1656 Years: The Way of Mankind, Pt. 1

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Today, we're going to begin a new series that reveals a great deal about the creation of mankind from the beginning and lessons to be learned from that.

The book of Genesis doesn't record much about the growth of mankind on earth after the creation of Adam and Eve. There are very few chapters there that are written that cover a span of 1,656 years. It's very specific in scripture about that. All you have to do is go through the lineage of Adam and on down through there, and it gives the exact lineage of when certain things took place.

And yet it's within that first 1,656 years that we can learn much about God's plan and purpose for mankind and how He, God, would work with mankind throughout the time that would follow.

So, a very unique time, always remembering that none of these things were a surprise to God. God knew what He was creating. He knew things that would take place. He planned for them, very specifically so. So, it's quite incredible going through it in that regard, knowing the power, the might, the mind of God Almighty, because as a whole, the world obviously has never really grasped that, nor could believe that in the first place.

So, it's very hard for the human mind to conceive of such power, such a God, and yet, if they really believed the power that He had to create in the first place, it wouldn't be as hard. Anyway, crazy, crazy – things that mankind has to go through and learn, even with the power of God's spirit within them when they have that opportunity.

This new series is entitled *1,656 Years—The Way of Mankind*. It can be stated a little longer, but I can't make real long titles for the system, and don't like to do that. But possibly a clearer one would be *1,656 Years Fully Reveals the True Ways of Mankind*.

And that's really a lot of the purpose of that: God giving mankind extended life and all the things involved with that to bring things to the surface to help people to learn from that. That's why it happened in the manner that it did, and showing the necessity for that to be changed, obviously, at the time of the flood.

So, the new book that is now in its final stages, as I just mentioned in the announcement, now in chapter 10, which is the one I wrote down in my notes when I wrote this, focuses upon some of those things that concern how God created temporary existing physical human beings and His purpose in doing so. It's awesome what God has given us to see and to understand. It truly is. It shows why God gave mankind physically composed minds as opposed to spirit-created minds like the angels had in the angelic realm.

God first began revealing this unique purpose through Herbert Armstrong. So again, *The Mystery of the Ages*, when that came out, and all the things that he had addressed in that that began to give us understanding of things that people had never understood before of God's purpose in doing some of this and the process, and how we are created, how we are made, how our minds are different.

And then God has been showing us more during this period of time, being able to build upon what He had revealed through His apostle, Herbert Armstrong. And again, we have just been awesomely, powerfully, mightily blessed because God gives His spirit for the purpose of growth, and through time, a progressive revelation where people were given more and more to see, to know, and to understand. Then, at the time of Christ, after about 4,000 years, awesome and incredible things were revealed. But a lot of that was never fully understood, not even all of it by the apostles, because it wasn't for them to know some of those things. And then, especially after God called Herbert Armstrong at the end of an age, He began to reveal more because of where we are in time, because of the necessity of doing so, because of the Messiah that is going to return again. Awesome.

So, we're going to pick this up in Genesis 2. Things in Genesis 1 have already been covered.

Genesis 2:1, we're going to pick it up there because chapter 10 already, obviously, goes through a lot of these things, and so this is where we're going to pick this up. **Genesis 2:1—Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them**. Quite a powerful statement – "The heavens and the earth were finished." God turned His attention to the earth for the next, well, 7,100 years, candidly, for a great purpose. I don't want to get into chapter 11. So, what lies beyond what God created, potentially all of that was a completion, a finish of what God was going to do to that point, until now it was finally time to create mankind.

And so, God remolded, refashioned the earth, if you will, and put mankind upon it. And so it goes through this, this part of the story. Indeed, God gave in Genesis 1, of the time that He turned His attention to the earth after so long a time of it being in ruin and all the things that He did in setting it aright, in a right orbit and all that mankind has never understood of what really happened because of Satan's rebellion, because of what he did to the earth, that kind of power and might that he had. Then God restricted him from the use of that power from that point forward, obviously.

So, God looked, or God saw and looked upon all that He had made and said it was very good. I can't imagine. We can't imagine what He went through, what He had for so long before He even created anything, of the planning, of the purpose, of things being established before He even started anything with any kind of creation at all. We can't comprehend that. We really can't.

We can know about it, and, with God's help, be able to believe it, but to really grasp it, we really can't. But all the things that were planned out, all the things we're going to be reading through in the story, all the things through 7,100 years, and way, way, way beyond.

Because to have created things to a certain point where He said it was finished to that point for its purpose is an awesome thing. I think chapter 11 will help bring that to light even a little bit more.

So, again, this is going to come up again a little bit later throughout this series when God makes a statement like that, that it was very good. He makes it later on, and a lot of people have looked right over what He had to say.

Then we come to this chapter 2 that we're getting ready to go into and read the first verse. It states, again, that **The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them**. So, it's kind of a summary, if you will, of what was done, and then what yet lies ahead.

And the word literally means "to be completed," this Hebrew word "finished." So, **The heavens and the earth were completed, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the work which He had made**. So again, to come to this point of things He had planned for so long, the earth lying in ruin, waste for so long – billions, potentially trillions of years? We can't comprehend that. We can't comprehend that kind of time and what took place that continued on for a long time in creating a universe.

And yet we know of certain things that happened to the earth. Things have been revealed about what Lucifer did, what Satan did. So, to come to this point in time with remolding and refashioning because this was the goal of it all. This was the beginning of it all. This was the point in time where God could finally begin to create that which was the purpose of everything else. Awesome! Mankind with the potential to become Elohim, to be in His Family.

And so, for Him to say that, I think of emotion when certain things are accomplished and you have a point in time in your life that is maybe at a heightened point that is exceedingly incredible in astonishment. And to see something like that had to be incredible, had to be great in ways that we can't even, again, begin to comprehend.

He rested that seventh day from all the work which He had made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. What a shame people don't understand that, don't understand the past and all that had taken place and how long God has worked to bring time even to that point there, let alone to the point where we are now. So, to bring mankind to that point, to begin working with mankind so that He could create His own Family, and then to set aside the seventh day.

I hope for us even, even by going through some of this, we can see it in a better way, in a stronger way, the importance of the Sabbath day and God setting it aside like He did, and how it has been so looked down upon by humanity, by mankind, and yet should be to honor God, to live it in the way God says to live it.

…because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made. Just in those six days or for trillions of years to come to that point?

These are the generations… “The descent, the genealogies, the history, the births,” the different ways this word is used in Hebrew. **These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created in the**… Not the “**day**,” but **the time**. It’s “the age.” It's about an age. …**that the Eternal God made the earth and the heavens**. And this word “heavens” most assuredly can and does so often is referring to the universe.

Now, the next few verses are very poorly translated, and it's amazing because there is so much, especially in some of these things here, that are mistranslated because people working with it had no idea how to translate it, what to use to describe what was being described to them. You have to know the purpose. You have to know the context of things.

