

PASSING THE BATON NUMBER 1

ECHOES FROM EDEN

6th January, 2007

Session I

God – Who is He?

From Genesis to Revelation we see a progressive revelation (unveiling, disclosure) of the Personhood of God.

He does not hide Himself. He is a God who REVEALS Himself, culminating in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, given to Him, the scripture says to show His servants what must shortly take place. (**Revelation 1:1**). Please, never, never, call this book Revelations – the Revelation is of a Person, the resurrected Christ.

If you want the Greek it is **APOKALYPSIS IESOU CHRISTOU** – the unveiling, or revelation of Jesus Christ.

I'm not going to do too much of this, but if you're interested in the Hebrew word for Genesis, it is the word **BERESHIT** and it means 'in the beginning'.

The interesting thing about the way the Hebrew is formed is that it assumes that there was something, or Someone, there before the beginning! And the Bible tells us there was – In the beginning, God.

John 17:3 God desires that you KNOW Him – this word 'know' is the one used for intimacy in marriage. So He desires an intimate, one on one RELATIONSHIP with you. We will see a little later that God created a personal man for personal fellowship – this is not religion! It is a vibrant, living, breathing relationship with an awesome God who is also our tender Shepherd Father, and coming Bridegroom.

Those of you who have never had a parent there to defend you, look after you and nurture you – please beloved, open the ears of your heart as I take you through just a few names of this great God of ours as He reveals Himself to mankind in Genesis, the first few chapters. This God is all for you. He gives Himself 100% into His relationship with you. Everything He is, is everything you need, He created you that way, so that He could be everything to you. Again we will see a little later what robbed us of this relationship and really how difficult the climb is, back into His heart, because of the internal damage we have sustained. The damage the enemy has done to His character.

If we don't know what God is really, really like, we will be unstable because we don't know how He's going to react in certain circumstances.

Moses says in **Psalm 90:1,2** 'From everlasting to everlasting You are God' – El Olam, the everlasting God. There has never been a time when He was not.

ELOHIM

In the beginning, God...Elohim **Genesis 1:1** English form God. But so much more than that. Elohim is the **most powerful** of ALL the powerful ones. Not only that but again, in the structure is the PLURALITY – the triune God. One God three persons. This uni-plurality is seen in **Genesis 1: 26** ‘and God (plural) said let US make man...’

Elohim, the most powerful of all the powerful ones is used in the Old Testament about 2,500 times – good score!

YHWH ELOHIM

Genesis 2:4 This is the first of His compound names.

Following the creation of Adam, you find God referred to as the LORD God.

He is beginning to reveal Himself.

This word in Hebrew is HAVAH from which YHWH (we pronounce Jahweh) comes and from which we get Jehovah. This name has been formed by adding vowels to make it easy for English speaking peoples. Where Elohim points to His might and strength, this name is about His ‘being’. Havah is the self-existent One who reveals Himself – I am Who I am. As in **Exodus 3:14**, *‘I am the One who is to become known by a continuous and increasing self-revelation.’*

There is so much to be known about this great God who thought it not robbery to humble Himself and take on human form (**Philippians 2:6-8**). So we have the compound *“I am Who I am, the most powerful of all the powerful ones”*. This surely indicates the special relationship between God and man.

EL ELYON

Genesis 14:18. The Most High God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth.

It’s all His! If you flip over to **Deuteronomy 32:8** you will see He gives to whom He chooses. **Acts 17:26** says the same thing. God is the one great territorial Spirit!

EL SHADDAI

Genesis 17:1 Almighty God, El Shaddai.

Literally the breasted one, the nurturer, the sustainer, strength-giver, the satisfier, Who pours Himself into believers lives. Really, All Sufficient One would be far preferable to Almighty. El Shaddai not only enriches but makes fruitful. To a man 99 years old ‘and as good as dead’ He said ‘I am Almighty God (all you need, El Shaddai) I will multiply you exceedingly. **Genesis 17: 1 – 8**.

ADONAI

Lord – Hebrew – Adonai. Primary meaning husband or master.

In the Old Testament it is applied to both God and man. As man it is used of two relationships. Master and husband. **Genesis 24:9**. In **Exodus 4:10** Moses feels his weakness and incompetence 'Moses said to the LORD (Jehovah) *'O my Lord (capital 'L' = Adonai) 'I am not eloquent'*. Since service is in question, Moses appropriately addresses Jehovah as Lord, as **power** is in question, it is not Adonai but Jehovah (LORD, the self-existent One) who replies and directly refers to His creation power *'Who made man's mouth?'* I suspect that shut Mo up!

