

What is Satan's Fate?

Second Edition

An analysis of and rebuttal to the emerging belief in God's Church
regarding the mortality of the spirit realm and the ultimate fate of Satan the Devil

By Dennis Fischer

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*“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet **are**, and shall be **TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOR EVER AND EVER.**”*

Revelation 20:10 KJV

Dedication

Randy Joseph Vild



This book is dedicated to Randy Vild—A loving brother, A faithful believer,
and a passionate seeker of a great PRIZE.

What is Satan's Fate?

Introduction

"I would advise all in general that they would take into serious consideration the true and genuine ends of knowledge; that they seek it not either for pleasure or contention, or contempt of others; but for emolument of life, that they may regulate and perfect the same in charity."

-Bacon-

Dear Friends,

In 2008, a small but well-respected Church of God fellowship published a doctrinal paper attempting to prove that the great angelic world God created in eternity past is not incorruptible as originally thought, but rather capable of being annihilated just like the physical universe we see around us today. They base this belief on a premise that claims "if God created it, He can destroy it."

Their paper also asserts that Satan's ultimate fate is not everlasting darkness as the Church once believed (Jude 13), but rather eternal death. After all, according to this fellowship, because the Bible declares that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)—as well as proclaiming that the Almighty is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), the consequences of sin must be identical in both the angelic realm and the physical dimension. However, at this point it is interesting to note that the same apostle (Paul) who spoke of the "wages of sin," also said, "ALL HAVE SINNED" (Romans 3:23). With that said, does this fellowship actually believe that unrighteousness has touched every spirit being in the third heaven like it has every human being on earth? Do they believe Michael, Gabriel, the twenty-four elders, the four living creatures and an innumerable multitude of "holy angels" somehow succumbed to a dark side of their nature at some point in time?

More Questions

Furthermore, if spirit beings can die, why did God create a physical realm at all? What purpose could there be for a molecular world with infinite laws that govern it? Why didn't the Almighty simply work out His plan using a non-material dimension? Although the fellowship advancing this new doctrine never addresses this particular question, the Scriptures do, and when doing so, thoroughly contradict this "new understanding." God's Word boldly declares that our world was specifically created to be inhabited by corruptible beings (See: Isaiah 45:18, Romans 8:19-23) while the spiritual realm was fashioned exclusively for the incorruptible (immortal). Jesus actually stated that a mortal being couldn't even see the domain in which God and the angelic realm reside, let alone be a part of it (John 3:3). Furthermore, He was not alone in this assessment. The apostles John and Paul wrote powerfully of an incorruptible place where death has no effect (See: Revelation chapters 4 & 21 as well as Romans chapter 8 & 1 Corinthians 15). Despite this TRUTH, several COG leaders now argue that God is incapable of creating something that is beyond annihilation because to do so would somehow compromise His power as an OMNIPOTENT BEING.

Prolonged Suffering and Isolation

Another point never broached by adherents of this new doctrine is why the Azazel goat (which symbolizes Satan) was led away ALIVE into a solitary place totally separated from God's people (See: Leviticus 16:21-22). Why wasn't it killed? After all, according to this emerging view, death not isolation is what ultimately awaits this once majestic archangel.

Furthermore, if Satan and his demons die in the second death as they claim, why don't they die a first time? In other words, why is Satan bound up during the millennium instead of allowed to pass away—and then be resurrected at some later point, like man? And why are demons incarcerated in *Tattaroo* (2 Peter 2:4)—a dark and woeful place? Why aren't they simply put to sleep and raised to life for God's final judgment, like man (Daniel 12:2, Hebrews 9:27)?

Something to Think About

At this point, it is interesting to note that virtually every **human being** who is cast into the Lake of Fire will have died at some point during his or her physical life (Hebrews. 9:27)—thus the Lake of Fire is literally their “SECOND DEATH.” This fact is made more intriguing when one considers that the opposite is true for spirit beings. In other words, NOT one angelic creature (demon) that is cast into this great inferno, will ever have experienced death at all. **Now for the irony**—Although never killed, virtually every one of them will have experienced **prolonged confinement and total isolation** prior to God's final dispensation of justice on them. This now begs an important question: What is it about Satan and his demons that require them to remain alive until their final judgment is carried out, while just the opposite is the case for mankind? Why must human beings and spirit beings be treated so differently if their ultimate fate is the same?—in less of course, it isn't the same at all.

Respectful Disagreement

Although I strongly disagree with the belief that spirit beings can die, I am equally convinced that many who espouse this new doctrine are genuinely sincere. However, I also believe that they are so connected to the physical realm they just can't grasp the idea that God can totally destroy Satan, as the Bible says (See: Ezekiel 28:16), without actually killing him. To them this simply doesn't make sense—and because there is nothing like it on earth, they can't believe there is anything like it anywhere else. Additionally, most adherents of this new doctrine can't reconcile how an all-powerful God could create an angelic being (Lucifer) capable of becoming so diabolical and then not be able to eradicate him from existence.

As a result of this mindset, these advocates flood their new doctrine with illustrations from the physical dimension after which they insist that things must be the same in the spirit realm. I realize they may disagree with this assessment but as you consider their arguments, I am confident you will find this analysis rings true.

What is the Truth?

The book you are about to read examines the issue of Satan's fate directly from the Scriptures, and in doing so, demonstrates why God's power and love as well as His sovereignty is not compromised by creating beings that cannot die—even if they rebel. As I respond to the most prominent arguments advanced by those who believe otherwise, I will make every attempt to be respectful in my approach. My intent is not to denigrate God's people or their leaders. Rather, it is to explain without prejudice, **THE PLAIN TRUTH** concerning this intriguing subject.

For the purpose of clarity, I have identified the 15 most popular arguments offered by those who believe spirit can die. Each argument is presented independently followed by my rebuttal. As you proceed through these points it is important that you evaluate them on the basis of two criteria. First, does this new doctrine prove to a Biblical certainty that all spirit is corruptible? And second, does it prove to a Biblical certainty that Satan's ultimate fate is unqualified extinction—DEATH? Personally, I am fully persuaded the answer is NO to both questions.

Respectfully,

Dennis Fischer

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What is Satan's Fate?

Argument I
Only God is Immortal

Question:

How can angels be immortal when the Bible clearly states that only God has immortality?

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One of the most popular arguments advanced by those who believe spirit beings can die is the fact that the apostle Paul once wrote that only God has immortality (See: I Timothy 6:15-16). Therefore, these advocates have concluded that no other beings could possibly be immortal. Some have even suggested that although the Almighty can bestow immortality on others, He has never done so to the angelic realm, nor is there any indication He ever intends to do so in the future. He will however, give it to His saints at the resurrection—although even then, He reserves the right to take it from them if He so desires. According to one advocate of this view, God “not only possesses unending life, but He also has the ability to miraculously give that life to others, or **take it from them.**”

Here is how this view was presented by a well-established COG fellowship followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“Is it possible for spirit beings to be destroyed? Can they die, or are they immortal—like God? Certainly, God the Father and Jesus Christ have immortality. They literally have self-existent life, and it was this fact that prompted the apostle Paul to write:”

“In his times he shall show, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; **who only hath immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honor and power everlasting. Amen (1 Tim. 6:15-16).”

“...While it is true that the faithful angels will not grow old and die like physical humans, the angelic community does not have life inherent in them. They are not immortal! The angels existed when Paul wrote that it is the “Lord of lords, who only hath immortality” (1 Tim. 6:15-16). When the resurrection occurs, the faithful saints will put on this divine trait of immortality (1 Cor. 15:53). The Scriptures nowhere state that the angels have, or will ever have, this eternal quality.”

“...God alone has immortality. He not only possesses unending life, but He also has the ability to miraculously give that life to others, or take it from them.”

Another Minister Agrees

The view just articulated has been advanced by other Church leaders as well. Here is how one prominent evangelist offered his concurrence.

“Many have assumed that Satan and his demons are eternal spirit beings, and therefore cannot be destroyed, or ever be put "out of their misery." They "assume" that such beings are "immortal." But is this true? The apostle Paul wrote plainly, of God, "who is the blessed and only Potentate [only true independent Power], the King of kings, and Lord of lords: WHO ONLY HATH IMMORTALITY, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen or can see: to whom is honor and power everlasting" (1 Tim.6:16).

“If only GOD has true immortality, then this means no angel has it! That is, no angel has independent, eternal "self-existence" with true self-inherent immortality!”

Like many advocates of this new doctrine, this leader also claims that God can take immortality away from anyone to whom he gave it. Notice his words.

“And anything God "gives," He can take back if the recipient proves himself to be rebellious and unworthy of the gift!”

My Response:

Although this view claims that God can take immortality away from those to whom He gave it, the Bible doesn't even hint that this can happen. On the contrary, there is not one example in the Scriptures suggesting that what was created incorruptible was ever, or, will ever be stripped of that incorruption. It is true that Christ divested Himself of His “glory” (John 17: 5) when He came to earth as a mortal man, but the Messiah was neither created by anyone nor stripped of anything. His perfect life was given voluntarily (Philippians 2:5-8). Furthermore, His incarnation actually proves that no other spirit being can become MORTAL—a point that will be expanded on in a later argument (See: Argument V).

Additionally, the idea that **only** the resurrected saints will receive immortality is simply **NOT TRUE**. God's Word specifically states that the entire molecular universe will possess the same incorruption (See: Romans 8:19-23). It is also the same incorruption that has been enjoyed by the angelic realm from the moment of their existence. At this point, it is interesting to note that when describing the immortality of the resurrected saints Jesus specifically likened them to ANGELS (See: Luke 20:36).

Redefining Terms

Although these particular advocates embrace the position that faithful angels “won't grow old or die like humans,” how is that possible if they aren't immortal? In truth, the term “immortal” in the New Testament comes from two words: *athanasia* which means “undying,” and *aphtharsia* meaning “incorruption” or “perpetuity.” Both of these terms fit the angelic realm perfectly.

In all due respect to those who concur with this particular argument, one gets the impression that it is making every attempt to redefine terms in order to avoid having to admit the obvious. To claim that something won't die and not acknowledge it is immortal is like claiming something cannot be broken and refuse to call it indestructible. These are just word games not Biblical insight.

Immortality in the Spirit Realm

Contrary to what some now believe, there are countless incorruptible (immortal) beings residing in a place vastly different than the one mankind lives in today. In that realm death does not exist. Jesus understood this truth and specifically stated that angels “CANNOT DIE” (Luke 20:36). The obvious reason for their immortality is because the Almighty ordained it to be that way from the very beginning. In other words, they were specifically designed by their Maker to exist forever. With that said, what did Paul mean when he revealed that “only God has immortality”?

What Was Paul Conveying?

The point being made by God's apostle when writing to Timothy was NOT that no other beings have immortality, but rather that God is the only BEING that has it in Himself (John 5:26). In other words, God has eternally existed without the aid of a creator. God was not MADE immortal. He IS immortal. He alone is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2). This fact makes Him unique from every other being in existence—past, present or future—including the angels and the yet to be resurrected saints. In other words, no one will ever have immortality the way God has it. At this point it is interesting to note that the word "hath" [immortality] comes from the Greek "*echo*" which means "to own" (See: *Strong's* G2192). Therefore, this verse could easily be rendered "who only OWNS immortality."

This now brings us to the angelic realm and whether they were given IMMORTALITY by the only ONE who has it to give. Fortunately, there is a way to tell if the Almighty bestowed it to them and ironically Paul's letter to Timothy contains the answer.

Being Honest About I Timothy 6:15-16

At this point, it is critical to understand that when writing to Timothy, Paul was NOT contrasting God to the angelic realm, he was contrasting Him to mankind. Angels aren't even mentioned in this passage. However, that omission is very telling.

In truth, Paul was explaining that mankind in his current corruptible state, is totally incapable of approaching God in His infinite eternal state. This is because man was created without the immortality necessary to be a part of that dimension. However, this is not the case when it comes to angels. These majestic creatures were specifically created to serve in the very place Paul said mankind cannot approach. They not only see God's immortality but also His ETERNAL SPIRITUAL DOMAIN. Furthermore, their relationship to that domain is not a casual one. In truth, these great spirits are an integral part of it.

To illustrate this point consider the following: The great archangel Gabriel specifically declared that he "stands in the presence of God" (Luke 1:19), something mortal man could NEVER do. Additionally, Jesus stated categorically that there are angels who actually SEE God's face (Matthew 18:10). This fact is even more significant when one considers that the Messiah also declared that no MAN had ever seen the Father (See: John 6:46, See also: John 1: 18, I John 4:12).

But there's more.

The fourth chapter of the book of Revelation describes four living creatures, twenty-four elders and seven spirits—all residing in the very throne room of the "one who was and is and is to come" (Revelation 4:8). Once again, no mortal human has ever, or could ever do such a thing. Even Lucifer once served at the pleasure of the King of kings in the very command center of eternity (See: Ezekiel 28:13-14). Furthermore, he still appears before that King as an incorruptible (immortal) fallen angel (See: Job 1:6).

The point here is that in order to approach God in His spiritual realm one MUST possess immortality. That immortality can ONLY be given by the One who has it in Himself. GOD ALONE HAS IT and GOD ALONE GIVES IT—and He did just that to every angel—including Lucifer and those who ultimately rebelled. Man however, does NOT have it. Furthermore, he cannot see it, feel it, smell it, taste it, hear it, or even comprehend it. Jesus acknowledged this fact and explained that humanity in its current mortal state is totally incapable of approaching the incorruptible (immortal) dimension in which his Creator and the angels reside.

Notice how He expresses this truth.

To Be Born Again

Early in His ministry, Jesus spoke of a spiritual realm and indicated that man's entrance into it was predicated on him going through a dramatic change—he would have to be BORN into it. Furthermore, absent this BIRTH, mankind could NEVER even obtain a glimpse of that realm.

John. 3:3

“Jesus answered and said unto him [Nicodemus], Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot SEE the Kingdom of God.”

The Messiah's point couldn't be more clear. He is stating, with GREAT FORCE, that there is ONLY ONE WAY for a mortal being to enter into the spiritual realm—he MUST be BORN into it. There is NO other path that will lead him there—ABSOLUTELY NONE! This truth becomes more significant when one considers that the same is true for spirits entering into the physical realm and becoming mortal—they must be BORN into it as well—there is absolutely NO OTHER WAY. In other words, they must be BORN of the FLESH (John 3:6). Furthermore, the Scriptures declare that this BIRTH has only happened to Jesus Christ and that it CANNOT happen to any other Spirit Being (See: John 1:14 & Argument V).

Returning to Jesus and Nicodemus

The birth Jesus spoke about to Nicodemus represents the first step God's human family will take into eternity. In order to take that step they will have to be IMMORTAL—just like angels (See: Luke 20:36). The apostle Paul understood this truth and wrote about it in his first epistle to the Church at Corinth.

1Corinthians 15:50

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.”

Here, Paul states that the corruptible world, of which mankind is a part, is not compatible with the incorruptible world in which the Almighty and His angels reside. Furthermore, in the very next verse, this apostle explains how those called according to God's purpose will one day enter into that realm.

Verses 51-54

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed**. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised **incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. For this **corruptible** must put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** must put on **immortality**. So when this **corruptible** shall have put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** shall have put on **immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Notice what Paul is conveying. This apostle categorically states that death cannot exist in an incorruptible realm—it is swallowed up. In other words, it has NO power in such a place. Therefore, if you find an incorruptible dimension, you have just discovered a place where death has NO influence on anything or ANYONE (Verses 55-56). This now brings us to some very good news.

An Incorruptible Universe

God's plan for man is that he will ultimately be a part of an incorruptible dimension—and although some believe that only the resurrected saints will have true immortality, Paul says something quite different. According to him, the physical universe all around us will also be changed into the same incorruptible

material as God's saints. He even indicates that the entire creation longs for that day to arrive. Here are his exact words.

Romans 8:19-23

"For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature (creation) was made subject to vanity (corruption), not willingly, but by reason of Him Who hath subjected the same in hope. **Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption (death) into the glorious liberty of the children of God (immortality).** For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

With these words, Paul was explaining that the entire physical realm is anxiously waiting in anticipation for the manifestation of God's children into incorruptible beings because it (the creation) will experience the same change. When writing about the incredible transformation the physical universe will experience, the author of Hebrews put it this way.

Hebrews 1:10-12

"And, you, Lord, in the beginning have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hand: They shall perish; but you remain; and they shall wax old as a garment; and as a vesture shall you fold them up. *And they shall be changed...*"

The point here is that the Great Creator and Sustainer of all that exists is eventually going to breathe incorruptible life into the entire physical realm just as He did when creating the spiritual dimension so very long ago. When that time comes, heaven and earth will experience the same change Paul proclaimed God's saints will experience at their resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). It is only then that man will finally be able to approach God's immortality dwelling in the light (1 Timothy 6:16)—something the angels have always been able to do.

A Final Thought

The bottom line is this. The Scriptures specifically identify two realms—one physical and one spiritual. The physical realm is subject to vanity (corruption and decay). Everything in it will eventually perish. However, the spiritual realm is vastly different. It was, is, and always will be incapable of corruption (death). It is IMMORTAL. Perhaps the apostle Paul said it best.

II Corinthians 4:18

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument II God the Destroyer

Question:

How can God be omnipotent and not have the power to destroy (kill) Satan and his demons?