Just like in this book or any books like this, when you translate it into another language, you have to be able to know. So, if something's written in Hebrew, you have to know things of the story before you can do it, especially when it comes to God and God's purpose and God's plan and what God's revealing, and only God can reveal those things. So, if God gives a way to see and to grasp some of that environment and what it's about, then people can begin to translate it properly. Otherwise, they're just looking at words and coming up with their own ideas. Because without God, you can't do any better than that. That's the way it is. Awesome.

So again here, **verse 5—And every plant**… It's a word for shrubs and bushes and seems to have more to do with that which is used in agriculture. So, what kind of things would be used? I think of like raspberries and blueberries (they'd get a little bit bigger though), different kinds of things that produce food. So, it's talking about smaller kinds of things that had to be cultivated and taken care of. That's the context of what's being talked about.

…**of the field** (of the ground, the soil, whatever) **before it was in the earth**. Before God created it. So, he's saying something very unique here, “before God created it.” …**and every herb of the field**. So now it gets down to the smaller things that grow from seeds and so forth that still have to be worked and cultivated to grow, to produce food. …**and every herb of the field, before it grew**. In other words, before it began to grow, before it sprang forth.

So, it's saying something that God did before this happened, before this process could begin. Before mankind could begin to work with it, before anything could begin to produce fruit, God did something.

…**because that**, also in Hebrew, **inasmuch that the Eternal God had**, it says here, “**had not caused it to rain**.” That's not what it says. It's just saying that before these things were done, God didn't create it to be able to rain. He didn't create rain. Rain from the clouds didn't happen until after the flood. We need to understand that. We need to grasp that, that God changed something on the earth that mankind can't grasp and understand.

How people lived as long as they did, things changed. The sun, what came from the sun, the radiant, different things, whatever it was, God gave mankind the ability to live hundreds of years. Then it changed after the flood. There were people who were alive before that, but again, something changed.

The Eternal God, how it should be translated, **The Eternal God had no rain upon the earth**, or "yet had not rained" or "given rain," **and there was not any of mankind to till the ground**. It's saying here, God did something before anyone was created, before mankind was created to till what He was going to give them, as far as the ability to produce food and work with plants and so forth, the herbs and the shrubs that produce that kind of thing.

So, I'm going to read a part of something here: "This is looking ahead to when mankind would have need to dress and keep what He had created, and their need to work, especially to cultivate, to grow, to harvest, to tend to animals, all part of being sustained as physical human beings."

It's setting the groundwork here, saying all these things were done in the first six days, and then he goes back and explains something here about what's going to follow and how God is going to provide these different things for mankind and instruct mankind to dress and then keep what He gives to them and so forth.

"This is simply stating that God had already devised a means for nurturing plants and animals. Abundant waterways are described later that are needed as a strong source of water for mankind and animals." So, this is explained in the verses later on here. Rivers, incredible rivers, as it talks about in a way that magnifies the region in which God had given to mankind to take care of animals, to take care of mankind, because they weren't going to be able to go out and drill wells like we do today and have ways of moving water and so forth. So, God made it convenient and gave a lot to them in that particular region of the world, if you will.

"Also, He provided a means for, again, the beginning of watering of all herbs and shrubs." That's what He's showing here. In other words, this is a basic thing that people don't understand that there were no clouds in the sky. There was never a time when it rained on the earth from the sky. God didn't create the earth to take care of itself or be taken care of in that manner.

And you say, "Well, how can that be?" I don't know. But I believe what God says; I believe what is written there. Because God makes it very clear there came a time when mankind could see a rainbow in the sky because of the clouds, because of the things that were in the atmosphere that didn't exist before this. Because that became God's sign, proof, if you will, that He would never again bring a flood upon the earth. Proof, in essence, that there were no clouds. Because you can't have rainbows without clouds, without moisture in the sky, and those things didn't exist until after the flood.

What an awesome thing to know and to understand, let alone the lifespan of mankind that God changed after that time.

So, it starts out in Genesis, giving no excuse to mankind if they understood what was being said and even tried a little bit harder to translate exactly what it was saying, even a little bit better, they would be able to see what was being said there. That there were no clouds, there was no rain that God created to take care of the shrubs and so forth. Instead, He had rivers that were there to take care of mankind and animals, and it goes on.

Now, every plant, shrub of the field, before it was placed in the earth, and every herb of the field before it sprang forth, inasmuch as the Eternal God had not yet given rain upon the earth—that's the proper translation—**and there was not any mankind to till the ground**. So, before God created mankind even, he's saying here.

Verse 6—Instead, a mist, like a heavy dew, in other words, **that came up out of the earth**. That's what God gave. That's all it's saying. He didn't give the clouds. He didn't give it to rain, but instead, a heavy mist that nurtured and took care of all these things. God provided an irrigation system, a means of providing for plants and shrubs that people would work with, and they would be taken care of. They wouldn't have to labor at trying to take care of those things.

Instead, a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. It means what it says. It doesn't say it was raining or that He created it to rain in the beginning. Why is it said like this? Because He knew what mankind was going to do. He knew there would be a flood. He knew that He was going to change the lifespan of man. He knew that He was going to give rain later on because it's part of God's design and purpose.

Those things were planned out. It's not like God slaps himself in the forehead, "What am I going to do? I'm going to make it a little harder on them. Let's give them storms. Let's have tornadoes. Let's have hail for when they don't do what's right." Anyway. No, it was all planned out. Incredible, the mind, the being of God to map out things of life for His Family and how they would be worked with at different times throughout time. Because all these things started changing after the flood. So, that's why God explains it from the very beginning, what was taking place and what His purpose was.

Verse 7—Then the Eternal God formed man. Because now He had already prepared and created, "Before the seed, before it was given, before the shrub, before those things God made the earth so it would take care of them when He did create them." And so, then He created them. **Then the Eternal God formed mankind of the dust of the ground and breathed into His nostrils the breath of life. And man became a living being with life** (with breath).

The Eternal God planted a garden eastward in Eden. So, in this region, there was a specific place that was special where it was going to begin. It says, He planted a garden in Eden. **And there He put the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground, the Eternal God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food**. So, everything here is condensed. It's an outline, as it were. And yet over

time, God has revealed to us more and more and more within the Church, especially beginning through Herbert Armstrong. Before that, there wasn't as great a need for people to understand everything.

The tree of life… So, who focused on that one? God gave an apostle to finally focus upon that for a great purpose, to go back to Genesis, to begin to see things, to understand certain things about mankind and things that had to be changed and things that had to be known and understood in a greater way for God's people.