There are many, many, compounds of YHWH -

Jehovah Jireh – **Genesis 22:8** God provides

Jehovah Rophe – **Exodus 15:26** God heals

Jehovah Nissi – **Exodus 17:15** God our banner

Jehovah M'kaddesh **Leviticus 20:8** God sanctifies

Jehovah Shalom – **Judges 6:24** God our peace

Jehovah Tsidkenu – **Jeremiah 23:5,6** God our righteousness

Jehovah Rohi – **Psalms 23** God our Shepherd

Jehovah Shammah – **Ezekiel 48:35** God is there

All these compound names show specific revelations of what and who God wanted to be to His people at any given time. Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.

My own favourite is Jehovah Sabaoth – Lord of Hosts – Warrior King. **Romans 9:29**. **1 Samuel 1:3 and Psalm 24:10** to name but a few. The Lord is a mighty warrior!

So, the revelation of God by His names is always in connection with some particular need of His people.

This must persuade us that there can indeed be no need of us, His people, which He cannot and will not fill. He is all we need.

Session II

Satan's fall and its consequences

Open your Bibles please at **Luke 2:8-14**. Verse 14 is the one we want, the Doxology, glory words, Glory to God in the Highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.

We are seeing two places, heaven and earth.

Now go please to **Ezekiel 28: 12 – 19**. Up to verse 11 Ezekiel has been prophesying against a person called the Prince of Tyre, but Satan is the King of Tyre, the power behind the throne.

From this passage we see Satan's origins.

He was in Eden, the garden of God (note please NOT in the Garden of Eden – the Eden here spoken of is the one in the third heaven, round the Throne Room of God. There are three heavens – the earth's atmosphere, the heavens where we see the stars arranged, and the third heaven way out beyond this where God is enthroned). So, this action is taking place in the 3rd heaven, out of our sight altogether, in the garden of God.

Satan was the highest of the created angelic beings and his name was Lucifer, which means 'light bearer'. All the stones mentioned are the same as those which the High Priest wore and Satan had all the garments of the High Priest – if you like, he was High Priest to God. He arranged everything *under* God's rulership – much like Joseph in Pharaoh's house. Trusted. He had rulership over the angels until he fell.

He was perfect in beauty. But his enormous riches and beauty caused pride to rise in his heart, rather like taking credit himself for all he was, inflated by his own reflection **Ezekiel 28: 16-19** he loses his position and when pride comes into his heart, he starts to think of usurping even God **Isaiah 14: 12** and following – the '5 I wills' of Satan.

As a result of his pride he loses his position, but he still has access to the Throne room **Revelation 12:10, Job 1:6**; he is also allowed to test Peter. Jesus said '*Satan has desired to sift you as wheat but I have prayed for you that your faith doesn't fail*' **Luke 22:31,32**.

Today, Satan still has access to heaven. He cannot do anything which God does not allow, he has to ask permission, cf **Luke 22:31,32**, but the time will come when he is refused this access and he will be thrown down again to earth and will come with great wrath. **Revelation 12:7-10**.

When we come to look at creation and the garden of Eden we will see he was already fallen and had entered the serpent and in **Genesis 3:14** we see the sentence passed on him which will be carried out at the end of the age when he is cast alive into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels **Matthew 25: 45**.

One more thing about Satan, he like all the created beings, men, and angels, were given free will and it is this vital element that tested both Satan and Adam and indeed tests every person born – we get to choose for God or against Him.

When Satan fell he took one-third of the angelic host with him. I imagine rather like David's son Absalom he did it by stealth, going round to the angels promising them power if they would side with him.

The point here being there are still more of them with us than against us! Elisha in **2 Kings 6:13-17**, when his assistant is having a fit about the chariots that are surrounding them says the classic one liner '*There's more with us than there are with them*'. So, in this present time he commutes between the 2nd and 3rd heaven but the time will come when he will be cast down to earth and the description 'all hell will break loose' wouldn't be too strong.

Hopefully we won't be around for that because the Bride will have been caught up to her Bridegroom before then.

So, having set the scene, we are ready to look at the creation account and the Garden of Eden on earth. Curtain up! Scene III!!