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In an attempt to prove that Satan and his demons will ultimately be executed in a Lake of Fire, some contend that because God is all powerful He can destroy anything He creates. Therefore, the great angelic creatures who reside in eternity must be subject to death—just like man is in the molecular realm. They anchor this theory, not on Scripture, but rather on the belief that because man can destroy anything he creates, the same must also be true of God. They then reason that because God made all that exists (See: Colossians 1:16), He will always have the capacity to render total annihilation on all things in all places for all time.

Here is how this reasoning was expressed in a prominent COG publication followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“Because man is made in the image of God, he has awesome creative powers in the physical realm. Man is capable of building vast cultures, libraries, artwork, and incredible computerized mechanisms. In considering such awesome human abilities, it is important to realize that whatever man can create, he is also capable of destroying.”

“With the comprehension that our physical world reflects aspects of God’s spirit world, and that our powers of creation are but a faint reflection of God’s, the truth becomes obvious. If man can destroy what he creates, certainly the Almighty God can also destroy anything He has created—whether it is physical or spirit.”

“...Earlier the apostle Paul was quoted to demonstrate that the physical creation was designed to reflect spiritual truths. From this we understood that because man is made in God’s image, he has fantastic creative abilities. Further, man has the ability to destroy what he has created. Therefore, it is understood that God, who possesses supreme powers, can also destroy anything He has made.”

My Response:

Contrary to what some believe, there are many things God literally CANNOT do—not simply because He chooses not to do them, but because to do so would go totally contrary to everything He is. Consider just a few examples. The scriptures tell us that unlike man, “God CANNOT be tempted with evil” (James 1:13). The Greek word for tempt in this verse is “*apeirastos*” and is rendered “incapable of being tempted” (See: Companion Bible). At this point it is important to understand that God’s incapacity in this regard is not a reflection of weakness but rather of STRENGTH. In essence, God’s virtue—His holiness, is so great it CANNOT be compromised by ANYTHING. Man, on the other hand can be compromised by everything.

The Bible also tells us that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18), He cannot render unrighteous judgment (Job 34:12), He cannot oppress the weak, torment widows, or afflict the innocent, each of which man is fully capable of doing. Furthermore, God cannot kill that which He ordained to live forever. In truth, those who embrace this new teaching would have to admit that there is not one syllable in God's Word suggesting that created spirits (angels) have ever suffered one fatality, let alone a fatality at the hands of their Maker. This is because to do so would require God to compromise His own moral core, and that is impossible—even for Him. It is true that Jesus Christ divested Himself of incorruption in order to die for mankind, however, His story actually proves that ONLY the true God can do such a thing—a fact that will be addressed in a later argument (See: Argument V).

Man and His power to Destroy

At this point, it is interesting to note that those who invoke man's destructive ability when attempting to prove that God has the same power, fail to take their reasoning to its logical conclusion. For example: If this argument is correct, then the answer to each of the following questions would have to be: "NO." However, under that scenario God WOULDN'T be omnipotent either—because He would lack the capacity to build something that is completely beyond death. With that said, how would you answer these queries?

- 1) Can God create something that is totally beyond destruction?
- 2) Can God create something in which death has absolutely no power?
- 3) Can God create something that cannot be made to rust, corrode or fade away?
- 4) Can God create something without any flaw or blemish whatsoever?
- 5) Can God create beings that cannot die regardless of their circumstances?

The point to this should be obvious. Those who embrace this new doctrine would have to answer "NO" to every question because they believe God's ultimate power is reflected in His ability to DESTROY. On the other hand, those who reject this new doctrine would have to answer "YES" because they believe God's ultimate power is reflected in His ability to CREATE.

How Human Nature Influences this Argument

In one sense, the misguided belief that God can destroy anything is understandable because it is offered by mortals who have a natural fear of losing control. This is why man is always reticent to surrender power—and to him, the ultimate power is over life itself. Therefore, God must always have the power to KILL.

However, this is **NOT** how the ALMIGHTY thinks. He does not fear surrendering power. In truth, that is exactly what He intends to do to every citizen of His Eternal Kingdom—He will bestow upon them His power over death. Furthermore, this is exactly what He did when creating the spirit realm so very long ago.

The POINT

The real issue with respect to all spirit beings is WHERE they will reside for all eternity, not IF they will reside for all eternity. The later has already been decided by God when he fashioned these majestic creatures out of that which cannot perish. The former however, would be up to these great spirits themselves. If they choose to honor the calling God has for them, they will serve their Creator and His Kingdom forever. If they choose to rebel they will spend eternity in confinement and isolation (Jude 13, Revelation 20:10). Either way they will live forever because an INFINITE GOD ordained it to be so from the very beginning.

A Final Thought

The obvious reason man can destroy everything he makes is not because he is powerful, it's because he is weak. In other words, he completely lacks the capacity to build something that is totally beyond

destruction. God on the other hand, can do just that—which comes in very handy when your goal is to create the infinite.

The bottom line is this. Some arguments, such as the one just proffered, illustrate why it is foolish to compare the WEAKNESS of mankind to the GREATNESS of his Creator. In truth, God is indestructible. He is IMMORTAL. And He is perfectly capable of building a kingdom that reflects those very traits. He has done so in the past and we have His **unbreakable promise** He will do so again in the future. (See: Revelation 21: 4).

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument III A Respector of Persons

Question:

If God is not a respector of persons, how could He have one judgment for defiant humans (death) and a different judgment for defiant angels (eternal torment)?

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When defending the belief that Satan and his demons will ultimately die, some COG leaders offer an interesting theory. According to them, God's dispensation of justice is the same in both the physical and spiritual dimensions. Therefore, because the wages of sin is death in the material world, this must also be the case in the spirit realm.

Here is how two particular COG fellowships express this view followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"Throughout the Scriptures we are repeatedly shown that the wages of sin is death (Gen. 3:3, Ezek. 18:4, Rom. 6:23). We are also told that God is not a respector of persons (Rom. 2:11, Acts 10:34). Do such verses only apply to that which is physical, or do they also apply to that which is spirit?"

"...As Romans 6:23 tells us, "The wages of sin is death." God does not have one law for some, and a different law for others (Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6; Ex. 12:49). He is not a respector of persons (Acts 10:34). God's law applies to everyone—both human and spirit."

"...The end result of sin is death, and this fate is not the consequence of man's sin alone. Satan is the original unrepentant sinner. He too is subject to God's law. Death will come upon every being in God's creation who continues in sin, including those in the spirit world."

Support from Others

Another COG offered their support of this teaching as follows.

"The principle of Scripture which governs God's punishment for all SIN is found in Romans 6:23, where we read: "The WAGES of SIN is DEATH; but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom.6:23). Sin by definition is lawlessness or rebellion against God (I John 3:4). The penalty of sin, in the Court of Heaven, is simply DEATH – not burning and torment forever and ever and ever, ages without end!"

My Response:

Although many believe the verses just cited apply to both mankind and spirit beings, this is **NOT** the case at all. But don't believe me, believe those who wrote them. What follows is the **Plain Truth** regarding each citation in the order it was presented.

- 1) **Genesis 3:3**: In this verse the threat of death is leveled directly at human beings—Adam and Eve. God told them that if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they were as good as dead (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:3). Contrary to what some assert, there isn't even an oblique reference to the spirit world in God's warning.

Something to Think About

At this point it is interesting to note that the apostle Paul once wrote on the subject of death and specifically stated that it (death) came by Adam—**NOT** Satan (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). This is significant when one considers that Satan had already rebelled against God prior to Adam's creation and subsequent sin. As a result of this defiance, he (Satan) was removed from his position in God's government and expelled from heaven (See: Ezekiel 28:14-16). If death was the consequence of Satan's actions, as advocates of this new doctrine assert, then it would have been by him, not Adam, that it (death) originated.

- 2) **Ezekiel 18:4**: This verse declares "the soul that sins shall die." The word used for "soul" in it is *nephesh* and is rendered "a living being, with life in the blood" (See: *Strong's* H5315). It has also been rendered "a physical, living, breathing creature." In truth, Ezekiel's words actually contradict this entire argument. In essence, they are proclaiming: "the **physical living breathing creature** that sins shall die." At no time do they even remotely address spirit beings.
- 3) This now brings us to **Romans 6:23**. Consider carefully what Paul writes.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Those who employ this verse in defense of their new doctrine are making a HUGE mistake. In truth, Paul is NOT making any observation about the angelic kingdom or the fate of Spirit Beings. This entire chapter (Romans 6) only addresses God's **human family** and how sin enslaves it. Paul actually stated that his words were "**after the manner of MEN because of the infirmity of your FLESH**" (verse 19). In other words, he was writing to human beings, about human beings. When doing so he addresses their struggle with sin as well as their ultimate victory through Christ. His words don't have a thing to do with angels or how God administers justice to them—and to suggest otherwise is nothing other than a desperate attempt to manipulate Scripture.

The point God's Apostle was making was that because of God's grace, the sin His people fight against every day will not prevail against them. He concludes by exhorting them to take hope in one enduring truth: in the corruptible world of the flesh, the wages of sin is death, but to those who overcome there is a wonderful gift—INCORRUPTION (eternal life).

Is God a Respector of Persons?

- 4) When it comes to the argument that claims because God is not a respector of persons, all sin demands the same consequence, **Romans 2:11 and Acts 10:34** were cited. However, once again, these Scriptures say absolutely nothing about angels—nor were they ever

intended to do so. Both Romans and Acts address God's impartiality with respect to His human family—specifically Jews and Gentiles. The point here is that God will not allow one race to morally preempt the other when it comes to entrance into His Church or His kingdom—nothing more, nothing less.

- 5) With respect to **Exodus 12:49** the same is true. Here, God is specifically addressing the ancient nation of Israel. When doing so, He declared that the law He gave them applied to everyone within their camp—both Israelite and non-Israelite (See: Deuteronomy 29:14-15). Once again, there is NOT a hint that God was referring to the four living creatures or the twenty-four elders when giving this decree. For anyone to suggest that these verses somehow prove that God's administration of justice is the same for both human beings and spirit beings is like saying it is the same for both human beings and animals. It just isn't the case.

A Final Thought

Although many employ this particular argument when attempting to prove that Satan's fate is death, it just doesn't work. There is however, a great truth that can be drawn regarding God's consistency in judgment. The Bible declares with absolute clarity that God is fair—in any dimension. He treats His human family with equity and He does the same with His angels. With that said, it is important to understand that God's fairness doesn't mean His standard of judgment will be identical for all people—and His Sacred Word bears this out. The Scriptures actually reveal that God's shepherds (ministers) are held to a higher standard than His sheep (See: James 3:1). This is because of the great responsibility they have been entrusted with. I offer this as a cautionary note to those who manipulate Holy Writ in an attempt to win a point.

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument IV Killing the Soul

Question:

If God can kill the spirit in man in the Lake of Fire, why would anyone think He couldn't kill a spirit being such as Satan and his demons in the same place?

~ ~ ~

Several years ago a prominent atheist claimed to be able to prove that God was mortal. He did this by proffering a stream of logic not unlike that presented by many who argue that spirit can die. This is what the atheist advanced as his proof.

"I once had a dog whose name was 'Spirit.' A few years ago he was hit by a car and died. The Bible says that God is a Spirit. Therefore, if He gets hit by a car, he will die too."

It is doubtful that anyone with even a modicum of intellectual honesty would ever accept the atheist's argument as reasonable—including those who believe Satan will die. In truth, this unbeliever's syllogism is nothing other than a cynical attempt to mock the Creator of all that exists. However, it does illustrate how logic can be manipulated to "prove" something that is totally false. Unfortunately, God's people can use it incorrectly as well—and that is exactly what takes place in this particular argument attempting to prove the mortality of angels. According to many adherents of this new doctrine, because man has a spirit that can be permanently extinguished in the Lake of Fire, angels can be extinguished there as well because they are "ministering spirits" (See: Hebrews 1:7, 14).

This argument is based on a premise that assumes there is no distinction between two very different things—HAVING a spirit and BEING a spirit. This, despite the fact that the Scriptures make a VERY clear distinction between the two and declare that one is a POWER while the other is a PERSON.

Here is how this view was expressed in a comprehensive paper supporting the belief that all Spirit Beings in the angelic Realm are capable of death. For the sake of clarity I have arranged this argument into two parts. The first part asserts that mankind possesses a power of mind that is "unique" to the human family and that this power is produced by an invisible spirit that comes directly from God. In part II, the author(s) then imply that because Jesus stated that only God can destroy man's spirit (See: Matthew 10:28), that spirit must be composed of something that places it beyond the laws governing the molecular realm. They then conclude that because angels are also composed of something that is beyond the molecular realm, God must have the power to totally eradicate them as well.

Each argument is presented independently followed by my response. As you follow this thread, the truth will become READILY APPARENT.

Part I: Defining the Spirit in Man

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“Consider the spirit in man. The Scriptures reveal that man does not have an immortal soul (Ezek. 18:20). The word soul is the word “*nephesh*” in the Hebrew, and it simply means a physical, living, breathing creature. In this respect, man is like the animals (Ecc. 3:19, Gen. 2:7, 19). He is subject to death.

“However, humans possess something that other physical creatures do not. God has given mankind an element of invisible spirit that works in conjunction with his physical brain. That spirit gives man the power of mind—a unique intelligence that grants us far greater understanding than the animals which sometimes possess larger brains (Job 32:8).”

My Response:

Contrary to what this argument asserts, animals also have a spirit. Furthermore, their spirit performs the same function as the one man has. This is a fact that can be conclusively demonstrated by both scientific data as well as God’s Word. In truth, EVERY living being has a spirit—whether it be man, animals, angels or even God Himself (Ezekiel 11:5). The spirit in all living beings is cognition—the power to process and disseminate information. In a very real sense it is the operating system of the one who has it. Additionally, it is unique to that person—no two are exactly the same.

The Old Testament refers to the spirit as the “mind” (See: Proverbs 29:11, Ezekiel 11:5). In the New Testament it is primarily referred to as the “soul” but is also rendered “mind” as well (See: Philippians 1:27, Hebrew 12:3). In short, the spirit in man is the seat of his intellect as well as his personality and emotions. This remarkable power processes and stores every aspect of a person’s life and contains the essence of who he is. When it comes to the human family, that spirit makes it possible to solve complex problems, translate languages, compose music, alter environments, build architectural wonders, and even fly. Imagine that! Man can soar above the clouds and even into the darkness of space. And all of this is made possible because of the spirit (mind) his Creator gave him (See: Zechariah 12:1).

What about Animals?

When it comes to animals the same is true. Their spirit enables them to analyze situations and even solve problems. It provides them with the ability to perceive danger and appreciate comfort. That spirit also makes it possible for them to build colonies, establish organizational hierarchies within groups, and teach their young. This is because it facilitates learning. It is what enables pets to comprehend instructions as well as develop a variety of behaviors that can actually go contrary to their own nature. If you doubt this you have never house-broken a dog, or taught it to not jump on friends, bark at neighbors, chase cars in the street, or bite the mailman.

Animals have also been trained to perform a variety of vital services. They work with law enforcement in locating illegal narcotics. They have been instrumental in search and rescue operations as well as. trained to serve as eyes for the blind and ears for the deaf. Additionally, they have learned to be invaluable partners to hunters, ranchers and sheep herders. Animals can be taught to fetch, sit, stay, roll over, play dead, and countless other behaviors—all of which are skills that had to be developed. They were able to master these skills because they could COMPREHEND the connection between reward and behavior. Animals even know how to communicate—and although their language may be less sophisticated than man’s, it is very real. There are even academic disciplines dedicated to studying the language of animals.

The Point

The point here is that animals have been given the ability to think, reason and learn—just like man. The only real distinction one can make in this regard is the level of cognition they possess. Theirs' is vastly inferior to the level enjoyed by the human family. However, the fact that man has far greater cognitive powers no more proves animals don't have a spirit than the fact that God has far greater cognitive powers proves man doesn't have a spirit. In truth, God put an invisible spirit (mind) in both of them. This now brings us to the BIG difference.

The Big Difference

There clearly are similarities between the spirit in man and the spirit in animals. However, there is one significant difference and the Scriptures bear this out. God's Word reveals that upon the death of its host the spirit in animals goes down to the earth while the spirit in man goes back to God (See: Ecclesiastes 3:21, 12:7, Job 34:14-15). This now brings us to a very important question. Why do these spirits go to different places? The answer is very revealing.

First, let's examine the spirit in animals. Clearly that spirit becomes extinct upon the death of the one in whom it resided. This is because the spirit cannot survive apart from its host unless God specifically preserves it for later use. However, the Almighty does not do this with an animal spirit. He simply allows it to pass away. But, why wouldn't God retrieve the spirit in animals like He does the spirit in man? The answer is really quite simple: because animals will not be resurrected to life again. When they die, that's it. God does not have a plan of salvation for the myriad of creatures that dwell on the earth. In other words, they were specifically created to function in a corruptible world. Therefore, their spirit perishes with them.

The Incredible Human Potential

However, this is not the case when it comes to mankind. The human family was specifically created with the potential to enter into an incorruptible realm as fully born members of God's Family (See: John 3:3 & 1 John 3:2). In order to be a part of that family every person who has ever existed will be resurrected to life and reunited with the mind (spirit) he or she had as a human being in this life. There is not one exception to this rule (See: John 5:28, Luke 14:14, Acts 24:15).