So, it says here, **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. We still don't understand that. We don't know exactly what this was, whether there was a literal tree of something that was there to represent something else. We don't know fully. Those things haven't been fully revealed. Whatever it was, however, literal two trees, when it comes to the one about the tree of life, well, there has to be more to the story that just hasn't been given to us yet.

So, all this begins to reveal the makeup of mankind and what mankind is really like.

Then the verse that follows this explains more about a vast area beyond the Garden of Eden, and great rivers and other vast regions of land that are mentioned. So, all these things are mentioned there, but this was the garden where it started. But He says there was a lot more. Vast… Read it. Vast regions of land. Vast rivers.

Verse 15, jumping on down here. **Then the Eternal God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress and keep it**. So, this is where it all began. To dress. And we've learned from that. God has shown more about what this is, and this was something that was given to mankind. This is how we are to treat things that God gives to us, how we're to work with the things that God gives to us, especially truth.

We're to build upon, produce, if you will, work with what has been given, and then, as it says, to keep it, which has to do with watching over, maintaining and guarding it and so forth, strengthening, supporting. That can involve a lot of different things. But dress and keep indeed that God expects mankind to do.

The Eternal God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, even the tree of life, **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat of it,** it literally says **dying, you will die**. Again here, unique in the sense of people not understanding why did it talk about death twice in that little verse. And they don't understand.

What happens to mankind when you sin? Well, there is a death penalty. Not just a matter of the first death, but it's a matter of a penalty, of a judgment from God. And so, for them, especially being the first, “Dying, you're going to die.” Now, how can you understand something about death when you haven't seen it yet? What does that mean, “dying, you will die?” How could they grasp and comprehend something like that or believe it fully; life can cease, life can stop.

So, in the most basic meaning, it's really simple and clear. If the tree of life is available, one can choose to eat of it or not. And they didn't choose to eat of it. Whatever it was, whatever was symbolized by it, maybe a literal tree, I don't know, or something that God had told them about life and continuing life. Don't know. Someday we'll know and understand these things. But the symbolism is all here and to be learned from.

And so, I find it amazing that mankind as a whole has never chosen to partake of the tree of life. Even within God's own Church! I'll tell you what. I know that we are being molded and fashioned in a unique way to understand certain things about judgment in a way that people haven't gone through before, and there's a reason for that. One day we'll find out. I could speculate about it but not going to do it.

But God works with people in different times and different ways for a specific purpose. And He is revealing more and more and more about this, that frankly, a lot of it is here in Genesis, of what we're covering and why we're covering it that is to be taken more seriously. That we're to learn how to judge better according to God's way. Awesome!

We're to learn from what it says about Joshua, who judged nothing, in other words, in the way mankind does. That's the context. He said, “But if I judge, (His) judgment is righteous,” because it's of the Father. It agrees 100% exactly with the spirit of God, with the purpose of God, with the judgment of God.

And that's a great thing to seek to have, to grow in, that kind of ability, that kind of a mind. What else would we want, but to be of the same mind of God – but even more so of the same judgment of God, to be in agreement with His judgment. Noah was. It says something pretty powerful about Noah and how he was of the same judgment of God. He agreed with God in the destruction of all mankind. Powerful. Not a small thing.

Mankind does not deserve eternal life. It isn’t owed to any human being to receive eternal life in Elohim. It is a gift. It is something to be treasured, if we grasp and comprehend what God gives to us and offers us, and then we have to make the choices. And the choices are on us as to whether or not we want to fight for it with all of our being, to treasure it with all of our being. Choices, choices, choices.

And the more time goes on, the more I truly see at the end of one hundred years, the sand, as it were, of the sea, of those who will not choose God, who do not want God in their life. So be it. It's not owed. And if people don't want it and desire it with all of their being, if that's not the choice to fight for it, to love it, to love God Almighty, why should they be in Elohim? The reality is they cannot be in Elohim.

So, God picks out of a large, large, large number of human beings those who will be in His Family. So, as a whole, people haven't chosen the tree of life.

In the beginning, both Adam and Eve had the choice before them, but nothing shows that they did so, because God makes it clear instead He cut them off from having the ability for that in the first place.

So, God has called and offered many the opportunity of partaking of that tree, of being able to choose life by eating what God says we must in the way that God says we must too. Yet, like Adam and Eve, this reveals the real makeup of mankind. This is at the beginning – the real makeup of mankind. Because we had false concepts (because we didn't know any better, because God hadn't yet revealed it in Philadelphia), that most all mankind would be able to be saved. It's not what it says. It's not what it teaches.

But we had to go through things to learn that. We had to go through an apostasy to learn that. There's incredible judgment upon a lot of people in that apostasy already. Because a lot of them, their minds were set. Because God knows the mind. Human beings can go so far as Lucifer did, but with him, it was instantaneous. And with the angelic realm, it was instantaneous when they became demonic in spirit. With mankind, it doesn't mean you have to have the impregnation of God's spirit to become set, to ruin your mind.

That's what happened at the time of the flood. People had so ruined their minds that God said it's time to destroy it all. Mind-boggling! An incredible testimony that mankind was worthy of that?

And people in the world, they can hear stories like that and think, “Oh, God is so cruel, so harsh, so hard on people.” Duh! They just don't know. They don't grasp and comprehend what God is really like, the love of God, the purpose of God, and what God really wants to give us. We are so stubborn, so hard-headed as human beings. Only with God's spirit can we break that, or can that be broken, perhaps is a better way of saying it.

We have to grasp and understand and appreciate mightily the power that's available to us to break that within us. Because that's what we have to fight for to be in God's Kingdom. What else..? If that's what we really want, if that's what we really desire, to be in His Family, it's a fight. It requires a fight. It requires conviction. It requires choices that are absolutely firm with all of your being, with all of your heart, with all of your mind. That's what it comes down to.

Verse 18—Then the Eternal God said, It's not good that man should be alone. So again here, going on with the story. **I will make him a helper**. It's a word that sometimes is awkwardly translated. Some translate it as “a help meet.” It means “one to aid, to work together.” A unique word that should be used, “to share.” To share life, to learn from that and what it means in a godly way, according to God's ways. To share.

It doesn't say “a helper that was to be a servant.” Because as a whole, over the last 6,000 years, that is the way it's been. You look at things sometimes, some things of history and some things that are in programs and movies and so forth of times past, of what the world was like and how women were treated, it's absolutely disgusting! If it truly is! It's not God's way. It never was God's way.

It went off base with Adam and Eve. That's when it went off base, and it's followed mankind ever since. And only at the end of 6,000 years has God began to correct that and to change that and to teach differently to prepare us for a new age, the 1,100 years to come. Because it's not going to be like the previous 6,000 years.

Women have been the most oppressed in the world of anything. Some people think it's a matter of race. No, no, no, no. It's been women!—Period, exclamation mark—that have been highly oppressed through the ages, treated lesser.