The Garden of Eden

Session III

Job 38:7 *“The morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy”* – what a scripture! Curtain up on the love affair of the Universe.

The stage is set; we already know some of the characters – God and a beautiful fallen being named (now) Satan, or adversary. God has a dream – someone on whom He can lavish His love and who will love Him with the love He gives them. (**1 John 4:19** *‘We love because He first loved us’*). A personal God creates a personal man for personal fellowship.

Purpose and intent.

Eternal purpose, nothing haphazard, whole plan already in place – God will have a people for Himself who will love Him of their own free will.

We have seen the first, heavenly Eden, we’ve seen how before the world was created the angelic conflict began, we’ve seen from the Ezekiel passage that earthly rulers are controlled by spiritual forces. So God prepares this beautiful place, forming all the animals from the dust of the ground.

Then comes the climax on the 6th day, the whole support system is in place – God always makes preparation when He’s about to do something. He prepared a language for the gospel to get out quickly when Jesus came – it was called KOINE Greek and was invented by Alexander the Great, and when He was planning to bring Israel back to their homeland a young man named Eliezer Ben Yehuda, travelling with his young wife back to Israel in 1880 decided that they would speak nothing but Hebrew and in 1948 Hebrew was chosen as the National Language and today it is spoken everywhere in Israel.

God is purposeful, and intentional in His dealings with man.

So, the garden is ready, and He sets about forming the pinnacle of His creation – man. Father, Son, Holy Spirit all there *‘Let us...’* all concerned and involved, all in total agreement about who they wanted to form. Heads bowed over the clay – dust and spit – do you think in **John 9: 6 – 7** Jesus was showing them Who He was?

The word for form here in Genesis is squeezing into shape as of a potter, moulding to a desired shape with great care, craftsmanship and handiwork. He formed, or fashioned not only man, but animals **Genesis 2:19**. He also formed the spirit of man within him **Zechariah 12:1** and the heart and mind of man **Psalms 33:13-15** *“Of Him and to Him and through Him are all things”* **Romans 11:36**.

He made man in His image and in His likeness.

The modern Hebrew word for image is SALEM = shadow, outward physical outline, in compound form it means to have your photograph taken therefore man in his external form projects the image and likeness of God.

Into this lifeless clay God breathes His own life-giving Spirit. God literally explodes air into the clay. Hebrew viippah – continuous outgoing breath, God never breathes in, and man becomes a living soul Hebrew, NEPESH **Genesis 2:7**.

Jesus does the same thing to the disciples when they are born again **after** his death and resurrection in **John 20:22**. *'Receive ye the Holy Ghost'* KJV.

The lost Spirit of God comes into their human spirit.

Later in Acts they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Two separate events.

We were created for unbroken fellowship and total dependence on our Creator.

When we turn and realise our fallen state, we begin the journey back to wholeness and sanctification, though we are immediately made right with God by virtue of Jesus blood, there remains much internal ground to be taken.

The original created order was:

God
Angels, including Satan
Man
Animals

After Jesus died in His humanity and rose again:

God
Jesus Christ the **Man**
Angels, including Satan
Man
Animals

After Jesus death and resurrection and your rebirth in Him

God
The Man Christ Jesus head of The Church
Believers, the Body of Christ
Angels and Satan
Unbelievers
Animals

The devil is now under our feet.

Adam was given instructions about dominion **before** Eve was created **Genesis 2:15-17**, verse 18, *'it is not good for man to be alone'*. Prefiguring the Bride God wanted to present to His

Son, He formed Eve from Adam's side in just the same way as the Bride of Christ was formed from His spear torn side.

The two Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed, clothed with light and perfect. Into this scene walks the serpent who appears to have Eve's ear. They approach one of the trees in the midst of the garden and the rest is history. Paradise is lost, in dying spiritually they will die physically.

The temptation to self-government won, they must now decide for themselves right and wrong, they can no longer connect with the God who created them, Spirit to spirit. Disease, sickness, sorrow, and toil will now be mankind's lot. God, for His part, before they can reach out their hand and eat from the tree of Life, has to remove them from the garden **Genesis 3:22-24**.

To discover Paradise regained, we need to go to **Revelation 22: 1 – 5**. These 5 verses are the last verses of prophecy found in the Bible. Verse 3 shows us there will be no more curse. As in the original garden we see the Tree of Life – a testimony to God's provision and the statement of His love – he finishes what He started. A people for Himself.