The bottom line is this: upon the first death, God retrieves man's thoughts and his capacity to reason. He does so because He knows that man will live again (Job 14: 14-15). When that day comes, the Almighty will return to him the power to think, as well as all the experiences he accumulated during his lifetime. At this point, it is important to understand that if God simply allowed man's spirit to go down to the earth, it would perish just like the one in animals. In other words, there is nothing about the spirit in man that is incorruptible of itself. That alone makes it VASTLY different from a **SPIRIT BEING** (angel).

Reuniting the Spirit with Its Host

In accordance with God's **MASTER PLAN**, as expressed in His Word, the resurrection of the dead occurs in phases. The first phase takes place at the last trump when those who are called in this life, also known as "the dead in Christ" and "firstfruits" are raised and take on immortality as fully born children of God (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17). The Scriptures refer to this as a "better resurrection" (Hebrews 11:35)—and to be certain it most assuredly is. Those who are a part of it will be composed of incorruptible spirit (1 Corinthians 15: 42-44, 53-54) and rule with Christ throughout the millennium and on into eternity. In that capacity they will assume positions of great authority and distinction in God's **ETERNAL KINGDOM** (See: Revelation 5:10, 20:4, Daniel 7:18, 27). Without the power to reason (cognition) they couldn't even function, let alone govern. Therefore, when they are raised, their spirit (mind) is returned to them.

A Second Resurrection

Then, approximately one thousand years later, the billions of people who never knew the true God, will be raised to life and given an opportunity to learn of Him and His way (Revelation 20: 4-5). At this time, they will enter into a world that has enjoyed a thousand years of uninterrupted millennial peace and prosperity where the knowledge of the TRUE God will have literally covered the earth (See: Isaiah 11:9). Furthermore, that knowledge will continue to FLOURISH throughout this phase of His PLAN as well. When speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, God described this second resurrection like this: “And all will know that I am the ETERNAL.” Included in this knowledge will be the value of repentance and redemption through the atoning sacrifice of His Son and their Savior. The point here is that God will not deprive anyone of knowing about Him and His way. This is done in order to ensure that all mankind will be treated with equity (fairness) and be given a real opportunity to receive God’s gift of Salvation and have their names written in the “*Book of Life*” prior to their final judgment.

At this point, it is important to understand that those who are a part of this **second resurrection** are raised to a mortal fleshly existence. In other words, unlike those in the first resurrection who were judged in this life and received immortality those in this second resurrection remain physical human beings (See: Ezekiel 37). However, once again, God returns their spirit to them in order to facilitate the acquisition and dissemination of information. That spirit will give them the capacity to LEARN as well as to grow in grace and KNOWLEDGE (2 Peter 3:18) and **most importantly** will provide them with the best opportunity for citizenship in His Eternal Kingdom which will be bestowed at their FINAL judgment.

But when will that judgment occur? Read on...

Is Anyone Left?

Tragically, there are actually some who will remain in the grave throughout this period. This is because at some point during their earthly life they willfully forfeited any chance at redemption (See: Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:29, Luke 12:10, See also: Hebrews 6:4, 10:26 & 1John 5:16). The Scriptures do not indicate their number but it does reveal the gravity of their trespass and even goes so far as to identify some of those who will suffer the consequences for it. The Messiah once soberly warned that there are sins that are so egregious they cannot be forgiven even by God Himself and those who commit them must ultimately meet their final justice—but not yet.

Satan Released

God’s Word reveals that at some time after the second resurrection commences, Satan will be released from his confinement in “a great abyss” for “a little season” (See: Revelation 20:3). Then, at this point he will unleash unimaginable devastation on God’s KINGDOM, His PEOPLE, and His PLAN. He will begin with the greatest campaign of deception in human history—one that will literally span the entire globe (See: Revelation 20:8). But it doesn’t end there.

The Great Showdown

As the last chapter of human history begins to play out, the devil directs all his attention to the destruction of what the apostle John affectionately refers to as the “BELOVED CITY.” He begins by mobilizing his forces in a vicious attack against it (Revelation 20: 7-9). At this point, the spectrum of destruction will be so massive that God Himself will be forced to intervene. He does so by launching a counter attack that will strike an overwhelming blow against mankind’s greatest adversary and the forces of darkness who joined him in this final rebellion. During this counter attack the Almighty will literally rain down fire from heaven to repel the attackers. The scriptures do not reveal the number of casualties but they will be unquestionably significant. One thing is for certain, Satan’s permanent defeat is now imminent. At this point he will literally be hurled into a massive inferno (the Lake of Fire) where he will begin to serve a sentence of torment that will never end (verse 10). However, at this point one thing remains.

A Great White Throne Judgment

As Satan languishes in this inferno prepared for him and his demons (See: Matthew 25: 41), a **GREAT WHITE THRONE** appears from which Christ will preside over the final judgment of God's **CREATION** (Revelation 20:11). At this point, a **THIRD** and **FINAL RESURRECTION** takes place in which every human being who has ever lived, will physically appear before the **GREAT JUDGE** (verses 12-15). God's born again saints will certainly be in attendance but will not be subject to this **SENTENCE** because they were already judged (and **REDEEMED**) in this life (1 Peter 4:17). In other words, this "third resurrection" pertains to everyone who has ever lived throughout human history, with the exception of the saints who will already have been installed as citizens and leaders in God's Eternal Government. (See: Daniel 7:18, 1 Corinthians. 15: 51-52, I John 3:1-2). The great prophet Daniel once wrote of a time when all who have died will be raised and receive God's Eternal **JUSTICE**. This is that time and those who are a part of it include the following:

- 1) Everyone who died in this life having committed the unpardonable sin (mentioned earlier). Tragically, their fate has already been sealed. Now it will be carried out and their final sentence (the second death) will be administered by way of a **GREAT INFERNO—LAKE OF FIRE** (See: Revelation 20:14).
- 2) Joining them in this final judgment will be those who lived during the millennium. During that thousand-year period they will be introduced to God's law and invited to be a part of His **FAMILY**. Eventually, during this millennial period these citizens will pass away and sleep awaiting their resurrection to a final judgment (life or death).
- 3) Finally, those who lived and subsequently perished during the second resurrection will appear before Christ as well (Revelation 20:7-10). They too will learn of His way after which they will be evaluated according to God's **LAW** with some entering into life in His Eternal Kingdom and some to eternal death in the Lake of Fire. (See: Daniel 12:2)

A Brief Review The Third Resurrection

At this point a brief review may be helpful. During this Third (and **FINAL**) Resurrection literally tens of billions of people appear before Christ and hear their fate directly from the Supreme Lawgiver of the Universe (See: Revelation 20:11-13). Furthermore, they will be able to fully comprehend His judgment because their spirit (cognition) will have been returned to them. There will be no misunderstanding or confusion in the matter. Christ will speak with great clarity and there won't be one drop of uncertainty with respect to His judgment and the reason for it. At that time, those whose names which appear in the "Book of Life" will be invited to become incorruptible members of God's Eternal Realm. In that state they will no longer be comprised of flesh and blood, but rather of incorruptible spirit. In other words, they will be changed.

However, those whose names that are **not** written in the "Book of Life," because they defiantly refused to claim Christ's sacrifice through heartfelt repentance, will be sentenced to death (Romans 6:23). It is then that they will be cast into a Lake of Fire—only this time God will not retrieve their spirit. Like the spirit in animals it will perish with them (Revelation 20:14-15).

The point here is that the difference between the spirit in man and the one in animals is not what it is made of or even how it works—it is where it ultimately goes. If its host dies permanently, it will perish with it. If its host continues on forever, its spirit will as well.

Part II

Jesus Christ and Killing Man's Spirit

We now come to part II of this particular argument. In it, some attempt to manipulate Jesus' clear intent regarding the spirit in man. They do this by implying that because the Messiah indicated that man was incapable of killing the soul (spirit), it must be made of something beyond the physical plane. With this as their premise, they then reason that because only God can destroy man's spirit in the Lake of Fire He must also be able to do the same to fallen angels because they too, are composed of something beyond the physical plane. This argument is offered even though Jesus NEVER even hints that His Words pertain to the angelic realm.

Here is how the leaders of a prominent COG employ them anyway in an attempt to blur the lines between **having** a spirit and **being** a spirit followed by my response. Notice that these advocates return to the false predicate that God can destroy anything He makes even though His Word says something quite different (See: Argument II).

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"God is all powerful. He is omnipotent, and can destroy anything that He creates. Therefore, the Almighty can destroy the spirit in man as well as spirit beings. The purpose of the lake of fire can only be to eliminate both flesh and spirit. Jesus Christ actually confirms this truth as He warns us with these words:"

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to **destroy both soul and body** in hell."
(Matthew 10:28)

"The word "soul" in this verse is "*psuchē*" in the Greek. This unique word means "breath," or by implication the "spirit." The word "destroy" means to "fully destroy," or "to perish." Therefore, Jesus is plainly telling us that, while man is able to kill the physical body, only God can destroy spirit."

My Response:

According to this argument, the Greek word for "soul" ("*psuche*") has the "implied" meaning of 'spirit.'" This of course, is true. However, it then suggests that this spirit must be made of something that is beyond the physical realm—because it CAN'T be destroyed by man. Regrettably, this understanding is TOTALLY FALSE. Furthermore, both the Scriptures AND Jesus' own Words bear this out.

Defining "*Psuche*"

The word "*psuche*" in the New Testament has several meanings, each of which helps us understand what it is, as well as what it is not. According to *Strong's Concordance*, this term has been rendered in the Scriptures as "soul," "life," "mind," and "heart." *Strong's* also defines it as the "seat of feelings, desires, affections, and aversions." It is where the term "psyche" originates. A person's "psyche" is his mind. Psychology is the study of the mind.

However, there is something that is essential to understand about man's spirit. Nowhere does the Bible remotely hint that it is an independent functioning self-actualized entity, let alone comparable to a **SPIRIT BEING** (angel). On the contrary, the Scriptures reveal that the spirit in man can't even function apart from its host. The book of Psalms categorically states that upon man's death his spirit is actually incapable of thought (Psalm 146:3-4, See also: Psalm 6:9 & Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10). That's right! The very thing that

enables man to think, feel, dream, create, reason, remember, communicate, hope, and a thousand other things, can't do any of them apart from the person (HOST) it resided in. In other words, without the body, the spirit doesn't work. In truth, until man is raised from death and reunited with his spirit, that spirit resides in a state of TOTAL dormancy.

A Stunning Reality about Spirit

For those who believe that a person's spirit is some kind of special entity that requires supernatural power to destroy, consider the following: **GOD ALSO HAS A SPIRIT**. Furthermore, His spirit performs the same function as man's spirit—it facilitates reason, thus making it possible to learn. The apostle Paul wrote of God's spirit and compared it directly to the spirit in man. When doing so he revealed that both spirits are identical with one **NOTABLE** exception. The spirit in man makes it possible to comprehend the physical world (I Corinthians 2:11) while God's spirit makes it possible to comprehend spiritual matters (same verse). By the way, it is not by accident that when explaining this truth, Paul uses the same word for both spirits. Furthermore, he never addresses what the spirit is comprised of but rather what it does. The point here is that contrary to what this new doctrine argues, the term "spirit in man" is NOT referring to its composition, but rather its function.

But there's more.

When writing to God's Church at Thessalonica, Paul makes another observation that bears greatly on this particular argument. According to him, God's spirit CAN ACTUALLY BE ERADICATED. That's right; it can be totally eliminated from a person's mind. Furthermore, it is MAN HIMSELF THAT CAN ELIMINATE IT. Notice the admonition Paul gives to God's people. His sober words are brief but POWERFUL.

"Quench not the spirit."

I Thessalonians. 5:19

The Greek word for "quench" in this verse is *sbennymi* and means to "extinguish," or to cause something "to go out." (*Strong's G4570*). As hard as it might be to believe, Paul is stating that man CAN actually destroy spirit. This now brings us to another very important question. If it is possible for man to extinguish God's spirit, can he also extinguish God Himself? After all, God is a spirit (John 4:24), and according to this new doctrine, spirit is spirit. The answer to this question should be obvious. God CANNOT be destroyed. He is immortal—a fact that every true believer would readily concede. However, there is another question that bears greatly on this matter. If man can extinguish God's spirit, why can't he extinguish man's spirit?

There can be only one answer
And it has absolutely nothing to do with what
those spirits are made of.

Protecting the Spirit

The reason human beings are incapable of destroying the spirit in man is **not** because of its composition, but rather because God will not permit him to do so. The very instant a person dies God retrieves his mind (spirit), and there isn't a thing anyone can do about it. On the other hand, if a person refuses to repent, he will ultimately be cast into a Lake of Fire—only this time God won't retrieve his mind (spirit). As a result, it will go down to the earth and perish, just like the spirit of an animal—and there isn't a thing anyone can do about that either. The point here is that unlike angelic beings who were created immortal, the spirit in man was not created that way. It CAN be extinguished. In other words, the spirit in man CAN die, spirit beings CAN'T.

The Real Meaning of Matthew 10:28

The point Jesus was making in this verse is that although the fear of physical death can exert a huge influence on our behavior, its threat is not as severe as one might think. This is because only God has the power of total control over the human family. It is true that although man can kill the body, thus rendering all of its vital organs unworkable, he is powerless to destroy the soul (thought and reason)—things that truly define who a person is. When it comes to God this is not the case—He can direct the total destruction of every facet of mortal beings—body and mind (spirit)

A Final Thought

Finally, as much as some claim that the spirit in man is comparable to the great angelic creatures God fashioned so very long ago, it just **isn't true**. Angels are real beings with a mind (spirit) of their own. Furthermore, they were created for a specific purpose and reside in an infinite realm where death has no power. When Jesus spoke of God's ability to bring about the complete and utter destruction of man and His soul, He wasn't making the slightest reference to anything but the human family—and **any** teaching to the contrary is nothing other than an act of DESPERATION offered by those who advance it.

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument V From Spirit to Flesh

Question:

If God can “**transform**” Christ from a spirit being into a human being in order that He might die, how could anyone think He couldn't do the same to Satan and his demons?

~ ~ ~

In an attempt to prove that Satan and his demons can, and will die, many invoke the example of Christ's incarnation and subsequent death. According to them, the fact that Jesus was an incorruptible **SPIRIT BEING** prior to His earthly life, stands as proof that the same process he went through could be applied to other spirits such as the devil and those who rebelled with him. Therefore, spirit beings, which heretofore were considered indestructible, can **NOW** be made into material beings and thus eliminated.

Here is how this logic works.

From Spirit to Flesh

- 1) Jesus Christ was an incorruptible Spirit Being prior to His incarnation.
- 2) As a part of God's plan He became flesh and was thus subject to death.
- 3) In that state He was crucified and allowed to die.
- 4) Had His Father not resurrected Him He would have remained dead forever.
- 5) Satan is currently an incorruptible spirit being.
- 6) However, like Christ, he too can be “**changed**” into flesh and subsequently executed (in the Lake of Fire)—only this time God won't resurrect him from the dead like He did His beloved Son.
- 7) Therefore, if God can “**transition**” the Messiah into a corruptible state, He should have no difficulty doing the same to the devil and his demons for final eradication.

What follows is how one prominent COG fellowship presents this argument beginning with a theory concerning how the molecular universe was created. According to them its primary building block consisted of an incorruptible component often referred to as “spirit essence” and that this “essence” was capable of being converted into matter.

They then argue that if “spirit essence” can be “**converted**” to matter in order to form the molecular universe, then by logical extension a Spirit Being such as Satan and his demons can be “**converted**” into material beings as well and in that state be EXECUTED in a Lake of Fire

Here is how this view was expressed followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“...As far as we know, in the physical realm, fire can only affect matter. However, the devil and his angels are not physical. This brings up an interesting question. What kind of fire is it that could possibly destroy these spirits?”

Their Theory Begins

“...When we consider the physical realm, we understand that it was **not** created from nothing. The laws of nature teach us that only nothing can come from nothing. The universe had to be made from something, but what? Certainly, it was not created of preexisting matter. The Scriptures reveal that it was actually made from spirit! As the author of Hebrews states:”

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3)

“From this, we realize that God created the material world out of something, but the substance was not visible to the human eye. Spirit is invisible, and therefore the **only sound conclusion** is that the physical universe was made from invisible spirit.”

“This leads to the profound realization that, when creating the physical universe, God has **changed** spirit to matter. This being the case, it is not only possible, but **HIGHLY LIKELY** that spirit beings can be **transformed** to that which is physical. Then, in this state, they could be burned up in an inferno such as the lake of fire.”

My Response:

In this particular statement, these advocates confidently offer the book of Hebrews to support what can only be described, in my view, as **wild speculation**—offered in a desperate attempt to convince their reader that there exists absolutely no discernible difference between an invisible, inanimate, spiritual component, referred to by some as “spirit essence,” and a one-of-a-kind, totally unique, living, cognitive, self actualized immortal spirit being, complete with a spirit (mind) of its own, as well as unquestionably its own genetic code responsible for shaping its very uniqueness including its talents and personality.