I mean, here in this country, in different parts of the Western world, look how long it took them to battle, to fight, to be able to be looked upon as an equal to vote. And then they still didn't believe it, but they gave in. I mean, really. Incredible! Anyway.

When I see some of those kinds of programs and so forth, it just kind of makes my blood boil, of how people have treated, how men have treated women, that they're superior. Bull! Because of the way they act, they're inferior. Because of what they did, they're inferior. They're not at all like what God said man should be like. Anyway. It should make your blood boil too.

So again here, **made him a helper**, one to share, an aid. …**before him**. In other words, in front of. In other words, right there, with him, together. That's what it's talking about. That's how you share. You have to be together. You have to be with them. “Present with” is how some of the words are used.

Out of the ground, the Eternal God formed every creature of the field, every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Then whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. I can't imagine the kind of mind (because there had to be things given to him in his mind) of things that God created to be able to have names, to come up with names of things.

So, there are a lot of things we don't understand how this all began, but there are things God had to give him from the beginning in his mind. He had to know how to talk. He had to have words that he could speak to communicate his thoughts. He had to have thoughts. He had to have knowledge. Anyway. Things we don't even begin to grasp how God did that, how God created what He did.

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam, there was not found a helper before or **present with**, is what the word means, **to share with him**. **Then the Eternal God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept, and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place**. Now, it's something that he had to know, whatever that was, whether it was something like a literal type of incision to where it was clear you're healing here, you have a scar through here, and you're missing something that was there before, and it's not the same as the other side right now. So, he had to have known because he was told, and then he had to have the proof and know it was there as well.

Then the rib which the Eternal God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her or **presented her to the man. Then Adam said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**. Awesome. Try to picture something like that and grasp what took place, it's kind of tough. **She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man**. So, this is what he called her. From man; taken from man, out of man.

Therefore… And so again, right away there are people's minds who are just screwed up with that because it's like, "Well, you wouldn't be here except God took out a rib and made a woman and you're kind of lesser creation or whatever…" That's kind of how people have thought throughout ages, and you think, "How stupid can you be?"

Therefore, a man shall leave his... Isn't this amazing? God shows the way it's supposed to be. He's showing what mankind should do, how mankind should do various things, and where mankind went astray, and what they did wrong from the very beginning. Because God established it to be a certain way that was beautiful. But because of choices, they screwed up their minds. Eve screwed up her mind, and Adam screwed up his, and because of that, it didn't work right after that. Simple.

It's physical, but he messed up his mind, and he started doing something and thinking in a way, and she did too, and that was because of a carnal human nature they had. God's making that clear what carnal human nature is like. It's exceedingly selfish. Just the way it is, and there's the battle.

I think of all the marriage counseling I've had over the years, going way, way back from the very beginning, and all the battles and all the arguments and all the things we had to sit through. A lot of it just had to learn. My wife and I, we were up in the Erie area, and just certain things come back to your mind when you think about something like this.

I think of two people where we'd sit through different counseling, and after a while, I just got to the point where I told them, "I don't know which one of you is lying." And that's where God helped me to see something. They were so convinced, they had told this over and over so much, and they had thought about it for so long, it had been so long in their life that this is the way it was, what he had done or what she had done.

And it couldn't be changed, and it couldn't be forgiven, and it was always being held against the other. The mind was so far out in this that there was no way to change it. They would have to repent. They would have to begin seeing themselves and start with self, but they couldn't do that — there was too much there against the other.

So, I came to see that both of them were lying. That was the ultimate answer. They're both lying because they have painted something so drastic in their mind toward the other that this is the only way they can think. And so, they're living a lie. Horrible how far human beings can go in their thinking. To sometimes live something for so long that you believe it so much that you can't change. Sad. Pathetic.

But as I was saying, I think back over all those things that if people would just do and live some simple things that God reveals of how it's supposed to be, of how you're supposed to share life together, of how you're supposed to see each other, life could be so much better, would be so much better. It would be so much better if you knew how to be a peacemaker.

And then some things you can't change, because to have the ultimate, both have to have the same mind pretty much. I mean, that's the way it works. But anyway. You can make a lot of things work in this world by doing what's right, even to others who don't have the same purpose or same help, but for sure should be living that way toward others and giving opportunity for change.

Then Adam said, **This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she is taking out a man. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**. Not wives. This is part of the problem here that comes out in Genesis. God only intended that there be two that would be one. "Therefore, shall they leave father and mother and become one." Now, if you have another wife in there, uh… four, five. And that's what mankind's done because of greed, because of selfishness, because of power.

So, the point is, from the very beginning God showed what was to be done, said what should be done, and people chose not to do it. They chose something else. This ends up being a high condemnation to people, this thing of taking many wives, as it says, whomever they chose. If they wanted them, they took them. God brought the flood, largely because of that kind of thinking because that was just the tip of the iceberg.

God shows, "Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother." Why? Because you're supposed to become one unit. You're to learn from that process. You're to become one unit, working together, working out to agree things, to be in agreement about things. And where you don't agree, you need to agree to how to deal with that.

That's why I love certain things... I don't care if it's something as simple as a little plant outside, what you're going to plant, if we don't both agree that that's the plant we want and we want to put it there, it doesn't happen. But if you force your way and do things your way, what happens in a marriage if you don't work out things in your life like that? Because it should be to help the other. It should be to give to the other. It should be to come to a point where both are of the same mind.

There are things to learn about that on a spiritual plane. We're to become of the same mind of God. Ours is different because we have to choose that and recognize that's the only way. Anyway.

So, "Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife." Right from the beginning, it wasn't used plural. "…and they shall become one flesh." United as one.

And they were both naked, and the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed. So, it says that for a reason. Comfortable. This is the way it is. This is the way we were created. God is there. God sees us. God made us.

Genesis 3:1—Now, the serpent was more cunning ("crafty or shrewd" in a devious way, if you will) **than any creature of the field which the Eternal God had made. And he said to the woman**… So, we don't know. God gave the ability for this to happen in a way that wasn't allowed later on in working with mankind or talking to or whatever how it was done. And when we read about a serpent, we think about a slithering snake, and so there's a snake talking to Eve. "Did you know this?" Anyway.

A lot of these things are symbolic. We don't understand them. It shows his nature, the way he is, the way he thinks, the way God was going to treat him and work with him or not work with him but to show something to him that he needed to come to see in time before his end came or is going to come.

So, it says here, **And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You are not to eat of every tree of the garden?** Now, whether this is communicated just to the mind and she began to think differently then, but it wasn't fully of her own, don't know. It could have been that way too. But he was the one who did it; it came from him.

Then the woman said to the serpent… So, given in a story flow here of speech, of talking back and forth. It could be up here in the mind in what she says, what she thinks as she thinks about this. **We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden**.

