unbend and **lift up your heads**, [Why?] because your deliverance is drawing near."

• *Luke 21:25–28 (Matthew 24:29 and Mark 13:24–25)*

Jesus was quoting Moses when the people of Israel were preparing to enter the land YHWH promised to Israel. Moses warned them:

"Guard yourselves lest you should lift up your eyes toward the heavens, and you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of the heavens, and be induced to bow yourself down to them and serve them, which Yahweh your Elohim has apportioned to all other peoples beneath the entire heavens."

• *Deuteronomy 4:19*

The sun, moon, stars, and **“all the host of the heavens”** were **“apportioned to all other peoples beneath the entire heavens,”** meaning they were given to non-Israelite peoples. Is YHWH referring to worship of physical objects: sun, moon, stars, and planets in the physical universe? No. Again, ancient people worshipped real personal spirit beings associated with various celestial bodies. They did not worship idols, they worshipped the gods that the idols represented. It was the same with heavenly bodies. The Gentile peoples worshipped real spirit entities that claim a connection with the wondrous objects in the skies. On their part, the spirit entities responded to those who sought to contact them, if it suited the spirit’s agenda of control over the people of the nation. God allowed the “gods” to lie to the Gentile peoples.

The Sons of God (the beings of Genesis chapter 6, Job chapters 1 and 2, Psalm 82, and Psalm 89:6) were allotted to “judge” a group of people. The world belongs to YHWH, and He parceled out parts to be judged by some of His Sons of God. They were to be the “god” of those people, and adjudicate just decisions on behalf of the people. All of them failed. That is the story of Psalm 82. The “gods” of the nations were unjust to the people under them. All did evil and God sentenced them to **“die like common humanity [adam]”** (Psalm 82:7).

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, after the end of his 7 years of animal-like madness, wrote a letter to all the subjects in his kingdom. His letter is about the greatness and sovereignty of YHWH in all creation:

“All those abiding on the earth are reckoned as naught [as nothing]; according to His will He is doing with the army of the heavens and with those abiding on the earth. And there is NO ONE who shall stay His hand and say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

• *Daniel 4:35*

Later, after Babylon fell and was captured by the Medes and Persians, Darius the Persian King retained the Jewish administrator Daniel in authority as one of three top officials under himself in Babylon (Daniel chapter 6). Darius was tricked into putting Daniel into a den of lions. God saved Daniel and Darius rejoiced. Like Nebuchadnezzar, King Darius wrote a letter about the matter to be spread around the Kingdom:

“Then king Darius wrote to all peoples, leagues, and language-groups that are abiding in all the earth:

‘May your well-being be growing great! From before me there has been promulgated this decree that, in all the domain of my kingdom, they should be stirred and terrified before Daniel’s Eloah [a form of the Hebrew “El”] ...

He is delivering and rescuing; He is doing signs and amazing things in the heavens and on the earth, for He delivered Daniel from the paws of the lions.’

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

• *Daniel 6:25–28*

Darius is not just praising Daniel’s God for saving him from the lions, Darius referred to events that must have been seen and viewed by all within the Persian Empire. After all, Darius mentions **“signs and amazing things in the heavens AND on the earth.”** Yes, Daniel being saved from the jaws of the lions was a **“sign,”** but what were the **“amazing things”** Darius wrote about? Were there events that took place **“in the heavens”** before and after the lions were kept from eating Daniel? Darius did three things with this letter.

First, he publicly rejoices about Daniel surviving. It was a good thing that happened.

Second, Darius acknowledges to his people the unspecified events in the heavens and on the earth. His self-serving letter was intended to quiet possible fears of the people.

Third, he hints that these divine events indicate God’s favor upon the reign of Darius.

What occurred **“in the heavens”** that all the people in the Persian Empire knew about? The Scriptures do not give us further information. No one knows, but Darius wrote about it. Perhaps some of the visions Daniel had over the many years had repercussions **“in the heavens and on the earth.”**

David Sielaff, 2022