To put the extraordinary complexity of the angelic realm in perspective consider it in the context of the **human family**. It has been estimated that the average adult human male possesses as many as 40 trillion cells and is comprised of up to 7 octillion (7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) atoms (that’s a 7 followed by 27 zeros). With that said, what do you think the spiritual composition of an immortal angelic being just might be? Before you answer this question, I would recommend you read the first chapter of the book of Ezekiel which should give you just a brief glimpse of the majesty, grandeur, beauty, and function of these magnificent creatures. When doing so GOD’S WORD describes among other things:

Ezekiel Chapter 1

Verses 1-28

- four creatures in human form, (verse 5)
- each with four faces. (verse 6)
- four wings, (verse 6)
- feet that shine like burnished brass (verse 7)
- four hands of a man under their wings (verse 8),
- four faces (verses 11-12)
- Two wings joined one to another (verse 11)
- a blazing torch in their midst (verse 13)
- perfectly coordinated flight configurations, (verses 19-21)
- wheels covered with eyes, (verses 15-18)
- the appearance of a throne with a man upon it (verse 26)
- an unimaginable spectrum of colors (verses 26-28)
- the ability to travel at the speed of light (verses 27-28)
- and the powerful sounds they make in flight (verse 24)

Now imagine comparing these extraordinary BEINGS to “spirit essence” and conclude that there is no discernible difference between the two. I ask this because that is exactly what these COG leaders have done. Sadly, their position is advanced solely because it appears to be the only one that can be reconciled with a preconceived **false** narrative regarding Satan’s fate—specifically that his destiny **must be eternal death** as opposed to **eternal torment** which the scriptures actually require (See: Revelation 20:10 & Jude 13).

Based on this predicate, these Church thinkers have concluded that in order for their narrative to play out as they hope, it **must** be possible for Satan to be “**changed**” from an incorruptible immortal **SPIRIT** into a corruptible molecular “**PHYSICAL ENTITY**” and thus subject to the laws of combustion governing the physical realm. In other words, if they can somehow convince God’s people that incorruptible “**spirit essence**” can be “**changed**” or “**transformed**” or, any other term they find convenient—into physical matter to form the molecular universe, then it’s not that far-fetched for these same believers to be convinced that an incorruptible **spirit being** can also be “**changed**” or “**transformed**” into a “**material being**” for their ultimate execution in the Lake of Fire—which is the whole point this new doctrine is endeavoring to make. After all, according to its advocates “spirit is spirit.” Thus, it must follow that if **spirit essence** can be changed into matter then a **spirit being** can be changed into matter as well. CASE CLOSED.

Sadly, what these learned men **fail to grasp** is that “spirit essence” (a term of their own making) is actually a **component** or **element** or **property**, while a “spirit being” is a **REAL PERSON with its own feelings, emotions and psyche**. As a result, these COG leaders are asserting an argument that makes about as much sense as claiming that there is no discernible difference between brick and mortar and a team of architectural engineers.

A Simplistic View of Creation

When examining the point advanced by these advocates it also becomes readily apparent that they take a rather simplistic view of creation. When doing so **spirit** is represented to be essentially a large incorruptible mysterious ingredient God used to build the universe as we know it. They then suggest that He must have made this ingredient with the capacity to miraculously “**transition**” itself into physical

corruptible matter and as such it could degrade and eventually perish like everything else in the molecular realm. Sadly, this is done without providing any explanation whatsoever with respect to how the GREAT MASTER ARCHITECT of the universe went about accomplishing this task. They just declare it to be true and expect God's people to believe them without question. **Very convenient.**

Another Perspective

In all due respect to these leaders, I would like to introduce a different thought—one based on the Biblical God I have come to understand and the physical realm of which I am a part. With that said, unlike these advocates I will readily acknowledge that my opinion is also **speculative**. However, I am more than willing to let God's people be the judge concerning which theory seems to harmonize most with His Word.

Mine goes like this.

“The Principle of the Periodic Table”

In our modern scientific world man has developed a tabular array of chemical elements referred to as a “periodic table of properties.” The elements within this table are organized by atomic number, from the element with the lowest atomic number, **hydrogen**, to the element with the highest atomic number, **oganesson**. The atomic number of an element is determined by calculating the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom within that element, thus enabling scientists to ascertain how various elements interact. With this said, it is significant to point out that EVERYTHING in the molecular universe consists of elements. Therefore, these tables attempt to identify properties that make up all the ingredients that comprise the corruptible realm as we know it. Suffice it to say, they are pretty vast.

What Can Be Learned?

With that said, consider that our world, which contains a massive array of solids, liquids, and gasses including vast numbers of metals, stones, woods, chemicals, and fabrics, not to mention an endless array of atomic and sub atomic particles as well as an endless array of types, sub types, groups and sub-groups of every possible piece of matter, **that**—with all the complexities in the **finite** molecular universe mankind calls home, **that the infinite domain of the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY** and His Heavenly subjects is at least as much, if not more intricate, more diverse and more complex? In other words, could the number of elements in the supernatural realm be vastly greater than those in the natural one?

An Interesting Possibility

When examined in this context, is it possible that within the THIRD HEAVEN there exists numerous spiritual periodic tables containing an endless array of elements that the Almighty may avail Himself to in His own creative endeavors? Furthermore, is it possible that at some point in eternity past that some of these elements were specifically designed by Him to be inter-dimensional? In other words they could be employed in different environments (spiritual or material) as the Almighty saw fit—**anticipating their future application when building a home for His yet to be created human family—something the Scriptures reveal He was already mindful of before creation itself** (See: Ephesians 1:3-5 & 1 Peter 1:19-20, See also: *Expositors Bible Commentary* on the citation recorded on 1 Peter just mentioned). Additionally, is it possible that when creating the universe, He selected its building blocks from this vast inventory of components (parts if you will) as opposed to one brand of spiritual material. MY VOTE IS A RESOUNDING YES!

With that said I would like to offer a personal opinion regarding the approach taken by the majority of these advocates when pursuing their claim as well as to submit yet another (third) possibility concerning the origin of the universe altogether—one these COG leaders may never have considered.

A Reality Check

In truth, all too many of God's people, including advocates of this new doctrine, **don't have a clue** what spirit is, let alone how it works—or what specifically took place when God fashioned the universe. Even more amazing is the **fact** that the Bible provides a plausible alternative to the position of these leaders, beginning with the actual verse they cite when presenting their argument. According to this New Testament letter **“the worlds were framed by the “word of God” (Hebrews 11:3).** Furthermore, the Sacred Writings actually offer their concurrence with this declaration. The Bible specifically reveals that “God **spoke** and earth existed” and that **“the heavens were created by His wisdom and the earth by His understanding.”** (See: Psalm 33:9, Proverbs 3:19, Jeremiah 10: 12-13, et al)

However, despite the undeniable clarity of Paul's revelation—in which he **specifically** identified **“GOD'S WORD”** as the invisible ingredient from which the “WORLDS WERE FRAMED,” these COG leaders insist this is **NOT** possible by accusing that WORD of being the equivalent of “NOTHING”—and because, as they put it, “nothing can only come from nothing,” the only possible answer concerning the origin of the material universe must lie somewhere else.

They then assert that because spirit is invisible in God's realm (See: John 3:8) it must be, by necessity, the **ONLY** possibility when identifying the primary building blocks of the Heavens and the Earth in accordance with the requirements of Hebrews. Furthermore, when doing so, they offer this assessment as the **linchpin of their entire argument.** In other words, if they **can't** find a way for spirit to become matter then Satan will NEVER die because he is **a spirit**. And DEATH is what they claim **must be** his ultimate FATE.

Another Possibility

But is this hypothesis correct? In other words, is there nothing else in the third heaven **beyond the “spirit essence” they seek**—something that also cannot be seen (invisible)—yet something that could actually perform the very creative function the Scriptures require without ever relying on “spirit essence” as these advocates do **WHEN ADVANCING THIS NEW DOCTRINE?**

What follows is a brief reconstruction of a real conversation regarding the origin of the universe and how it came into existence. Mind you, **this is speculative as well**, but it does offer something most believers, including God's people, may never have considered.

“An Interesting Dialogue”

Science VS Faith

Several years ago a prominent theologian was featured in a discussion with an equally prominent astrophysicist. At issue was the origin of the universe and specifically, how it came into existence as well as what specifically the cosmos was constructed from.

To virtually no one's surprise the theologian confidently responded, “God made it.”

This led the scientist to press the issue. “What did He make it out of? And don't tell me He made it from nothing.”

Upon hearing this challenge the theologian responded, “Well, what I can say is that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth—when before there was nothing.”

Growing somewhat exasperated, the scientist continued to press the issue. “What do **you** think He made it from?” he asked. The theologian confessed that he was uncertain but allowed for the possibility that the ETERNAL created the molecular realm through the power of His mind. In other words, His WISDOM.

He then became more specific by attempting to add clarity to his answer. Here is what he said.

“The point I am trying to make here is that **everything that exists** in the natural universe **came into existence** because God commanded it to be so. There are NO exceptions.”

Feeling he had this “man of the cloth” on the ropes, this brilliant scientific thinker asked one last question. “Can you name one thing **man** has ever created out of **nothing** but WISDOM? Or, as you put it, the power of MIND?”

The theologian thoughtfully pondered this query for nearly 30 seconds—(imagine the deafness of that silence) after which he quietly, in a near whisper, responded, “A Symphony.”

Something to Think About

This is a remarkable reply because it may very well go to the heart of the origin of the universe and the role an infinite God may have played in it. In truth, everything ever created throughout history began, not with tangible components (invisible or otherwise), but rather, with an **idea**—a vision that first appeared in the mind of its **CREATOR**. Now imagine that **MIND** being INFINITE. Furthermore, imagine how an INFINITE GOD could express this idea and actually ENGAGE its CREATIVE POWER.

With this said, is it possible that in the spirit realm, where the INFINITE is everywhere, and an ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, ETERNAL CREATOR resides, that **wisdom** and **understanding** may literally be **actionable materials**? And is it possible that God **truly can speak** things into existence by the POWER of His WORD and the FORCE of His WILL? According to the apostle John the answer just might be “YES.”

Revelation 4:11

“...for You created all things, and because of Your WILL they existed, and were created.”

At this point, it is interesting to note that the entire physical creation recorded in the first chapter of Genesis actually came about by **divine decree**. Light appeared because God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3). The earth’s atmosphere appeared on the second day because God commanded it to be so (verses 6-8). The sun, moon and stars came about the same way (verses 14-18)—as did the seas and its creatures as well as every bird that flies (verses 20-22) and every mammal that roams (verses 24-25). Add to that, every body of water and every blade of grass and all manner of vegetation came into being after three short words, “**AND GOD SAID.**”

The dynamic power of God’s **WORD** is graphically expressed by the Almighty Himself through the great prophet Isaiah. Think about this for a moment.

Isaiah 55:11

“So shall my **word** be that goes forth out of my mouth. **It** shall not return to me void (unproductive) but **it** shall accomplish that which I please, and **it** shall prosper (bear fruit) in the thing whereto I sent **it**.”

Notice that it is God’s WORD that will never be **unproductive** and that it is His WORD that is **sent** and that it is His WORD that will always **bear fruit**. With this said, is it possible that God’s word is more than a phonetic utterance? Is it possible that it not only conveys the Almighty’s WISDOM and UNDERSTANDING, but actually **executes** His will as He directs? In other words, is it possible that when Paul wrote of the universe being made out of that which is invisible he was actually referring to **God’s Word** which he had just identified earlier in the same verse as the vehicle by which the universe came into existence?

Although there are those who believe that the language employed by Isaiah cited above, should be understood as **literary** (personification), many thoughtful voices are fully persuaded that they are **literal** and therefore, not to be so easily dismissed. When it comes to the Almighty, and His vast array of accomplishments, who honestly believes such a thing is beyond HIS POWER?

Here’s a hint.

Throughout His life, the Messiah performed spectacular miracles simply by uttering His voice. For example: He calmed a violent storm with the words, “Be still” (Mark 4:39). He raised a dear friend from the grip of death with the words, “Come forth” (John 11:43). He completely restored a man who was paralyzed for thirty eight years by telling him to: “Take up your bed and walk” (John 5:8-9). He exorcised a demon from a little girl when He told her mother, “Go and it shall be as you desire” (Matthew 15: 21- 28 NKJV).

But there is more.

Jesus revealed that the power of faith was so formidable that it could literally move mountains without the aid of a bulldozer or one ounce of explosives, but rather with a simple command, “Be moved” (Matthew 17:20-21). He also turned water into wine without using one grape (John 2). and actually healed the servant of a centurion without so much as visiting him because this roman military officer was convinced the Messiah could do so simply by **giving an order!** (Matthew 8: 5-10)

The POINT

The point here is that God’s ability to completely alter things with nothing but the strength of His **VOICE** and the **POWER** of His **WILL** is indisputable. With that said, who is man to suggest this couldn’t include shaping the very formation of the universe by commanding what resides in His mind to come into existence?—in other words to make what **is** from what **isn’t**.

With that said, it is interesting that in his epistle to the Church at Rome the apostle Paul once indicated that God calls “things which **are not** as though they **are**” (Romans 4:17). One translation of this verse expresses it this way.

Romans 4: 17

“...even God, who gives life to the dead **and calls into being that which does not exist.**”

This, of course, does not mean God created the universe out of nothing, but rather from an idea that took shape at His command including every sub atomic particle. Remember, **He is El Shaddai, THE ALMIGHTY.**

Perhaps the prophet Jeremiah expressed it best when describing God's CREATIVE POWER.

Jeremiah 32: 17

“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee.**”

What's Next?

Although the advocates of this new doctrine insist that the material world was made out of preexisting spirit essence they didn't come close to explaining **HOW** that spirit came into being itself, let alone **HOW** it was “**changed**” into matter. Furthermore, they failed to offer one scintilla of proof that a **spirit being** other than God Himself, can become a fully functioning member of the material dimension when the Scriptures actually reveal that He is the only one that could **EVER** be a part of such a MIRACLE (See: John 1:14).

But alas, despite this FACT, it now appears they are going to try. Sadly, this is done by employing a great deception—one that appears reasonable on the surface but in TRUTH is NOT. Notice how this is attempted followed by my response.

The Example of Jesus

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

“Jesus Christ was the Word, He was with God, and He was God (Jn. 1:1-5). Yet, Christ was “**changed**” from an awesome Spirit being, to a human being composed of matter. Then, as a physical entity, men were allowed to kill Him. Jesus was dead and in the grave for three days and three nights. As the apostle Paul writes:”

1 Corinthians 15:3

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died** for our sins according to the scriptures.”

“The Father raised Christ up from the grave and the grip of death. This was a divine miracle performed as an example for all of us who look to the resurrection as our hope. Thus, Paul writes to the Galatians saying:”

Galatians 1:1

“Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God **the Father, who raised Him from the dead.**”

“Christ was raised by the Father (1 Cor. 15:15, Eph. 1:20, 1 Thes. 1:10), but if this miracle had not been performed, Jesus Christ would still be dead. He would be in an unconscious state forever, and we would have no hope of eternal life.”

A Voice of Agreement

This fellowship is not alone in their assessment. Another prominent COG expressed it this way.

“The fact that a spirit being can be destroyed, or killed, should not really surprise us. Remember, God Himself, the Logos, the Word, literally BECAME FLESH and dwelt among us (John 1:1-2, 14). Then, as Jesus Christ, our Savior, He DIED on the cross, for our sins. Thus a spirit being literally became flesh, and died. Only because He was later resurrected by the Father did His life resume once again! Think about that. What is to keep God from likewise, with His awesome power, from “**converting**” the spirit-body of Satan the devil and his demons into destructible, combustible, flammable material?”

My Response:

It is interesting that these COG leaders claim that Jesus was “**CHANGED**” or “**CONVERTED**” or “**TRANSFORMED**” to flesh when the Scriptures actually reveal that NO SUCH THING EVER occurred. According to God’s Sacred Word the Messiah was **NEVER** “**CHANGED**”, **NEVER** “**CONVERTED**”, **NEVER** “**TRANSFORMED**” “**TRANSFERRED**”, or, any other vagary these advocates employ, into anything. However, the Bible does reveal that He “**became**” flesh. Furthermore, when doing so it explains with striking precision how this miracle was accomplished. Even more remarkable is the **FACT** that this was done centuries prior to the moment this MIRACLE took place (See: Isaiah 7:14).

Meanwhile, the advocates of this new doctrine remain **TOTALLY** silent on this subject. The same is true when it comes to providing even the smallest details explaining how Satan will become flesh other than to employ code words that sound official but are in fact TOTALLY CONTRIVED. When considering the language they employ in this argument one almost gets the impression that these COG leaders are suggesting that God must have used a “transporter” and somehow “beamed” His Son down to the planet in human form. With that said, I’m just curious, but do these MINISTERS honestly believe the devil and his cohorts will go through the same process the Messiah experienced? If they do, I have some **BAD NEWS**.

Real Evidence

Although virtually every advocate of this FALSE doctrine contends that Christ’s incarnation represents evidence that Satan and his demons can (and will) become **mortal** (subject to death), the Bible says something quite different. God’s Word specifically reveals that the **GENUINE FACTS** concerning Jesus’ humanity actually **PROVE** that His entrance into the physical realm will **NEVER** be duplicated by any other Spirit Being. To better understand this TRUTH, consider the following:

Genuine Fact # 1

The Evidence of Divine Conception

When describing Christ the man, the apostle John specifically declared that He was “**the only begotten of the Father**” (John 1:14). The clear implication is that Jesus entrance into the material realm was a direct result of supernatural conception as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-21. Furthermore, according to John, the Messiah is the **only one** that has (or ever will have) experienced this process and its result.