You know, what an incredible thing. I see things that are really funny sometimes. You see them on TV at times on some of these programs, and they'll put a camera there in front of a child and put some candy up in the middle of the table. "Now, don't touch this. I'm going to be gone, and I'm going to come back in a little bit, but you are not to touch these." And you see that little mind working. And you see, just because she said, "Don't touch these," it's like something's happened. The way they look, and then they look away, basically to see where Mom is. And sometimes some will listen.

But as a whole, they can't help themselves, and they just go for it. And it's like, because you said "No, you can't," something happens in the mind. It's just kind of an automatic thing of human nature. God told them that they weren't to eat of this one tree. And I can see in my mind, without a whole lot of going on here, how a person, that might begin bugging someone. "Why did God say I couldn't have that tree? It looks really good compared to some of the other fruit. It looks appetizing."

And that's really a lot of her thinking. That's what ended up leading to all this. So how all these things happened, we don't know for sure, but this is the story that we're to learn from.

But of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, or else you will die. What does that mean? I don't know. Maybe that was given to them to understand certain things about death. There had to be something there.

Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. Thinking? It's the little child, but adult, having a mind of an adult. It's the same expression. "**Dying, you will not die**." **For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will know,** or **you will be as God, knowing good and evil**. So, the lesson in all this is to learn what happens in the human mind and how the human mind thinks, and to realize what our nature is like, how we reason with things, and generally, come back to what it is we really want anyway – our way – and we find different reasons and excuses why it might be okay. Incredible, how we can justify things as human beings.

Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise. She took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. It didn't take a whole lot for him. Too bad he didn't respond in the way he should have as a loving husband but gave in to something that he knew better than. He knew better than, but he compromised.

I have known so many people in God's Church who have compromised with another mate in the Church. Whether it be a man or a woman, it doesn't matter. But we are to stand our ground. We're to be firm in what God says, not give in to something that's wrong, not gloss over it or ignore it.

I've known of so many if they would have gone to one another and talked about it, or if they'd gone to the ministry and asked for help to deal with it, that it would have been so much better. But sometimes it goes on and on, sometimes for years and years, and then it's too late, they're too far gone, they can't be helped, the other person. And usually, a lot of times, it just ends up destroying both in spirit in the mind. Anyway.

So much to be learned here, brethren, on a spiritual plane and the way we are as human beings. Because we can say, "Well, we're not like that" or "The Church isn't like that." Oh. Yes. It. Is. Always has been! Because we are not Elohim. Because we are carnal, selfish human beings and we have to fight self constantly. And if you don't understand that about yourself, that you have to fight what comes into your mind and the wrong things that sometimes are said or thought that need to be corrected, then something's wrong with you on a spiritual plane. Because you do have them.

There is none of us that is squeaky clean and pure before God Almighty. On the contrary, we have problems; we have weaknesses. Now, we're to become stronger, and we're to grow stronger, and we do as we cry out to God and God works with us and molds and fashions us. But it doesn't happen overnight. That's why we have a good length of time to go through this process of change.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened. Incredible. It's a spiritual thing. It's showing something of the mind. This mind is a precious thing, and people haven't treated it like that.

So, they began to judge for themselves what was right and wrong. It wasn't a matter anymore that God was the authority. They were going to decide.

It's the way of man. It's been the way of people in the Church for ages and ages because that's the way we are. Battles, false teachings, false doctrines, conspiracy theories, cliques, all kinds of things because of human beings, because of the way we treat one another, because of how we think about one another, and all the things that take place. And how do all those things happen that are wrong? Because people are judging for themselves what's right and wrong

If God was always being looked to for what was right or wrong, it'd be easier to repent, wouldn't it? Repentance then would be easier in the sense of resolving issues and problems and differences. Forgiving others would solve a lot of problems and issues. So, all these things that have to do with the mind and how we're to think started here. God's just showing us what we're like, and we can't slough it off as a unique story back in Genesis, the beginning of Adam and Eve and the serpent in the garden, and maybe it did happen, maybe it didn't happen type of thing as human beings tend to think. And to realize, no, God established everything from that point that we should learn from and understand what's right.

So, “The eyes of both of them were opened.” Not a good thing to do things or think of things in a different way than God, to think something should be done differently.

I think of all the people that found fault with Herbert Armstrong after I first came in the Church and on. Riding in a car two hours away to go to Sabbath services, and then after a sermon hearing all the garbage that people would be talking about in a car, adults talking back and forth with each other about what they disagreed with. Horrible how human beings can be. They didn't last long. But I experienced it with so many different kinds of people. Things that should never be.

To think, do we not grasp how God molds and fashions us? Because the reality is so often people haven't and think that they can come up with their own ideas, disagree about a certain doctrine, begin to teach it. Anyway, it's all right here, we begin to judge for ourselves what's right and wrong, rather than looking to God. God tells us what's right and wrong. And in the Church, God shows us what's right and wrong.

And they knew, in other words, **perceived in their own thinking, that they were naked**. Something happened up here in their thinking. They hadn't thought this way before. Whatever this process was, it began to change in the thinking of the mind because it makes a clear statement earlier, they were not ashamed. Something happened.

“And they knew that they were naked.” In their thinking. Whatever reason this came up in their thinking, it did have to do with something here of why they went and made something that was physical to cover themselves. But it still stems back to their sin, because that's where it began to change, in this partaking of something that God told them not to.

And it's kind of like sometimes what has happened through the Church through time, where if somebody has done something in a particular week and they come together in services and they can't be around the minister, they can't look you in the face, they can't talk to you about certain things. Or if they do, you

can tell it's very difficult for them because it's like, “They know.” I know something's going on, or you wouldn't be approaching me this way or wouldn't be trying to keep away from me, because this is different, this isn't normal. I hope you understand what I'm talking about.

Well, this is kind of how they were. They didn't want to be around God. They didn't want to have to go before God and talk about some of these things. They'd rather hide it. They'd rather hide it.

…they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. God makes it very clear later on that He was going to give them clothing. He did out of animal skins and so forth because of those who were going to be born, and families began to grow, and mankind was not to be going on through life running around in the nude. You know, things were supposed to change, especially because of human beings and how human beings think. Anyway.

I go through something like this, and I think of that stupid show on TV, *Naked and Afraid*. What? Are you people stark raving mad? What is wrong with you? How far is the human mind going that somehow these people will involve themselves in that kind of a life and do the stupidest things and get mosquito bitten, chigger bites, snake bitten, running around in hot weather when you should have some kind of clothes. Anyway, it's like, it’s so stupid. And yet I think of all the people that watch it. It's like, “What's wrong with you?”

It's like all the people who vote for commies. I'm sorry. Socialists, I guess they call themselves. You think, what is wrong that something like that could happen in a country like this? And yet it's happening. And what's more scary are all the millions of people who are putting them in office.

