

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

As we continue this month on the subject of being born-again, I want to take us back to the beginning and lay a foundation as to the position of humanity in relation to the position that the enemy holds. Over 6000 years ago, after the fall of Lucifer, God planned for Adam, Eve and each individual throughout the generations to enter into this brand new life; a new life to live eternally with him.

Some may ask the question then, why would God allow Satan to have access to Adam & Eve in the garden? The scripture reference in **1 John 3:8** says "the devil has sinned from the beginning". The word beginning in the Greek (arche) refers to the very beginning that the Lord laid at the creation of the earth. (**Hebrews 1:10**) The word for foundation is the word "THEMELIO" which means to place a brand new foundation. There is also another word for foundation. This is "KATABOLE" which means a foundation that has been thrown down and judged. This is the "first estate" or dawn of time that Lucifer ruled over. (See **Ezekiel 28:15-17, Isaiah 14:12-14**).

To clarify, this "katabole" foundation in times past was prior to the creation of Adam and Eve. The devil was already a fallen angel when he approached Eve in the garden. In Luke 10:18 the Lord said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven". Please take time to read the three scripture witnesses that I've mentioned here: **John 17:24, Matthew 13:35** and **Hebrews 4:3**.

Every word for foundation is KATABOLE. Whenever the plan of salvation is mentioned it is always referenced from a foundation that Satan had ruled over. Again, Satan was known as Lucifer in the first "kosmos" or world system which was thrown down and judged. The scripture does not say too much about the first world (kosmos), but we do know Lucifer was a good angel at the time he was created, until iniquity was found in him, we see this in **Ezekiel 28:14-15** "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you." In **1 John 3:8** when it said the devil sinned from the beginning, it literally is referring to that first rule, not from the time of Adam.

Even though there is some obscurity regarding that first world, we do know that God would not go to the measure He did to inhabit the first world, then submit it to an angel to bring it to ruin so he could educate us as to the heartache of sin. Remember, Satan at one time was a good angel named Lucifer as seen in **Ezekiel 28:13, 15**.

The world of Adam and Eve that we are birthed into was given to the first Adam, not an angel, see **Psalms 8:3-9**. When you look at the Book of Hebrews, the scriptures are telling us where the second Adam comes in and takes His place over the first Adam. Jesus, the "second Adam", became the first to inherit man's original position with God.

Everything perished from the first rule and the first world which had physical life in it. The only thing that remained was Satan, fallen angels, and the dis-embodied spirits of men which inhabited a physical body and perished in the judgment of that first foundation. We know Satan's fall was the result of what was found in him. He was not created to be tempted to sin. He permitted a nature to develop in him to the point of wanting to replace his position with God through pride and self will.

One thing Satan knows is the nature he created. Satan wants to occupy the souls of everyone, which God created for good. Satan's number one attack is on the souls of men. Everything after the fall of Adam and Eve, coming directly from God, is His work on the earth to preserve mankind until the cross; the beautiful plan of salvation for all humanity.

Next month we will continue and look into how Adam turned this world over to Satan. **Luke 4:5-6**. My prayer for you is that with this understanding, although intricate in detail, you will have another vantage point as to the grand and glorious picture of the plan of salvation; why we must be born again.

Love,
JANN T. BUTLER

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