Genuine Fact # II The Evidence of Human Birth

According to Scripture, there are only two ways one may enter into the physical realm as a mortal creature, and neither one can happen to Satan, or any other angelic being for that matter. The first is by being created into it. This is precisely what took place with Adam when God made man in His own image after His own likeness (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7 & 5:1).

However, it is important to understand that Adam was fashioned out of corruptible matter (dirt), not from some pre-existing “spirit essence,” let alone a spirit being (See: Acts 17:26-28). This is because every inhabitant of the physical realm is made from the elements of his environment just like every inhabitant of the spirit realm was fashioned from the elements of their environment. In other words, that which is flesh comes from flesh and that which is spirit comes from spirit (John 3:6). With that said, here is how Genesis describes the first man.

Genesis 2:7

“And the LORD God formed man **of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

The creation of Adam is so unique that it has **never** happened to anyone since. Furthermore, the Scriptures indicate that **it never will**. According to the apostle Paul, virtually every human being since Adam and Eve, has come from a woman (See: 1 Corinthians 11:11). The name Eve was actually given because she is “the mother of **all** living” (Genesis 3:20). Therefore, in order for Satan and his demons to become members of the human family and subject to death, God would have to supernaturally conceive them in a woman—actually, perhaps millions of women. In other words, each of them would need a mother who was impregnated by God’s Holy Spirit and the scriptures already state that such a scenario is impossible (See Again: John 1:14).

Changing Satan into a Mortal Beast

Some may argue that the devil would not have to be human in order to die—he could be “**changed**” into an animal. After all, he is referred to as a “Serpent” and a “Dragon” (Genesis 3, Revelation 12:9) not to mention a “Roaring Lion” (1 Peter 5:8). Although this is true, the Scriptures nowhere hint that animals were created from spirit either. As physical beings, they came from the material world just like man—the sacred writings reveal that they were “**brought forth from the earth**” (See: Genesis 1:20-21, 24-25).

Furthermore, contrary to what this new doctrine asserts, the Scriptures also declare that there is **ONLY ONE WAY** any being may be condemned to die as a result of God’s FINAL JUDGMENT—and that path brings us right back to the human family.

Genuine Fact # III The Evidence of the Origin of Death

When writing to the Church at Corinth, the apostle Paul made an extraordinary statement concerning the sentence of death and how it came into existence. Consider his words.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. **For as in Adam all die**, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (See also Romans 5:19-21).

Notice Paul states that death came through the sin of Adam, **not** the sin of Satan. This point is extremely relevant to the issue of Satan’s fate because he (Satan) had already rebelled against the ALMIGHTY long before the creation of the first human being. Therefore, if death was the consequence of Satan’s rebellion, as the advocates of this new doctrine claim, then Adam wouldn’t be the one by whom it originated.

A Significant Truth

The point to all of this is that in order to die as a consequence of sin one MUST be fully human and of the lineage of Adam. This was even true of Christ Himself (See: 1 John 3:5). As the Savior of the world Jesus bore the sins of all those who would claim His sacrifice. He literally paid its price with His own life—and this was only possible because He was born of a woman (Matthew 1:18) and was a descendant of Adam as the scriptures require. Adam is even identified in the Messiah’s genealogy (See: Luke 3: 23-**38**).

A Final Thought

The only thing this particular argument proves is that Jesus came in the flesh and died on our behalf. However, this point is not being contested. The issue at hand is Satan’s fate—and based on the facts surrounding Jesus’ incarnation, one must conclude that the devil will NEVER become a member of the corruptible world in any form (human or animal). While man was created out of elements of his world, Satan was created out of that which comes from an eternal realm.

Finally, God’s Word TESTIFIES that the ONLY way mortal man may enter into the spirit realm is to be BORN into it (John 3:3-5). The same is true for all Spirit Beings who enter the physical dimension. They must be BORN into it as well—and Jesus Christ is the only one who can make that claim (See again: John 1:14).

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument VI Bruising Satan's Head

Question:

How can Satan's fate not be death when God specifically prophesied that Christ would kill him by "bruising his head"?

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The third chapter of the book of Genesis is a record of mankind's first encounter with the devil. Unfortunately, this moment had tragic consequences. Eve was deceived by him into defying God's prohibition against eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She then persuaded her husband to join in this sin (Genesis 3: 1-6) and the rest, as they say, IS HISTORY.

This single act placed the first human family on a collision course with death just as the Almighty had warned (See: Genesis 2:16-17, 3:3). However, prior to rendering His final judgment, God would investigate the facts concerning the matter (See: Genesis 3:9-13). After hearing from the offending parties He spoke, and when doing so, made a very interesting pronouncement concerning the instigator of this sin (Satan) and his ultimate fate.

Today, some contend that this decree, although expressed in symbolism and imagery, is actually a death sentence and stands as proof that Satan and his demons will ultimately be eradicated from existence.

Here is how this view was expressed by a long-standing minister (and faithful servant) followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"As early as the book of Genesis, the Scriptures begin to reveal the ultimate fate of the devil. After this wicked spirit seduced Eve into eating from the forbidden tree, God made a unique prophetic announcement, stating:"

"And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15).

"Because of this first human sin, Christ would be bruised in His heel. However, Satan would ultimately be bruised in the head. In other words, because the devil caused man to sin, Satan appeared to have won that first round, but the "game" was not over. Ultimately, Satan would do a limited amount of damage to the Son of Man, but our Savior would strike a fatal blow to this fallen angel."

"This truth becomes even more obvious as we examine the original language. The Hebrew word for "bruise" is "*shûph*," meaning to crush. The word "head" can mean "chief", "principal", or "ruler." Thus, Christ would eventually destroy the one who had become

mankind's ruler—Satan the devil. This is also confirmed in the New Testament where Paul reminds Christians that:"

Romans 16:20

"The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you. Amen."

"Here the Greek word for bruise is "*suntribō*," and it means to "crush completely." By this, we see that Paul's statement forcefully drives the point home. Satan's end is much worse than that of Christ. [Therefore,] if Jesus was temporarily damaged by physical death, then there can be no other conclusion. Satan will be permanently destroyed!"

My Response:

Although this Church leader implies that the war between Satan and Christ is centered on who would live and who would die, **this is not the case at all**. Everything in this great conflict centers on **MANKIND** and his destiny—and the scriptures bear this out. To better understand this truth, some background is necessary.

A Defining Moment

When Satan confronted Eve in the Garden, God was the constituted authority over the human family. He was not only their Creator but their ruler. In other words, in the beginning, the Eternal was mankind's God. He even spoke to him directly (See: Genesis 2:16-17). Regrettably, all of that was about to change. By defying their Maker's clear command to refrain from consuming the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve rejected His authority over their lives—and as a result consented to Satan's rule. Furthermore, that rule would extend to their descendants as well. The Scriptures actually refer to Satan as the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). As that god, he has wreaked havoc on mankind and has affixed his signature to unimaginable misery and suffering down through the ages. However, even as God delivered His decree concerning Adam and Eve's sin, and its consequences, there was good news.

The Promise of a Great Deliverer

Although Satan clearly got the upper hand on the first human family he was not going to thwart the plan of their Creator—and God made that fact abundantly clear when He proclaimed how things would ultimately play out. In essence, the ALMIGHTY was informing him that the victory he could claim over mankind was only temporary as opposed to the victory MANKIND would ultimately achieve over him. Their victory would be permanent and absolute. Furthermore, it would be accomplished through a Great Deliverer that would actually come from the seed of the very woman Satan had deceived.

The Scriptures tell us that Christ was manifested to take away the sins of the whole world (Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 John 1:2, 3:5)—and His sacrifice would do just that. God's Word also tells us that Christ's death would result in the absolute destruction of the **WORKS** of the devil NOT the DEVIL HIMSELF (See: 1John 3:8).

Bruising Satan's Head

When God told the serpent that a descendant of Eve would "bruise his head" He was proclaiming that all the destruction Satan will have inflicted on humanity will ultimately come to ruin—not that he will die. Even the term *syntribo* which this minister offers in his argument supports this conclusion. According to *Strong's Concordance* this term means to "put one [Satan] under foot (as a conqueror) and to SHATTER ONE'S

STRENGTH" (*Strong's G4937*). In other words, all the power Satan has exploited is going to be shattered and he will be left with NOTHING.

From the Pen of Scholars

When explaining the meaning of "bruising the head," *John Gills Commentary* says that God will "strip him [Satan] of his authority and sovereignty and particularly of his power over death..." (Hebrews 2:14).

Matthew Henry's Commentary renders it this way:

"[Satan] is here condemned to a state of war and irreconcilable enmity. [He] is destroyed and ruined at last by *the great Redeemer*, signified by the breaking of his head. His subtle politics shall all be baffled, his usurped power shall be entirely crushed, and **he shall be forever a captive to the injured honor of divine sovereignty.**"

Dr. Henry went on to say:

"...He shall bruise his head, that is, he shall destroy all his politics and all his powers, and **give a total overthrow to his kingdom and interests.**"

A Final Thought

The fulfillment of God's pronouncement in the garden began at Golgotha when the Messiah broke the devil's lordship over all who would claim that sacrifice (John 3:16). Christ's death signaled the impending end of Satan's dominion over humanity and the Messiah made this fact abundantly clear on the eve of His crucifixion (See: John 16:7-**11**). When writing of that sacrifice, the apostle Paul put it this way:

Colossians 1:13-14

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."

One translation of the word "delivered" is "rescued." In other words:

"He rescued us from the authority of Satan's dominion and gave us citizenship in the kingdom of His beloved Son"

With that said, it is ironic that in Asia the term "Bruising the head" means "**to remove lordship.**"

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument VII Destroying the Devil

Question:

When God told Lucifer that he was going to be totally destroyed because of his rebellion, doesn't that mean Satan will ultimately be killed?

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One of the most popular arguments advanced by those who believe Satan will die, is that God prophesied that he would be "destroyed" for his rebellion (See: Ezekiel 28:16). They then conclude that the term ("destroy") must mean "kill" because the original Hebrew renders it as "perish."

Here is how this opinion was expressed in a popular booklet supporting the belief that Satan's fate is complete eradication. In it, the author(s) present three passages as proof of their view. Each is presented independently followed by my response.

"Proof" #1

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"In another case, during the history of the Old Covenant, God addressed the king of Tyre. As He did so, God's words shift to focus on a being much greater than the human king. God actually begins to speak to the devil. It is he who was the real power behind the throne (Mat. 4:8-9). For this reason, the Almighty speaks directly to him, stating:"

Ezekiel 28:14-16

"Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."

The Advocates of his New Doctrine continue:

"In this verse, the Hebrew word for "destroy" is "*abad*." While in some cases, the word can refer to the act of being removed, other Scriptures show that the word is frequently translated as "perish" or "destroy" (i.e. Num. 17:12; Deut. 11:4). When speaking figuratively, *Strong's Concordance* explains that the word always means "perish." Certainly these verses are figurative. They are prophetic and speak in symbolic language. Therefore, these verses reveal that the devil will eventually perish."

My Response:

Although the author(s) of this booklet correctly render “*abad*” as “perish,” they neglect to explain what that word means in the context of Ezekiel’s prophecy. In truth, two pronouncements concerning Satan’s fate are being made and neither one is saying that he will die. The first pronouncement pertains to his position within God’s government. The second relates to the unfettered access he had to God’s domain. First, consider his position and the role he played.

The “Anointed Cherub that Covers”

God’s Church has always correctly understood that the archangel Lucifer once held a position of great distinction and prominence in the THIRD HEAVEN. He actually served in the very command center of ETERNITY ITSELF. Furthermore, God personally “set him” in that position and “anointed” him to it (See: Ezekiel 28:14).

At this point it is important to understand that when the Almighty referred to him as the “Anointed Cherub that Covers,” He was not simply being poetic—and the Scriptures bear this out. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Exodus, God provides Moses with specifications for building the Ark of the Covenant. Included in these specifications were instructions to make two cherubim of gold and place them on each side of the mercy seat (See: Exodus 25:18). The mercy seat was a symbol of God’s throne. Additionally, the ETERNAL instructed Moses to have the wings of these magnificent creatures spread in order to provide a covering for it (verse 20). This image reflects the very spot Lucifer once served. The honor and dignity of such a position is almost too great to imagine—and Lucifer lived it.

Unfortunately, this great cherub would be stripped of his position because of his rebellion against God and His moral authority. When the Almighty declared that He would “cast him out of the MOUNTAIN of God,” He was announcing that Lucifer (now Satan) was being impeached from the esteemed office he held in God’s government. It is not by accident that the word “mountain” is used extensively in the Scriptures as a metaphor for a **GOVERNMENT** (See: Daniel 2:35, Micah 4:1, Zachariah 8:3).

A Second Pronouncement

God then declared that Satan was to be “**destroyed from the midst of the stones of fire**” (Ezekiel 28:16). The “stones of fire” are part of a literal place within God’s realm. In all likelihood they are a part of a heavenly Eden, the Garden of God (verse 13). Furthermore, it is clear that Lucifer had direct access to this place (verse 14). However, his rebellion would change everything. Not only would he be stripped of his position and authority (the first pronouncement) but also his citizenship—and all the privileges that come with it. In other words, Satan was being exiled (banished) from God’s Kingdom altogether.

At this point it is important to understand that God was NOT telling Satan that He was going to destroy him **from a state of being**, but rather **from** an ACTUAL PLACE—the “stones of fire.” Furthermore, the ETERNAL kept His word explicitly and the Scriptures bear thus out as well. When speaking to His disciples about the power they had in casting out demons, Jesus revealed that He was an eyewitness to Satan’s excommunication (destruction) from God’s Kingdom. His precise words were, “**I saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven**” (Luke 10:18).

Notice Jesus did NOT say He saw Satan killed—or even sentenced to die. Nor was He giving His disciples the power to kill demons. In truth, Jesus gave His disciples the power to do exactly what God said He had done to Satan and his cohorts—CAST THEM OUT. The point here is that Satan was not executed because of his sin, but, he was “destroyed.” His access to God’s Kingdom perished, just as his Creator had decreed. However, because of his composition as an incorruptible Spirit Being, his existence would continue on forever (See: Luke 20:36, Revelation 20:10, Jude 13).

A Case from the New Testament

The author(s) of this booklet then attempt to offer “evidence” from the New Testament supporting their belief that Satan’s ultimate fate is total extinction. This was done by explaining the meaning of the NT term “*destroy*.” Notice how they attempt to make this point followed by my response.

Proof #2

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

“When this subject is explored in the New Testament, the same conclusion is reached. Consider an example found in the book of Hebrews. There the author writes:”

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.**” (Hebrews 2:14)

“The author of this epistle clearly and powerfully states that Christ will destroy the devil,”

My Response:

Contrary to this assertion, Paul, assuming that he is the author of Hebrews, is not stating that Satan will die, but rather that his ability (“power”) will become inoperable. According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the word “destroy” in this verse comes from the Greek *Katargao* which has a primary meaning of: **“to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative, to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency, to deprive of force, influence, power”** (See: *Strong’s G2673*).

Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words adds even greater insight into the use of this term. It states that the word *Katargao*, when literally translated means **“to reduce to inactivity”** (*kata*, “down,” *argos*, “inactive”).” Vines go on to explain that this term does **NOT** mean the **“loss of being, but [rather] the loss of well being.”**

This now brings us to the third scripture employed in this booklet. Here, the authors contend that even the demon world is aware that they are going to be executed. Notice how they express this view followed by my response.

Proof #3

Advocates of the New Doctrine continue:

“Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? **Art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24)

“In this verse the demons use the term “destroy” when referring to their fate. This word is the very same one used in Matthew 10 where Jesus says that God can destroy both the spirit and the flesh. The word is “*apollumi*” in the Greek and means to “destroy fully, to perish, or to die.” Thus, the Bible repeatedly demonstrates this truth. God is fully capable, and intends, to eliminate both wicked humans and angelic spirits.”

My Response:

Although some equate this term (*apollymi*) with death, this is not its only meaning. *Strong's Concordance* also renders it: "to put out of the way entirely, to render useless, to devote or give over to eternal misery, to be lost, ruined." *Vines Dictionary* defines it as follows: "a strengthened form of *ollumi*, signifying "to destroy utterly;" in Middle Voice, 'to perish.' Vines then crystallizes the point "**The idea is not extinction but ruin...**"

Additionally, the reference by these authors to Matthew 10 fails to take into account that Jesus was speaking to MORTAL human beings NOT immortal spirit beings. Therefore, any attempt to apply it to Satan's fate simply doesn't work. For additional insight concerning this point see: Argument IV, "Killing the Soul."

A Final Thought

As much as some insist that Satan's destruction means that he will die, God's Word says something quite different. When the devil was cast out of heaven he was not killed, but he was destroyed (Ezekiel 28:16, Revelation 12:9). That destruction will continue when he is cast ALIVE into a great abyss (bottomless pit) (Revelation 20:1-3). It will culminate when he is cast ALIVE into a Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10) and ultimately into outer darkness (Jude 13). In each of these cases, his fate is not everlasting death but rather everlasting destruction (banishment) FROM a wonderful kingdom in which he once served.

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument VIII You Shall Be No More

Question:

Didn't God declare that Satan would eventually cease to exist when He said, "never shall you be any more"?