I don't know about you, but I'm very thankful for the country God gave us to live in. We are so blessed to live here. But to think that what's happening now is happening as it is, it hurts. It really hurts. And yet we know that we have to go through a time and we have to experience certain things and certain things are going to come to pass. And yet, you think of all the blessings God has given this nation.

Watching on TV this morning on the news all these ships coming in, harbor of New York there and so forth. And all the jets and different kinds of military power and all the huge ships that mankind is able to have, in order to be in this world without God, that has to exist in order for a country to survive. God has blessed this nation to have that kind of power and that kind of ability. But God made it possible.

And yet I see maybe God's name is mentioned once in a while, but as a whole it's like, “Look what we've done! Look at all the inventions we've come up with.” You think, no, God gave you every one of them, but you don't know that. God gave you this country. God gave you this land. It's a part of a promise to Manasseh. And they don't know that, they don't understand that, which we can comprehend.

You know what scares me, is scary to me? Knowing someday there's going to be an explosion take place that says it destroys a third of the ships. And I see something like that happening, and I go, “Is it going to

be now?" I don't know. But whenever it is, it's going to be so horrendous. We just don't grasp the magnitude of what's going to take place and how horrible it's going to be.

But to see the world the way it is, we are to see it, we are to witness. The best that God has ever given mankind to be able to have, but it's so far from what God has planned for mankind. Awesome. The kind of rule, the kind of government, you can't compare them.

Verse 8—Now they heard the sound of the Eternal God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. So, God had been around manifesting himself as He probably did to Abraham or different ones through time as a human, as a man, as a person. And yet, they, Adam had had this communication, and she had been around and heard this communication, and they knew He was there, they could hear, whatever, because possibly a routine or something that they were used to. Don't know, but it says they knew, that's what they believed.

And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Eternal God. Because they were ashamed. They made a choice against God. They had made a choice not to listen to God. They had made a choice to do their own thing in defiance of the one who created them. Incredible. Horrible.

And yet so many of God's Church, at one time or another, we've all been guilty in one way or another of doing the same thing on a spiritual plane. Some far worse than others. Because certain things are not repented of, not changed, they can become worse and worse and ruin the mind.

Verse 9—Then the Eternal God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? He knew where he was. "Where are you?" So, working with them as though being of mankind, but being God, being the one who created them. There are things they couldn't grasp and understand.

Where are you? So he said, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked. I hid myself. So, whatever this involved, there was this shame of even talking to God about what had taken place. That's why it goes on and God pulls it out of him. It's a unique thing sometimes to be able to pull something out to get to the crux of a matter.

And He said, Who told you you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree which I commanded you that you should not eat? So, this is the problem, "You made a choice and a decision to do something that I told you not to do it." That's the exact reason. That's the exact reason he was ashamed. That's the exact reason why he didn't want to confront Him or talk to Him about it, because of a decision and a choice he made, this little tinge of guilt that's a really good thing to have in the mind if you will repent.

So, guilt can be a good thing, but after a time it can be seared. You can sear your conscience. And sometimes people just get worse and worse and worse to where there is no guilt anymore. So, guilt that God has created mankind to be able to have in the human mind, because He did, is a unique thing. Because it's a helpful thing if it's used properly – if a person will repent of it, of what it is that they have done that's wrong.

Then the man said, The woman whom you gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. Isn't that amazing? Excuse and a reason, “Why I made the choice that I did.” Very human.

I can't help but think of children again. We saw one the other night. Two children here, food all over their face. It looked like chocolate. I don't know what all it was. They were sitting in a closet. They asked them, “Who gave this to you? Where'd you get this?” And the older one pointed back to the little one. It's like, “That's where I got it. He gave it to me.” You think, but this is so childish. But that's what human beings do. We try to justify what we do. We try to find fault. We don't even realize how we do this, to blame someone else.

A lot of problems in life, a lot of things that happen in life when there are conflicts and debate, it's the other person. The other person is the one at fault. It's always being able to justify self and find fault with someone else, to make that worse than what you have done. So, it's an amazing thing how so often the very things we find wrong with others are the very things we're guilty of. And the reason we can see it in others so well is because it's in us so deeply and it needs to be repented of.

So very basic things here from the very beginning. That's what it's all about. God revealing what mankind is really like. We've got a job on our hands if we want God's way of life. Thank God He's given us a means for self to change. How thankful are you that you can work at changing your mind from being selfish and carnal to being more like God, in agreement with God? Because that's what it means to be God-like – more like God. Doing things the way God wants us to do them, says to do them, says we should do them, because we agree with God.

Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you should not eat? The man said, The woman you gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. And the Eternal God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me. So again here, this thing about Satan. Somehow, they had to know about him, his presence, whatever it was. We don't know. What did they know in their minds? I don't know. But this is the story, and this is where it came from.

So, “The serpent beguiled” or “deceived me, tricked me, misled me.” “It wasn't my thinking, it was them, him,” or whatever. No, you made the choice no matter where it came from. We have the power of choice. Choices, choices, choices. So basic for God's people.

So the Eternal God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed. It says, “**more than**.” It's not the word “more than.” It's “above” or “of all,” if you will. …**above all animals**, as it were. … **above everything else that's created here**. **And as all living creatures of the field**… So, it's not a matter of more than; it's above them. In other words, “This is my creation, and you are cursed above all living things for what you have done.”

On your belly you will go, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. So, spiritual. It's not like this slithering snake, and this is how he gets around, all over the earth, he just slithers around. No, it's about the way he thinks, the way his personality is. The best way to describe him is as a slithering snake.

And if you've ever been around snakes, you know how that works. I grew up with rattlesnakes all over the place, and you had to watch constantly when you're close to grass, that a snake isn't out there, and sometimes there were. I think of one place in particular. I think of two right quick like. Anyway, actually I can think of a lot more! Snakes and I do not get along very well.

So, anyway, as it talks about here, the way he was. And God has shown us a spiritual part of this. “You're going to,” in essence, God was showing him, “You're going to eat dust.” “Adam was made from the dust of the earth, and you're going to see...” This is basically what God was revealing to him, though he didn't understand it yet, and may not have understood it until recent time, “That because of what you did, you're going to have to see what I have been able to do with mankind.”

And so, he's been able to see from the very beginning of time different ones with whom God has worked, and how God worked with them. Job pops into mind right away because he was very carnal and very selfish, and God said, “Have you seen my servant Job?” And this is before he was even converted, of how he was trying to live his life. He was very self-righteous, but he was striving to do it, what he believed was God's way, and included God in his life and toward his family. But he had to come to see something, God, in a way he never really grasped God because he was lifted up with his own self-righteousness.

And it's then where he finally came to a point where he was able to see, tell God, “Now my eyes see you.” God had to take him through this process where he could finally see God in his mind and realize how small he was, a speck of dust, unimportant, but important because of God's creation. That's what we all have to see.