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Recently, a small but well established Christian fellowship published a work concerning the spirit realm and its role relative to God's judgment. Although they presented numerous points, they identified as unimpeachable evidence that Satan's ultimate fate is total extinction (death) they supported this claim by citing one in particular Ezekiel 28:19—actually, they only employed part of this verse when making their case. Furthermore, this fellowship went so far as to assert that if the Bible said nothing else about the devil, this one statement, a clause containing just six words, would put to rest any doubt as to the mortality of history's most diabolical being.

Here is how they expressed their view followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"Further evidence of Satan's fate is found in verse 19 of this same chapter. There, God makes the devil's fate absolutely clear by stating:"

"All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and **never shalt thou be any more.**" (Ezekiel 28:19)

"If the answer to the question, "can spirit die," **WERE ONLY BASED** on this passage, we would have enough evidence to reach the proper conclusion. Spirit can be destroyed, and Satan will ultimately suffer this fate."

My Response:

Although sincere believers present this argument as unassailable proof that Satan will be totally eradicated from existence, this is simply **not true**—for two reasons. First, God's Church has long understood that the Scripture these COG leaders cite is **NOT** referring to Satan at all, but rather to the physical leader of Tyre—and the complexion of this entire chapter bears this out. Consider the following:

A Close Examination of Ezekiel 28

When examining Ezekiel 28 in its entirety, it is clear that the subject is initially a man—the "prince of Tyre" (verse 2). It then transitions to Satan, the "king of Tyre" (verse 12), who is influencing the man. It then **returns back** to Satan's human instrument, the "**prince of Tyre**" (verses 18-19) and his fate—NOT

SATAN'S FATE as some mistakenly believe. God's pronouncement on this man and his kingdom begins in verse 18 which declares that the Almighty will bring forth a fire from their midst.

Ezekiel 28:18

"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee."

A Second Witness

The prophecy of this fire as well as the identity of its intended target is actually provided in the book of Amos. Notice this prophet's words.

Amos 1:9-10

"Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant: But **I will send a fire** on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof."

Further Evidence

However, there is even more compelling evidence that God's pronouncement in Ezekiel 28:19 refers to the physical city of Tyre and its leader, as opposed to Satan and his demons. Furthermore, this evidence comes directly from the pen of Ezekiel himself two chapters earlier. There, the ETERNAL makes a pronouncement on them which is remarkably similar to the verse in question. In this prophecy, He declares that this prominent city would become totally desolate—**never to be any more**. Consider how God's prophet conveys this decree.

Ezekiel 26:19-21

"For thus says the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

I will make thee (Tyre) a terror, and thou shall be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, says the Lord GOD."

Everything in this chapter is directed toward the destruction of the literal city of Tyre—the same city that taunted the Jews and mocked the destruction of Jerusalem. God's judgment(s) on them was forceful and direct. Here was the essence of His decree.

The Fate of Tyre

Ezekiel 26

- Many nations would come against it (verse 3)
- Its walls would be broken down (verse 4)
- Dust would be scraped from her, and she would be like a bare rock (verse 4)
- It would be a place for the spreading of nets (verse 5)
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, would build a siege wall around it (verse 8)

- He would plunder the city (verses 9-12)
- The city would be cast into the sea (verse 12)
- The city would never be rebuilt (verse 14)

The Fulfillment

The fulfillment of God's words concerning Tyre began with Nebuchadnezzar of Chaldea and was completed by the Greco Macedonian commander, Alexander the Great. According to verifiable history, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the city for thirteen years, leaving it in ruins. During this campaign its inhabitants fled to a small island approximately a half mile offshore. Because the channel separating it from the mainland was only twenty feet deep it became impossible for large war ships with an invading army to navigate. Furthermore, the walls of the island were absolutely immense, climbing as much as 150 feet above the water's surface—thus making the new city appear to be totally protected from future attack.

Enter Alexander the Great

Two hundred and fifty years after Nebuchadnezzar's siege, Alexander stopped at Tyre after defeating Sidon and advancing toward Egypt. Although his intentions were at first benign, that was about to change. Upon his arrival, delegates from the city assured him that Tyre was at his disposal. At this point Alexander expressed his desire to take advantage of their good will and requested permission to offer a sacrifice to the pagan god, Heracles. Unfortunately, Tyre declined his request. According to David Chandler in his book *Alexander 334-323-B.C.*:

"[Alexander] put their goodwill to the test by expressing his wish to sacrifice at the shrine of Heracles inside the city; for the Tyrians recognized a Phoenician god who was identified by the Greeks as Heracles, and from this deity Alexander claimed descent."

'Tyrian goodwill unfortunately did not extend so far as to grant him the permission he sought. In short, they would not admit him into the city.' (David Chandler, *Alexander 334-323 B.C.*, p. 41).

The leaders of Tyre felt so secure in their "impenetrable" home that they audaciously killed Alexander's envoys and threw their bodies from the top of its walls into the sea.

A Big Mistake

This act so infuriated Alexander that he determined to build a land crossing to the island in order for his troops to CRUSH it and its inhabitants. It has been estimated by historians that this land crossing was absolutely massive—measuring 200 feet wide. Furthermore, it was constructed from the very stones and timber of the old city—in direct fulfillment of God's pronouncement (Ezekiel 26:12).

The siege of the island lasted seven months concluding in July 332 B.C. The result was its utter destruction. Furthermore, the human toll was absolutely staggering. Over 7,000 of its citizens died in battle. Of the remaining survivors 30,000 were sold into slavery and 2,000 men of military age were crucified.

Alexander's victory brought about the TOTAL annihilation and permanent end of Tyre—just as God had predicted. From that day till the present, this Phoenician city has ceased to exist—although its' name has been claimed by others.

Returning to Ezekiel 28:18-19

Some have argued that the context of Ezekiel 28 demands that verses 18-19 be applied to the king of Tyre (Satan)—not the prince of Tyre (the physical king). This view is based on the belief that there exists no transitional phrase back to the prince. In other words, God's judgment clearly shifts from the prince to the king in verse 11, but never appears to shift back. Although this observation is true, it is incomplete. This is because the true context is both scriptural and historical. In other words, the actual prophecy and its historical fulfillment must be reconciled with each other—and it appears there is only one way this can be accomplished. First, notice that in verse 18 God identifies the specific trespass committed by the one He is addressing.

Ezekiel 28:18

“Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick...”

At this point it is interesting to note that king Hiram of Tyre, played a significant role in the building of the Temple in Jerusalem during the time of Solomon (See: 1 Kings 5:1-18). However, the friendship between the Jews and Tyre ended when King Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon (See: 1 Kings 16:31). Later, during the time of Joel, Tyre actually filled its own sanctuaries with treasures from God's house. Because of this, the Almighty promised retribution. Notice His words.

Joel 3:4-5

“Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head; because you have taken My silver and My gold, and have carried into your temples My prized possessions.”

The bottom line is this. Any mystery concerning Ezekiel 28: 18-19 is actually solved when examined in the context of Joel 3 and Ezekiel 26. In both cases God clearly identifies the subject of His prophecy as a city and its leader—**NOT** the devil as these advocates mistakenly assert.

A Second Possibility

Secondly, even if these verses were addressing Satan and his ultimate fate, they do not actually mean what some advocates claim. In truth, these verses are not addressing the devil's future existence at all, but rather his future influence. In other words God is proclaiming that Satan shall never be a terror any more. In other words the time is coming when all the power he has employed to inflict violence on this world will be stripped from him and he will be rendered totally impotent.

Fulfilled in Part

At this point it is interesting to note that **if** these verses (Ezekiel 28:18-19) refer to Satan as some claim, they will actually be fulfilled in part, during the millennium, when the devil is bound up for a thousand years (See: Revelation 20: 1-3). At that time, all the terror he has inflicted on this world will be replaced with righteous judgment. The result will be unimaginable peace and prosperity—as well as the hope and optimism that come with it. When speaking of this time, the Scriptures make it absolutely clear that God's Kingdom does not require that Satan be eradicated in order for it to thrive and prosper. The only thing that will have to be eradicated is Satan's access to it. Fortunately, that is exactly what the Almighty has declared will happen. The devil's influence on the ALMIGHTY'S millennial government will be non-existent. Why?—because this great KING will exile him to a desolate place (an abyss) where he will remain powerless for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).

A Final Thought

At this point, it is significant to note that many who believe in the mortality of Satan and his demons also assert that what takes place in the human experience is a reflection of what takes place in the spirit realm—and these particular authors are no different. Therefore, they reason that because human beings, who set their will to defy God, will be killed in the Lake of Fire, the same fate must befall Satan and his demons. Although it is true that there are parallels between the physical and spiritual realms, these parallels are **not identical**. However, they do present some interesting problems to those who embrace this new doctrine. For example: If God intends to kill Satan, why doesn't He do so at the beginning of the millennium—and simply resurrect him at its conclusion? Why does the Almighty instead, bind him up and TOTALLY neutralize his influence (Revelation 20:2-3)? Furthermore, if Satan perishes in the second death, why is there absolutely no evidence of him ever dying a first time?

At this point, it is also interesting to note that virtually every human who is cast into the Lake of Fire, will have died at least once during their physical life. There is NOT one exception (Hebrews 9:27). This fact is made even more intriguing when one considers that virtually every **Spirit Being** who is cast into the Lake of Fire will **NEVER** have died. However, every one of them will have been imprisoned and totally isolated from God's KINGDOM or HIS PEOPLE at some point prior to their final judgment. In other words, unlike man, these evil spirits have **NEVER** experienced death. And unlike Satan and his demons, no man will ever have been imprisoned alive in *Tartaroo* (See: 2 Peter 2:4) or the great abyss (Revelation 20:1-4). This now begs a question: What is it about Satan and his demons that require them to experience protracted isolation prior to being cast into the Lake of Fire, while man must experience death before being subjected to the same fate? In other words, why must these two beings be treated differently if their final judgment is identical?—Unless, of course, it isn't identical at all.

In truth, it makes far more sense, based on Satan and his demons' temporary constraint, that their ultimate fate would be permanent constraint—NOT DEATH. In a very real sense, their temporary confinement is a perfect type of what will befall them permanently—just like man's initial death is a perfect type of what will befall him permanently if he refuses to repent. In both cases the result is permanent—confinement for incorruptible spirits, death for corruptible flesh.

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument IX Tormenting the Devil

Question:

Didn't demons acknowledge to Christ that they were going to be killed as their final act of torment in the Lake of Fire?

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One of the more popular arguments attempting to prove the mortality of Satan and his demons is based on a belief that because human beings and spirit being are both "tormented" by God's final judgment, the torment they receive must be identical. Therefore, because Jesus gave a parable involving a rich man being tormented by the knowledge of his impending death in the Lake of Fire (See: Luke. 16: 19-31), the torment referred to by demons when speaking to Christ (Matthew 8:29) must be the knowledge of their own impending death as well. After all, Satan and his demons will also be cast into the same inferno (Revelation. 20:10). Here is how this stream of logic flows.

Torment = Death

- 1) Jesus was once asked by demons if He (Jesus) had come to "torment them before their time" (Matthew 8:29).
- 2) Because these demons are ultimately going to be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10), their torment must be related to that specific place.
- 3) Later in His ministry, the Messiah provided an example of "torment" when giving a parable about a man named "Lazarus and a rich man" (See: Luke 16:27-28).
- 4) In this parable, the rich man is tormented by the flames from an inferno (Lake of Fire) in which all those in the **human family** who are condemned by God will be executed. Luke 16: 19-31)
- 5) Therefore, because this rich man is tormented by the knowledge of his impending death, the same must also be true of Satan and his demons because they too are cast into the same inferno. (Revelation 20:10)

Here is how one COG presents this particular argument followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"We are told that the devil will be destroyed in a place referred to as "the lake of fire," "eternal fire," and a "place of torment" (Rev. 20:10-15, 21:8; Jude 1:7; Lk. 16:28). In that context, it is interesting to note that an entire group of demons speak to Christ in regard to this final punishment, asking him:"

“What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither **to torment us** before the time?” (Matthew 8:29)

“By reading only this one verse, some might assume that the demons will only be tormented in the lake of fire and not be completely destroyed. However, as will be demonstrated, their torment is actually facing impending death. This fact becomes evident when examining the illustration given by Jesus of a rich man who would one day stand before the lake of fire—awaiting judgment and the second death. As he faces this raging furnace, he begs permission to warn his family of this fate, saying:”

“I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into **this place of torment**” (Luke 16:27-28).

“The verse above shows that the time and place in which the rich man is tormented is when he **faces** the lake of fire. He is not yet consumed by it, but is tormented by the realization that his death is now certain.”

“The demons also fear this same distress. The time and place of their torment is when they, along with the devil, face their eternal destruction in the fierce heat generated by this same lake of fire.”

My Response:

This argument is anchored on two very significant misunderstandings—each of which goes totally contrary to the long-held position of God's Church. The first misunderstanding involves what constitutes the “torment” spoken of by demons in their appeal to Christ. The second involves a misunderstanding concerning the impact the lake of fire has on Satan and his demons. Let's begin with the first misunderstanding.

What is Torment?

According to this COG, demons live in fear of their impending “torment.” This of course, is true. However, they then argue that the **ONLY WAY** anyone can be “tormented” is to face death. This is **TOTALLY FALSE**. Furthermore, the very event being cited by these advocates as proof of their claim actually **DISPROVES** it... Here is why.

Being Honest about Matthew 8:29

When these evil spirits asked the Messiah if He had come to “torment them before the time” (Matthew 8:29), they **ALSO** made a specific request which relates directly to what they meant by the term “torment.” It is recorded in Luke's account of this event (See: Luke 8:26-31). Here, these demons appeal to Jesus to “**NOT CAST THEM INTO THE 'DEEP'**” (verse 31). At this point, it is interesting to note that the word “deep” comes from the Greek “*abyssos*” (Strong's G12) and is defined as: “**bottomless, unbounded, the abyss, the pit, the immeasurable depth...**” This word can refer to the grave when speaking of human beings (See: Romans 10:7). However, when it is used in conjunction with demons it does not pertain to death, but rather confinement. It is the identical word used when describing Satan's incarceration during the millennium.

Revelation 20:1-3

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit (“abyssos”) and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit (“abyssos”), and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Notice that Satan is not killed in the abyss, but rather imprisoned there. In that state he is denied any access to God’s Kingdom or His people. The point here is that when these demons spoke to Jesus about their impending “torment,” they were **not referring to death**, but rather isolation—and the mental anguish that comes as a result of it. Even the word “torment” recorded by Matthew bears this out. According to *Strong’s*, this term comes from the Greek word “**basanizō**” (Strong’s G928). It means “**to torture, to vex with grievous pains (of body or mind), to torment, to be harassed, distressed.**” Strong’s also likens this condition to the futility “of those who, at sea, are struggling with an unnavigatable head wind.” In essence, this term describes the TOTAL FUTILITY and subsequent hopelessness which comes from knowing its victim is powerless to change things. This is unquestionably what the demons, who spoke to Christ, were referring to. They were asking “Are you come to inflict ANGUISH on us before it is time? There isn’t even a hint that they were addressing their own extinction.

This now brings us to the second misunderstanding.

A Second Misunderstanding

Advocates of this new doctrine also contend that the Lake of Fire destroys virtually everything and everyone it comes in contact with. They base this theory on the belief that because all **physical** beings, who are cast into it, suffer death, spirit beings, such as Satan and his demons, must suffer death as well. In other words, it is the power of the flames that determines the outcome—not the composition of the unrepentant sinner. As passionately as some advance this belief, it just **ISN’T TRUE**, and the scriptures bear this out as well. To better understand this, consider the following.

When describing Satan’s confinement in the Lake of Fire, God’s word specifically states that unlike man’s torment, Satan’s torment is **UNENDING**. That’s right—**it lasts forever**. Notice how the apostle John reveals this truth.

Revelation 20: 10

King James Version

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be **TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOR EVER AND EVER.**”

A Critical Clarification

As you can see, the word “**are**” in this verse is in italics. This is because it was added by translators. In truth, no such verb exists in the original Greek. However, because the beast and false prophet had already been cast into the Lake of Fire prior to Satan’s incarceration there (See: Rev. 19:20), God’s Church has rightly taught that this term is more properly rendered, “were cast.”

This being the case, the clause which makes reference to the beast and false prophet is actually parenthetical and has absolutely nothing to do with the length of their torment. However, this is not the case when it comes to Satan and his demons. This verse specifically states that their torment is on-

going—it will last “for ever and ever” (“ages of the ages”)—which in Greek means “for all eternity” or, “time everlasting” (See: “International Critical Commentary”). In other words, Satan DOESN’T DIE there, rather he is **TORMENTED** (subjected to anguish) for all eternity. This fact is confirmed in the New English Translation of this verse. Notice what it says.

Revelation 20:10

New English Translation

“And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*; and they, *Satan and his demons*, shall be tortured day and night into the ages of eternity.”

At this point it is important to understand that although Satan and his demons are thrown into the Lake of Fire and tortured forever, they do not remain in the fire forever. The fire will eventually consume every piece of matter in it, and then burn out. The apostle Peter describes it this way.

2 Peter 3:10

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

Why is Satan There?

Clearly, the Lake of Fire will utterly destroy all physical beings who refuse to yield to God’s moral authority. But why would God put Satan there if he wasn’t going to perish in its flames as well? Furthermore, why did Christ state that this PLACE was specifically “prepared” for him (Satan) and his demons (See: Matthew 25:41)? What purpose could this **INFERNO** possibly serve with respect to their judgment?

There can be Only One Answer

Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire at the order of a **RIGHTEOUS GOD** in order for him to witness the utter destruction of every diabolical scheme he has ever orchestrated (1 John 3:8). In essence, he will be compelled by **divine justice**, to watch as every fruit of his labor goes up in **FLAMES**. The result will be **TOTAL** humiliation and **ABJECT** defeat. Furthermore, his ultimate confinement in outer darkness (Jude 13) will be so overwhelming he will have nothing but his own depravity to keep him company. For all eternity, Satan and every evil spirit who joined in his rebellion will experience, first hand, **TOTAL ISOLATION** and all the **ANGUISH** (torment) that comes with it (Revelation 20:10).

A Final Thought

The real tragedy to this saga is that Satan, who once served as one of the most powerful instruments in God’s government will ultimately be reduced to the most irrelevant being in existence. In essence, he will have nothing to show for his life. **Everything will all be gone.**

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument X Wandering Stars

Question:

Isn't Jude 13's mention of "WANDERING STARS" referring to false teachers and not Satan and his demons?

~ ~ ~

One of the emerging arguments presented by those who believe Satan's ultimate fate is everlasting death and not everlasting darkness, is expressed in a new rendering of Jude 13. In the past, God's Church has understood this verse's reference to "wandering stars" to mean fallen angels. This understanding is based **in part**, on the fact that angels are referred to in Scripture as "stars" (See: Job 38:7).

Today however, many well intended believers are beginning to challenge this view. According to them, the context of Jude's epistle makes it clear that the subject is false teachers, not fallen angels. Therefore, they reason, it is the fate of apostate teachers being addressed in this verse—not the fate of Satan and his demons. In other words, the "blackness of darkness" is what awaits heretics who have infiltrated the Church and infected it with lies. Furthermore, the "darkness" being referred to is everlasting death—not everlasting isolation.

Here is how the leaders of two prominent COG fellowships expresses this view followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

"Some have thought that Satan and his demons will only be temporarily punished in the lake of fire, but then their fate will be to be cast into the outer "darkness" of the remote regions of the universe, where they will be as "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; WANDERING STARS, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 13).

"However, notice carefully. This verse is categorically not speaking of the fate of Satan or wicked angels. Rather, the context is clear. The apostle Jude is talking about wicked MEN—false teachers and false prophets, like Cain and Balaam! He says,"

"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward... These [evil men] are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, TWICE DEAD, plucked up by the roots." (Jude 11-12)

"Notice! These evil men are "twice dead." That means they will suffer the SECOND DEATH, which is the lake of fire! As we read in the book of Revelation, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH (Rev.20:14)."

A Voice of Agreement

Another prominent Church leader expressed his support of this view as follows. Notice how dismissive he is of the long held position of God's Church

"Thus this passage in Jude describes false teachers who inveigle⁽¹⁾ their way into the Church of God, and seduce members to follow them! **It is not even remotely discussing the final fate of Satan the devil or his demons.** These false teachers are compared to "wandering stars" today, in that they wander from place to place, seducing, deceiving, and misleading people. Their eventual "fate" will be "blackness of darkness forever"—that is, to have their lives snuffed out in the lake of fire, and to be totally unconscious and dead, forever!"

My Response:

Although these ministers offer what they believe is incontrovertible evidence disproving the long held position of God's Church, they never explain why the Church drew its conclusion in the first place. Remember, the fact that angels are referred to as "stars" in Scripture **is only PART of the reason** it was persuaded that Jude 13 is a direct reference to Satan and his demons. What follows is the rest of the story.

Putting Jude in Context

To better understand the Church's long held position on this doctrine, one must appreciate the **full** context of Jude's epistle—**and how he expressed his message.** By doing so, it will become evident that he actually revealed how these "wandering stars" CAN be identified—as well as how to understand Satan's ultimate fate.

An Appeal to the Church

The epistle of Jude was written by the half-brother of the Messiah and is an appeal to Christians to remain faithful to the truth. When presenting this appeal, he warns of false teachers who have infiltrated the Church and perverted the gospel. He also explains that God's people are engaged in spiritual mortal combat with these apostates and that in order to prevail in this fight they must be prepared to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," of which he was one (verse 3),

Jude then informs his audience that the Almighty has dealt with this kind of evil in the past, in both the human and spirit realms—and each time came out VICTORIOUS (verses 5-7). After providing this assurance, he levels an avalanche of indictments against these false teachers and declares that their fate will not be pleasant.

Jude 8-11 & 16

"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ... [They] speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. **Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.**"

"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

(1) Inveigle: to win over by wiles, ENTICE

Employing Metaphors

At one point in his exhortation, Jude employs metaphorical language when describing these teachers, whom he refers to as “ungodly men” (verse 4). He does so by comparing them to things that have NO VALUE. In other words, these teachers have made themselves WORTHLESS—and will eventually be discarded and permanently removed from God’s people. Consider how he illustrates this point.

They are like “clouds without water, carried about of winds” (v. 12)

A cloud that will not give rain may be appealing to the eye, however, it performs no function of value. Furthermore, it is easily blown away by the wind and disappears. This is what will ultimately happen to false teachers. They will completely disappear.

They are like “trees whose fruit withers, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots” (v. 12)

A tree with contaminated fruit loses its purpose and its value. In other words, it is good for nothing. Therefore, it is removed (uprooted). Jesus actually stated that it would also be cast into fire (See: Matthew 7:19). The point here is that this is the same fate that awaits false teachers. They too will be uprooted and completely removed—never to be seen again.

They are like “raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame” (v. 13)

Each wave of a violent storm at sea is loud and even frightening. It is as if it is screaming out for attention. However, a wave lasts only a matter of seconds and is gone—and so is its noise. The point is that false teachers are no different—they too will eventually be silenced forever.

Understanding the Metaphor

At this point it is important to understand that Jude is not suggesting that false teachers are literally clouds, or trees, or waves of the sea. Furthermore, he is not suggesting that they are literally carried away by winds, or literally plucked up by the roots, or that they literally “foam.” In truth it is the cloud that is blown away, the tree that is plucked up, and the sea that “foams.” However, in each case the result is the same—they all disappear—never to be seen again. This is why the analogy works—because false teachers will also be silenced and removed forever.

Wandering Stars

We now come to the metaphor at the center of this argument. In verse 13 Jude likens false teachers to **“wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”** Notice that the “blackness of darkness” is reserved for wandering stars—the same stars he compares false teachers to. This now begs two very important questions.

1) What did Jude mean by **“wandering stars”**?

2) What did he mean by **“the blackness of darkness”**?

The solution to this puzzle is actually provided by Jude himself—in the very next verse. There, he explains that Enoch, the seventh preacher of righteousness, **“prophesied of these”** (Wandering Stars) and declared that they would be judged by God, with the rest of the ungodly. Jude actually quotes the book of Enoch verbatim when making this point.

Enoch 1:9, Jude 14-15

“And behold! He comes with ten thousands of His holy ones. To execute judgment upon all, and to destroy all the ungodly: And to convict **all flesh** of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Here, Enoch and Jude direct their words at the ungodly, such as false teachers who have infested the Church and perverted the truth. But why did Jude liken them to "wandering stars"? Furthermore, what does this metaphor have to do with Enoch?

At this point it is interesting to note that the book of Enoch does not directly prophecy against apostate teachers, but it does **directly prophecy against FALLEN ANGELS** and specifically identifies them as “STARS.” as well as “ANGELS” and the “HOST of HEAVEN.” Furthermore, when doing so, Enoch forcefully declared that:

1. Fallen angels would be imprisoned in a place BEYOND the end of the UNIVERSE.
2. That they would suffer unimaginable PAIN.
3. That they would be imprisoned FOREVER and,
4. That the place of their eternal confinement would include DARKNESS.

First consider how Enoch describes the location of their confinement.

Enoch 18:11-15

“And I saw a deep abyss, with columns of heavenly fire, and among them I saw columns of fire fall, which were beyond measure alike towards the height and towards the depth. And beyond that abyss I saw a place which had no firmament of the heaven above, and no firmly founded earth beneath it: there was no water upon it, and no birds, but it was a waste and horrible place. I saw there seven stars like great burning mountains, and to me, when I inquired regarding them, the angel said: **This place is the end of heaven and earth: this has become a PRISON FOR THE STARS and the HOST OF HEAVEN.**”

Then in chapter 21, Enoch reveals the length of their confinement. He even identifies the name of the “holy angel” who revealed it to him.

Enoch 21:7-10

“And from thence I went to another place, which was more horrible than the former, and I saw a horrible thing: a great fire there which burnt and blazed, and the place was cleft as far as the abyss, being full of great descending columns of fire: neither its extent or magnitude could I see, nor could I conjecture. Then I said: 'How fearful is this place and how terrible to look upon!' Then Uriel answered me, one of the holy angels who was with me, and said unto me: 'Enoch, why hast thou such fear and afright?' And I answered: 'Because of this fearful place, and because of the spectacle of the pain.' And he said unto me: **This place is the prison of the angels, and here they will be imprisoned FOREVER.**”

Later in his book, Enoch states that these wandering stars will ultimately reside in DARKNESS. Here is how he expressed this point.

Enoch 88:1

“And I saw one of those four who had come forth first, and he seized that first star which had fallen from the heaven, and bound it hand and foot and cast it into an abyss: now that abyss was narrow and deep, and horrible and DARK.”

A Final Thought

When these long standing ministers argue that Jude’s epistle never addresses the fate of Satan and his demons, **they are hugely mistaken**. The point to this very important epistle is that false teachers are like clouds that give off no rain—then disappear, trees that bear no fruit—then disappear, waves that pound the ocean—then disappear, and Wandering Stars (defiant angels) who rebel against their Creator—then disappear **into the blackness of darkness forever**. In each case the object of the metaphor is removed. This is Satan’s fate. He will be expelled to a place outside the universe—never to come in contact with God’s Kingdom or His people again. In other words, **he will disappear**.

As for false teachers, their fate is equally dreadful. They will be uprooted and cast into a Lake of Fire where they will be consumed by its flames and ultimately DISAPPEAR.

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument XI
Refuting Luke 20:36

Question:

Aren't Jesus' words being taken out of context when He said that angels cannot die?

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Just days before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus became engaged in a series of debates with some of the leading religious minds gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover. One such group consisted of the Sadducees. These spiritual thinkers didn't believe in a resurrection and they were committed to proving their point to the Messiah. They did so by presenting a hypothetical scenario involving a woman who was **lawfully** married at different times to seven different brothers. The marriages were necessitated by the death of each preceding brother (husband). After presenting their scenario, they asked Jesus the following question:

"To which of her husbands will she be married in the resurrection?" (Matthew 22:28, Mark 12:18-23, Luke 20:27-33).

The Sadducees probably thought they had the Messiah intellectually trapped with their "test." This is because these men presupposed that life in the resurrection (something they did not believe in) was an exact counterpart to earthly life where levirate laws governing marriage applied. Therefore, if their conclusion was accurate (as they obviously thought it was) then:

- The woman in their scenario would be guilty of adulterous marriages because, in the resurrection, all of her husbands would be alive at the same time (See: Leviticus 18:16; 20:21). Or,
- She would have to be designated as the wife of one of the brothers; and if so, which one? Or,
- The whole notion of a resurrection was absurd (which is the point the Sadducees were pressing).

Jesus responded to this query by providing an explanation that not only addressed their specific test, but also cuts deeply into the issue of the mortality of Spirit Beings and the ultimate fate of Satan and his demons. Notice His words.

Luke 20:34-36

"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: NEITHER CAN THEY DIE ANY MORE: FOR THEY ARE EQUAL TO THE ANGELS; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

With this response the Messiah was revealing that in the resurrection God's people will have at least two things in common with Spirit Beings. First, they will not be given in marriage and second, they will be immortal—in other words, like the angels, they CANNOT die.

Although it has been the long held position of God's Church that this verse proves the immortality of all Spirit Beings—including demons, some now see it differently. One particular COG presents five points intended to prove that the Church has been mistaken in its understanding. These five points are as follows:

Five Rebuttals

- 1) Other scriptures reveal that Jesus' words cannot be taken literally.
- 2) The angels referred to by the Messiah are limited to righteous angels who are a part of God's Eternal Kingdom. This would obviously **exclude** Satan and his demons.
- 3) The context of Jesus' statement clearly reveals that the issue is marriage and the resurrection, not Satan's fate.
- 4) Luke wrote earlier that Satan and his demons were destined for total destruction. Therefore, Jesus couldn't possibly be saying that demons cannot die.
- 5) Jesus' words to the Sadducees regarding not dying only referred to resurrected human beings, not Spirit Beings.

Below is how this Church expresses each of these points followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

Point I

Other scriptures reveal that Jesus' words cannot be taken literally.

"Consider that Christ is not making an exact equation in His statement. He is NOT addressing every similarity or difference between the angels and the resurrected saints. Jesus expected his listeners to understand His intended meaning from the context of the dialogue."

"For example, Christ states that those in the first resurrection do not marry, but the saints actually do marry. They wed Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb which takes place after their resurrection (Rev. 19:7-9). Thus, Jesus did not mean that the saints will not marry Him. We are expected to understand that Christ only meant that the resurrected saints will no longer marry one another."

"In another example, Jesus also says that those who are in the first resurrection will be "equal to angels." However, He did not mean that they will be identical to them. We know from other verses that the saints will be superior in beauty, power, and authority. In fact, those in the first resurrection will ultimately judge angels (Heb. 2:5-12; 1Cor. 6:3)."

"Thus, it should be absolutely clear. Christ's **intended meaning** was simply that, in the resurrection, the saints will be like the angels in that they will be composed of spirit and no longer be flesh and blood."

My Response:

This point is presenting, what in legal parlance, is referred to as a “misdirect” or, “non-sequitur.” It is intended to have you look one place in order for you to **not** look at another. In this case, those making it want you to believe that Jesus’ words are “technically” incorrect. After all, according to Scripture, the saints **WILL** marry even though Jesus said they WOULDNT. Additionally, the saints **WILL** be above the angels even though Jesus said they would be “EQUALS”. The intent of this approach is really quite simple. Those who advance it want you to believe that if Jesus’ words regarding marriage and equality with angels, in the resurrection, cannot be taken literally, neither should His pronouncement regarding the immortality of these great spirits.

Although this point may sound plausible, neither of its observations is correct. First, consider the assertion regarding the marriage of the saints and how it technically contradicts Jesus’ claim that there will not be marriage in the kingdom. In truth, when the Messiah made His statement, He was addressing a specific question advanced by the Sadducees. His sole point was to explain that their understanding of life in the resurrection was incorrect because the citizens of God’s Kingdom do not marry at all. Therefore, their scenario was irrelevant.

However, at this point, it is important to understand that Jesus’ words are not contradicted by the marriage recorded in Revelation 19 either. This is because the saints will not individually marry Christ in His Father’s Kingdom. In other words, there will not be 144,000 weddings, nor will Jesus be engaged in a polygamous relationship with His Church. The book of Revelation describes His wedding this way.

Revelation 19:7

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

Notice that this verse **does not say** Jesus’ WIVES have made THEMSELVES ready. This is because there is only ONE bride—HIS CHURCH—and ONLY ONE wedding. This fact is reinforced by the apostle Paul in his epistle to the Church at Ephesus. In it, he explains that the relationship between a husband and wife in this life pictures a transcendent relationship between Christ and His Church—NOT CHURCHES, in the next (See: Ephesians. 5:31-32).

At this point, it is interesting to note that when Jesus told the Sadducees that people will not marry in the resurrection, He used the term “THEY” (plural). However, every mention of the future marriage of Christ in Scripture identifies ONLY one bride (singular). The point here is that the saints will not individually marry Christ nor will they marry each other, which is a perfect response to the question proffered by the Messiah’s antagonists. Therefore, there is no contradiction in Jesus statement—technical or otherwise. In truth His response contained absolute PRECISION.

“Equal to the Angels”

We now come to Jesus’ statement regarding those in the resurrection being “equal” to angels. According to the fellowship making this particular argument, this statement is also technically incorrect. They base this opinion on the understanding that because the saints will JUDGE angels (1 Corinthians 6:3) they would have to be OVER them, NOT “equal” with them. Therefore, once again, Jesus’ words are “technically” inaccurate and thus, cannot be taken literally.

The problem with this argument is that Jesus NEVER, EVER, EVER said that people in the resurrection will be EQUAL to angels. That’s right! The Messiah never uttered such a thing. In truth, the word “equal” in this verse (Luke 20:36) was provided by King James translators. The actual word recorded by Luke is *Isaggelos*. According to *Strong’s Concordance* this term has **only one rendering**. It means “**LIKE**” the angels (See: *Strong’s* G2465)—NOT “equal” to them. The point to this is that Christ wasn’t addressing the issue of organizational hierarchies in God’s Kingdom; He was addressing what it would be

LIKE to be a part of that kingdom. Here, the Messiah was simply explaining that those who are citizens in God's Eternal Realm will not marry nor will they die. In this regard they are just LIKE angels. Furthermore, it is the way angels have always been.

An Interesting Observation

Finally, this fellowship makes a very interesting observation regarding Jesus' "true intent" when responding to His religious antagonists. According to the advocates of this new doctrine:

"Christ's 'intended meaning' was SIMPLY that, in the resurrection, the saints will be like the angels in that they will be composed of spirit and no longer be flesh and blood."