And so, Satan had to see that, how Job changed, how different ones changed in life with whom God worked, and how they were blessed and how God intervened for them. I think of Daniel. There are so many throughout scripture, throughout time, and Lucifer has had to watch all this (or Satan), and it hasn't been a pleasant thing for him. Because he's wanted to destroy from the very beginning everything that God was going to create, everything that God said He was going to create, and that He had a creation that was going to be greater than the angelic realm.

And so, Lucifer's been watching those things and learning as time goes along because the angelic realm hasn't understood all the things that God was doing with mankind for a long time. More and more has been given through time. They have a desire to learn what God gives to the Church. That's how they learn these things – where things are, what's taking place. Awesome!

Just like Lucifer knows very, very well now, judgment, that his time's coming to an end. That he's coming to a point in time where he's going to be put away from mankind and not even be able to be around the presence of mankind anymore, and that's a torment to them.

You remember the time when Christ rebuked all those who were cast into swine? Because they wanted a place to inhabit, because otherwise that torment was so great. I don't understand that, but what's in their minds? And then to be totally separated from mankind for nearly 1,100 years? Tormented day and night. That's what it says of them, tormented day and night. And the more they learn, and the more they've seen, the more they've been tormented. Incredible.

I'll put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed, speaking of offspring or sowing**, and her seed. He will bruise your head, and you will only bruise His heel**. Awesome. Prophetic. He didn't know what that meant then. He had no idea! He had no idea about the things of a Messiah, about a Passover yet. He didn't grasp any of those things. Those things came through time. But God told him this was going to happen, "You're only going to be able to bruise His heel, but He's going to bruise your head." So, responsible for bringing an end to him.

So, yeah, he was responsible for Him being killed, in essence, for the movement that took place with the high priest and so forth when Joshua was brought to death finally. He's the primary one behind it all, pushing it. Now, the others are responsible for what they did, but he was pushing it, very powerfully so.

Genesis 3:16 then. **To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your sorrow**. In other words, this is something that's a result of turning from God's way. It's really just an automatic thing. That there are things that happen in life, especially with those whom God works. And to turn away from that, and here, even on a physical plane, for her to do what she did and for him to do what he did, life was going to change now because they did something to their mind. And there was no way of repentance at that time, to be forgiven of sin. It wasn't given yet.

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow." This is going to happen as a result of what you've done. It's an automatic response. That's what sin does. There are automatic things that happen to our minds. And the more people sin, the worse people sin, the worse it gets. That's why there are so many people through time that cannot be helped even in the Great White Throne. Their minds are so gone. They have so corrupted their minds. The minds that were given to them, they're set. They'll have no desire to repent, just as Satan had no desire once his mind was corrupted just by one moment and one choice. But through a lot of choices through time, that's what can happen to the human mind, and does happen.

That's why I think of Hitler. You think that a mind that could do that can be brought to repentance and change? That it hasn't already gone so far? Some of the things that human beings have done to each other in times past, of how people are looked upon? I mean, how hard is it when you've been called into God's Church and called out of the world (if you didn't grow up in the Church), and you realize the battle

is before you and how hard it is for self to change with God's help, with God's spirit? How much worse for those who have gone so, so, so far with sin.

Anyway, it's a part of learning about judgment and why it's going to be as it is, like the sand of the sea. Absolutely. And why the majority of people who have been called in the last 2,000 years have turned against Joshua, become antichrist, working against the very one through whom they were able to have their sins forgiven and start a process of the impregnation of God's spirit in their mind, and then they turn against them. Choices, choices, choices.

And I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception. In pain you shall bring forth children. Maybe something absolutely literal there. It appears to be. That it wasn't going to be that way, but now it is. Something changed. Don't know. God took away certain blessings of certain favor He would give, and they would be given their own carnal physical life without His intervention and help to change things that otherwise would be there. I don't know. We don't know these things.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. I've gone through those things in times past, the struggle that has gone on with mankind between husbands and wives. Wife. Some, it's because of all the wives. And you think, “Deserve what they got.” Can you imagine? Or wives, if they had a lot of husbands, you think that would be a nice thing? Either one is really, really bad because God didn't create mankind that way. He created two to share, to become one. It's a beautiful thing.

So again here, a desire to please and so forth and to do things for, and then the mind that is so selfish and so having this servant mentality like an Archie Bunker, you know, “Give me a beer!” Can't get up out of the chair, might break something. Anyway. Stuff like that just really irritates the tar out of me, the way people can be. That's just a small part of something much worse, much greater.

Oh, shall I even get into it? It's something I do not understand in life, in marriages, if two are to become one. You know, there was a time in the Church when it was looked down upon or discouraged that a wife should take care of the finances of the family, that a husband should always be the one to do that. Because we are so much better – whatever, I don’t know.

I was so glad that my wife enjoyed doing that kind of thing more than me because I hate it. I'd write a check and not even write it in my checkbook how much it was - and it’d mess her up then because I didn't tell her what it was or how much it was and get us in trouble. And how two people can't share in these things and work things out together, whether it be in that or many other things, but I've known of many people where the wife has no idea what's in the bank. They have no idea! That, to me, is a sin, and yet it's existed in God's Church in a big way over time. It really is.

Supposed to share? Both are supposed to know exactly where everything is all the time? That's sharing. Both knowing? Both having access in the right ways and doing things in the right way? I hope that doesn't exist now, but maybe it does to a certain point.

But candidly, we were very, very wrong about that and had to repent within the Church because that's not right. Sharing means sharing. And I don't know why that's a difficult thing for people to grasp, for the human mind to grasp that a husband and wife, there's not one better than the other. You're to share together. You're to help together. You're to help each other together. That's the way it's supposed to be. That's what draws people closer together in unity and oneness and fullness of life – by doing those things. To hide something from somebody else, I don't get it. To keep something from someone else, I don't get it. Because it's wrong. That's why I don't get it.

Verse 17—Then to Adam He said, Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, in other words, to disobey God, to disobey Him, **and have eaten from the tree which I commanded you, saying, You are not to eat of it, then cursed is the ground for your sake**. So, what happens because of sin? God takes away His blessings. It's just automatic.

Things that God was giving to them, to take care of for them, they were going to slowly be taken away because God wasn't going to give His favor and help to them anymore. When they got kicked out of the Garden of Eden, life got harder because it wasn't as easy out there as it was in there. Because everything was provided for them in there as a whole. And so now they had to work harder for what they were going to receive out of the earth. But again, God knowing that's exactly what they would do and where it would go.

"Cursed is the ground for your sake." **Cursed is the ground because of you**. In other words, because of what you did. **In toil**… In other words, labor and hardship. And I think of what mankind has done to this earth. I think of how certain heat waves that come across Europe, so much of this has even come across from the Sahara. And you think, well, the Sahara wasn't always the Sahara. To think it was a lavish place at one time, and now it's just dust and sand? It's mind-boggling! Because it used to be very lush. It used to be a place to go where many things were harvested. They so harvested it, so raped it, if you will, the land, all the trees.

I've told the story about Ephesus and being in the area of Turkey there and how they so stripped the ground of everything, all the trees, that the river that used to have ships go up, it silted in and it's just earth, more farmland, eight miles from the sea. You think, that's just a small thing, and it's been worse and worse and worse what mankind has done to the earth.

In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it will bring forth, and you will eat of the herb of the field. It's going to be hard. It isn't going to be easy. So, all kinds of weeds and thistles and things that happen that people have to contend with, and over the centuries, it's just gotten worse and worse and worse because mankind has turned farther and farther from God, from the blessings of God.

Mankind, I mean, has slowly destroyed what God has given on this earth. It needs to be repaired. It needs to be taken care of. A lot of what God says in scripture concerning the deserts that are going to

bloom is going to be because some of them weren't deserts either. But we're going to get back to dressing and keeping what God gave in the first place and recuperating or going back and getting back what was taken away a long time ago by selfishness of mankind. Awesome.

I look forward to that, what's going to take place during the Millennium, beautifying things out here. And then God's blessings can come back, will come back, the ability to take care of things through rain and so forth that comes in a good season, right season, and so forth, because of laws that are out there.

By the sweat of your face, you will eat bread until you return to the ground. It's going to be hard. It wasn't meant to be that way from the beginning, God was showing them. But because of your choices, this is what you get. "I take away my blessings. Sin. This is a result of sin." **For out of it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you will return**.

Now, Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also, for Adam and his wife, the Eternal God made tunics of skin and clothed them. So, as time went on, this is what took place, because children were born, and God didn't intend that that kind of environment continue on. Because there were going to be many added in the earth.

Then the Eternal God said, Behold, the man has become… It says, "**like one of us**." It doesn't say that. The word "us" isn't even there. Incredible, what mankind has done in inserting things like this. It's just saying that **mankind has become like one to know good and evil**.

God determines what is right and wrong. Mankind doesn't know. Mankind will judge for themselves right and wrong, good and evil. And everybody's a little different in how they think about that. Look at this country and what people think is good and what people think is evil. They vote different ones in because they think certain things are evil and others in because they think certain things are good. Does it come from God? Well, as a whole, obviously not. Sad, pathetic.

And mankind's good is not to be compared in any fashion or form to God's good because that's a standard set by mankind. It doesn't take a lot for mankind to say you shouldn't kill someone. That doesn't take a lot of savvy, just a little bit of common sense. But now, today even, we find people want to open up the prisons, let the killers go free. I mean, that's insanity. But again, the human mind, that's what they think is good; that would be good to do. It would be good just to open up the borders and let the whole world come to the United States.

I'm sorry, but we're witnessing things that are so, so sick in this world right now. And God's letting us witness these things and see these things, what eventually happens. It doesn't work. Selfishness is there. Greed is there. People abuse and misuse power, mostly for self to get wealthier. Like they don't have enough. And on and on it goes.

…**so now, lest**… Meaning "in essence," "in order to prevent." …**lest he put forth his hand and take also the tree of life and eat and live forever**… So, cut off from access to God, access to God's spirit. So, where

they could have gone, well, that's another story. They had opportunity, but because of selfishness, they were quickly cut off. The means was not there because it's a matter of the Church, and God didn't choose to work with them individually because of things that they had done. He worked with some of the lineage later on.

And you know what? From the time of Adam to Noah, I think that everyone that really turned to God was written about there. 1,656 years. Do you know how many there were? You can't fill two hands full. Mind-boggling! Mind-boggling that by the time you get down to Noah, only one person was left who could be worked with. That is mind-boggling! It truly is. Astounding!

And others God chose not to work with throughout that period of time because of the age that they lived and what they were already doing after a time. We'll get to it eventually here, but it's like around 250 years they were so far gone that judgment was already there upon them. Their minds were so gone; the things they were doing were so wrong. Incredible! Didn't take long.

Verse 23—Then the Eternal God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So, now he's going to have to start working in a way that he didn't have to. How long was this? Don't know. It doesn't say. Probably not too long.

So He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard, **to watch over the way**. God's way, the tree of life. Symbolic, real, don't know. God will show us later on the full meaning of some of these things, but the point being is on the spiritual plane they had no access to God spiritually. God wasn't going to have any access or give them any access to Him. What was going to take place with mankind was just supposed to take place. It was supposed to happen.

I'm going to stop there.

I do have a lot of news here, but I don't want to take up a lot more time here. The things to watch right now are the things going on in Europe. Very incredible what's taking place over there. Things that Ukraine is doing now, reaching deeper and deeper into Russia. And I don't know if some of you saw that picture right there in Moscow where that oil tank blew up, and the lid, I mean, these are huge, huge, huge tanks, and it went so high up in the air, it was mind-boggling that that kind of an explosion took place from a drone. But it took the whole top of those—and those things are exceedingly heavy—and just threw it up like it was nothing. And other things they've been doing and striking deeper and deeper.

Amazing articles. I probably should take time, but I'm not going to. I'm having a hard time not.

But the point of all this, how long before somebody is going to react to these things? Do you know what's taking place in the world? Warfare is changing. Drones have changed it. And because of drones, how people war is changing. And what was it here, last month alone Russia lost 40,000 people in war trying to take land. And they're showing the casualties and what's taking place and how many have been

lost. I can't think of the number totally, that have been guesstimated to be 1.4 million since the war began in Russia alone.

And how long is that going to keep going before somebody doesn't do something really, really stupid? But do you know what that does, what it turns people to? There's only one way to change in a war. He's lost so many people already, they can't get that many each month to bring into the military. They're talking about that. So, it's like double the amount are dying as to those they can bring in. So, what do you do? And what kind of a mind do you have?

So, these are the kinds of things we need to be aware of, what's taking place over there, because at some point Europe's going to feel that. Whether something goes off, whether someone does something stupid, which is probably the case… And you realize these are incredible Thunders that are taking place because they're seething underneath the earth, if you will, and ready to blow up in a powerful way. Because there are certain mindsets out there that realize there's only one way to win this, and it's through the use of weapons that people have chosen not to use for a long, long time, but have gotten to the point where that's what they're going to end up doing.

Anyway, I want to see if there's anything I might have missed here. It's mainly about what's happening in Europe, attitudes that are changing because of this threat. And if Russia gets more aggressive at some point here and does something, Europe is finally going to have to come together in a way they've never come together yet. Because they can't even begin to get their act together. The world's in such a mess.

Thank God we have God and know what's taking place and why it's taking place. Awesome.