Although this observation appears innocent, it speaks volumes regarding how some COG leaders approach this issue. Here, they subtly attempt to direct their readers away from what Jesus actually said and toward what THEY claim he actually meant. According to them, Jesus was comparing the composition of the resurrected saints to the composition of angels, but not comparing the immortality of the resurrected saints to the immortality of angels. They do this because they reject the idea that angels are immortal (See: Argument 1). This is striking when one considers that the Messiah NEVER mentions what the resurrected saints will be composed of, but DOES specifically mention their immortality and directly likens it to that of the angelic realm. In other words, Christ never mentions what this fellowship claims is His intent, but DOES specifically mention what they claim He didn't mean.

In truth, the Messiah was revealing a remarkable facet regarding citizenship in God's Kingdom. When doing so He addressed two specific things that these citizens would have in common with the angelic realm: first, they will never marry and second they will never die. That's right! Angels CANNOT DIE.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

Point II

The angels referred to by the Messiah are limited to righteous angels who are a part of God's eternal kingdom.

This would obviously **exclude** Satan and his demons.

"It must also be understood that, when making this comparison, Jesus was **not** referring to the devil or the wicked angels. In these verses, Christ says nothing of the second death, the lake of fire, or the fate of the wicked.

"Other parallel verses clearly show us that when Christ speaks of the resurrected saints being equal to angels, He is only comparing them to the faithful angels who reside in heaven with God. This is made clear in the accounts found in the gospels of Matthew and Mark. These apostles record this very same dialogue, but they write:"

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as **the angels of God in heaven.**" (Matthew 22:30)

"For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but **are as the angels which are in heaven.**" (Mark 12:25)

"From these verses, it is clear that Christ makes a comparison between the resurrected saints and the holy righteous angels who will live with them forever in God's Kingdom. He was not speaking of the wicked demons that inhabit the earth or those restrained in *Tartaroo*—the bottomless pit." (2 Pet. 2:4)

My Response:

Although this fellowship wants to make a distinction between angels and demons with respect to Jesus' words, no such distinction exists. God's Church has always understood Jesus' reference to "heaven" as referring to the incorruptible realm. In other words, He was stating that those who are a part of the resurrection are like the angels who occupy eternity. This understanding is based on several reasons including:

- 1) The scriptures reveal that God's angels are also on the earth. For example: The prophet Zechariah wrote of spirits that "...walk to and fro throughout the earth" (Zechariah 6:7). There are even examples where angels actually interact with humans such as Abraham, Lot, and Daniel in the Old Testament (See: Genesis 18 & 19, Daniel 9:21-22) and Zacharias, Mary, and John in the New Testament (See: Luke 1:19, 26-38). Furthermore, Satan himself has actually appeared before God when he (Satan) was a fallen angel (See: Job 1:6). This would have been impossible if he had not been immortal.
- 2) If Jesus' words only pertained to righteous angels as these advocates claim then it would mean that **not only** will Satan and his demons die, but that they **CAN MARRY** and be given in marriage as well. After all, according to this point, when the Messiah said angels don't marry He was only speaking of the righteous angels—not Satan and his demons. Therefore, His comment regarding angels not marrying must only refer to righteous angels as well. At this point, it is interesting to note that even this fellowship doesn't believe demons marry. Furthermore, they have actually cited this verse as proof of their position.
- 3) There is absolutely no evidence in the Scriptures even hinting that angels and demons are composed of a different kind of spirit—the very thing that makes them incorruptible. Furthermore, it is the same composition the resurrect saints will have (See: 1 Corinthians 15:51-54).
- 4) Even though Satan and his demons rebelled they never stopped being angels. Prior to his fall, Satan was a part of an angelic group referred to as "the sons of God" (See: Job. 38:7). After his rebellion he was still referred to by the same designation (See: Job 1:6). At this point it is also interesting to note that the book of Enoch refers to fallen angels as the "HOST OF HEAVEN" (See: Enoch 18:15) and "the STARS OF HEAVEN, which have transgressed the commandment of the Lord" (See: Enoch 21:6).
- 5) There is absolutely no evidence in the Scriptures of even one casualty in the supernatural realm (angel or demon). In other words every spirit who was ever created still lives. This fact becomes more significant when one considers that these great creatures have been alive for billions of years—if not longer. Therefore, there is no evidence that they were not created immortal.
- 6) Even if Jesus was only referring to righteous angels when responding to the Sadducees, nothing in His words suggest that Satan will die. The point the Messiah was making was that in the resurrection God's human family will never experience death. In that regard they are like all spirit beings, which also have never (or will never) experienced death.

Note

An Interesting Theory

It has also been speculated that the resurrection Jesus was referring to was the final one in which the books will be opened and Gods eternal family is selected and a new heavens and earth completed. If that is the case Satan and his demons would already have been consigned to the

“blackness of darkness” forever and thus, although still alive, not a part of God’s ETERNAL KINGDOM.

- 7) God’s Word clearly states that death came by man (Adam) **NOT SATAN!** Therefore, in order to be condemned to die, Satan would have to be born of the flesh (John 3:3) as a descendant of Adam (I Corinthians 15:21-22)—and Jesus is the only one that can ever make that claim (See: John 1:14). (See ALSO: Argument V, From Spirit to Flesh).

Here is the point.

Virtually every piece of empirical evidence PROVES that man in his current state, is MORTAL and that spirit beings are IMMORTAL. In other words, every human being in history has (or will have) died while every angel has remained alive (Hebrews 9: 27). Furthermore, the Scriptures actually refer to man’s longevity as temporary—it is a “vapor” (James 4:14). On the other hand, there is NOTHING in the Scriptures that comes remotely close to making such a reference regarding spirit beings—and for good reason.

The bottom line is this. Jesus’ point when addressing the Sadducees was that in the resurrection God’s human family will be just like the spirit beings He created in eternity past—THEY WILL NEVER DIE.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

Point III

The context clearly reveals that the issue is marriage and the resurrection, not Satan’s fate

“In any discussion of a controversial verse in the Bible, the context of the Scriptures is the single most important factor in determining the author’s intended meaning. In this case, **the context is levirate marriage and the resurrection—not the fate of the wicked angels!**

“Therefore, we understand that **‘the actual point that Jesus wanted His listeners to comprehend’** was that levirate marriage would no longer apply to those raised in the first resurrection. They would never again experience the tragedy of death and find themselves in a position in which they needed to remarry (Revelation 20:6; Luke 20:35-36).”

My Response:

In truth, the entire context of this debate actually centered on the resurrection (NOT MARRIAGE) and why the Sadducees were in error in their thinking. Remember, the sole purpose for these men approaching Jesus was to prove that the idea of a resurrection was preposterous. Thus, Jesus began His remarks with: “You do err, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). The Messiah knew full well that these religious leaders weren’t the slightest bit interested in how marriage worked in God’s Kingdom. They were simply employing this test in an attempt to discredit Him. Furthermore, His response reveals that He was acutely aware of their motives.

At this point it is significant to note that not only did the Sadducees not believe in the resurrection, but that they only accepted the Torah as Holy Scripture. With this in mind, Jesus quoted the Torah (Exodus 3:6) to prove that a resurrection would one day occur. He did this by illustrating that long after the deaths of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God continued to refer to Himself as their God: “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,” not, “I was the God...” He then stated that “God is not the God of the dead, but of the living” (Matthew 22:32). The point He was making was that although these patriarchs were dead (Hebrews

11:13), they will live again in the resurrection, as will all of God people (See: Daniel 12:2, Luke 12:14, John 5:28, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). In other words, although they slept, God saw them as alive because His promise of a resurrection was immutable (See: Romans 4:17).

With that said, Jesus' comment regarding marriage and immortality in God's Kingdom cannot be dismissed. First, when He spoke of it not taking place in the resurrection, Jesus was explaining that the Sadducees understanding of this issue was based on a false predicate. He could have just as easily started His remarks with: "No, no, no, you've got it all wrong." His point was that the scenario the Sadducees presented was irrelevant because people didn't marry in the resurrection—nor do they die. In that regard they will be just like the entire angelic realm God created so very long ago.

Finally, it is important to remember that it was Jesus Himself who made the comparison of the resurrected saints to ANGELS making His observation very relevant. Furthermore, it was Jesus Himself who brought up the issue of IMMORTALITY when making this comparison. And although the Messiah was not directly addressing Satan's fate, He was indirectly addressing his state. Like all angels, he CANNOT DIE.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

Point IV

Luke wrote earlier that Satan and his demons were destined for total destruction. Therefore, Jesus couldn't possibly be saying that demons can't die

"Luke could never have recorded these words believing that Jesus meant the wicked angels could not be destroyed. It was Luke who actually wrote of their destruction in earlier verses of this same gospel. For example, he documented the words of the demons as they spoke to Jesus, saying:"

"Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, *thou* Jesus of Nazareth? **Art thou come to destroy us?**" (Luke 4:34)

"Further, the author of this gospel understood that God would eventually destroy the spirit of wicked men in the lake of fire. Luke also quotes Jesus as saying:"

"Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: **Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell;** yea, I say unto you, Fear him." (Luke 12:4-5)

"From these companion verses, we see the obvious truth. Luke never intended readers to conclude that the wicked angels cannot die. He understood that they would be destroyed and wrote of this reality in his gospel."

My Response:

Although this fellowship insists on equating the word "destroy" with death, this is not its only meaning—and it certainly doesn't apply in the verse they cite (Luke 4:34). As was mentioned in an earlier argument, *Strong's Concordance* also defines this word as: "to put out of the way entirely and to render useless" (See: *Strong's G622*). *Vines Dictionary* adds even greater insight stating that "**The idea is not extinction but [rather] ruin...**"

For a more detailed examination of this particular point see Argument VII, "Destroying the Devil."

A Second Citation

We now come to the second citation this fellowship employs when advancing this particular point. Sadly, this one has absolutely NOTHING whatsoever to do with Satan—or any other spirit being for that matter. When the Messiah spoke of destroying the soul, He was addressing HUMAN BEINGS concerning their mortality. There isn't even a hint that He was addressing Satan, or his demons or any other spirit beings. Furthermore, despite what many adherents of this new doctrine **FALSELY** assert, God's Word **FORCEFULLY** declares that there is a HUGE difference between HAVING a spirit (mind) and BEING a spirit (A PERSON).

A Personal Regret

As much as it grieves me to say this I sincerely believe this entire point is a HUGE DECEPTION intended to trick God's people into believing something their Savior NEVER, EVER, EVER intended. Furthermore, it illustrates how people can manipulate Scripture for their own purpose.

For a far more detailed examination of this particular point and how Jesus' words regarding it have been twisted to mean something He never intended, I **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to refer to Argument IV, "Killing the Soul" which exposes the grim reality contained in this argument.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

Point V

Jesus' words to the Sadducees regarding not dying only referred to human beings, not spirit beings.

"A final evidence of this truth is found in the term that Luke uses for the word "die." This unique word is "apothnēskō" in the Greek, and *The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of the New Testament* by Zodhiates defines [this] term as:"

To die. Literaly, to die off, but used with the simplest meaning of to die...
to die a natural death, applied to both men and animals.

"When we consider the meaning of the word used by Luke, it is further evidence that Jesus was NOT saying that the devil and his demons are immortal. Christ's intended meaning was that those in the first resurrection will no longer grow old and **die off** like human beings do."

My Response:

In all due respect to those making this point, I believe it is totally contrived. According to them, Luke uses the word "*apothnesko*" because Jesus' intent concerning not dying only applied to physical beings. The problem with this logic is that it denies the obvious.

In truth, the reason Luke employed the term "*apothnesko*" is because death **ONLY** applies to physical beings—NOT spirit beings—which is the WHOLE point. When Jesus spoke regarding death, His intent was clear—man in his current corruptible state is mortal. In other words, he will DIE. However, in the resurrection that will no longer be the case. At that time he will be different—he will put on incorruption and with it immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53-54). In that state he will be just like angels have always been—he cannot die.

A Final Thought

Jesus and Satan's Fate

Throughout this entire argument, its advocates claim that Jesus words to the Sadducees NEVER addressed Satan's fate. This assertion is actually TRUE. In other words, when speaking to these Jewish leaders the Messiah NEVER mentions that Satan will be tormented forever. However, an apostle many regard to be His closest Friend (John), said precisely that (See: Revelations 20:10). Furthermore, Jesus NEVER mentioned that Satan would be exiled to outer darkness forever. However, Jude, the Messiah's half-brother, said precisely that (Jude 13).

With this said, Jesus wasn't silent concerning the angelic realm of which Satan is a part. The Messiah stated with great clarity that contrary to what this fellowship asserts, angels CANNOT die. (Luke 20:34-36)

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument XII Blaming God

Question:

Why would a merciful God “**CAUSE**” anyone (even Satan) to suffer for all eternity?

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At one point in their attempt to prove that Satan's ultimate fate is total extinction (DEATH), one well respected COG fellowship argued that “forcing” any being (human or spirit) to suffer for all eternity would constitute unimaginable cruelty and because God is not cruel such a fate is inconceivable. This point is proffered despite the fact that the apostle John specifically stated that eternal torment is precisely what awaits this diabolical spirit. Notice his words.

Revelation 20:10 New English Translation

“And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*, and they, *Satan and his demons*, **shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity.**”

Although John's words appear to be unimpeachable, advocates of this new doctrine claim that God's nature prohibits Him from doing such a thing. Furthermore, they assert that the Almighty would have to be held personally responsible if He rendered such a merciless fate on His angelic subjects regardless of what the Church, or, the Scriptures teach.

Here is how this argument is presented followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“God is unique. There is none like Him in the sense that He is both moral and merciful. Would such an awesome being that is literally filled with compassion **CAUSE** any other being to suffer for all eternity [simply] because they rejected Him?

“In the context of all we have read, and the loving nature of God, the answer can only be NO!”

My Response

In all due respect to this fellowship, one gets the impression that they are attempting to minimize the gravity of Satan's offense—(“rejecting God”) while magnifying the severity of the consequence imposed by the ALMIGHTY for this trespass. What it fails to grasp is that when it comes to the devil, his “rejection” is not a small thing—for two reasons. First, it was committed by someone who knew God intimately. Satan experienced the ALMIGHTY'S moral greatness up close and personal—and despite this fact he still made a conscious choice to DENOUNCE it. Whether the advocates of this new doctrine believe it or not, this

WILLFUL act stands as the single greatest MORAL BLUNDER of all time and has led the human family to the brink of its own destruction.

Second, when Satan “rejected” God, he didn’t simply walk away—he waged ALL OUT WAR against his Creator and His Plan. Furthermore, that war has taken the form of unimaginable brutality and savagery, as well as incalculable human suffering. This despicable creature has committed his entire existence to inflicting misery on EVERYTHING God loves. One only has to look at the world today to gain even a small glimpse of what he has done to advance the cause of EVIL.

Accusing a Moral God

Contrary to what advocates of this new doctrine suggest, Satan is everything God is not. Volumes could be written on the evil he has perpetrated—and every page would absolutely sicken anyone who possessed even a modicum of understanding concerning the enormous impact the devil has had on mankind and the assault he has waged on the **GREAT HOPE** God has for His creation.

Furthermore, contrary to what these advocates claim, the fact that Satan will experience eternal torment is **not a referendum on God’s mercy**. In other words, God is not the “**CAUSE**” of it—Satan is. Furthermore, the ALMIGHTY did not “**FORCE**” this fate on him as these advocates **FALSELY** assert. This is a truth that resonates powerfully throughout the Scriptures. With this said, I would strongly advise that these Church leaders take serious pause before ever leveling such a slanderous accusation against their CREATOR again.

Additionally, the logic many advocates present in defense of this particular argument further illustrates how desperate people can get when defending the indefensible. Consider how their reasoning would play out if it was carried to its logical conclusion. For example: if these advocates are correct then God must also be the **CAUSE** behind humans suffering in the lake of fire where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:13, Luke 13:28, 41-42, 49-50). After all, according to them, the Almighty must be the force behind it as well.

But is this true? does God “**CAUSE**” the fate of those He condemns? Or does this RIGHTEOUS JUDGE identify someone else as the culprit?

A Little Perspective

For six thousand years, the devil has affixed his signature to unimaginable human suffering. During that time he has been relentless in exploiting every human weakness. He has even convinced the vast majority of mankind to believe that he doesn’t exist or that he is easily outsmarted. Even some leading Christian evangelists mock Satan during their crusades. Often they will claim to “have the devil on the run”—this while failing to realize how frequently they kneel before him.

Satan is referred to in the Scriptures as the “great deceiver.” That title wasn’t given to him because he is some spiritual lightweight. He is cunning beyond belief and his tragic MARK can be seen throughout human history and appears to have only intensified with each succeeding generation. For those who have difficulty grasping how formidable this treacherous ENEMY is, consider the following: On the eve of the Messiah’s crucifixion, while Peter was professing his unflinching loyalty, Jesus actually warned His apostle that Satan wanted to grind him like powder (literally: “sift him like wheat” See: Luke 22:31).

The Devil's Rap Sheet

The Bible speaks prolifically about this vile predator and its words are not kind. This once great archangel is a dark and sinister creature—one that appears good and beautiful on the outside (II Corinthians 11:14), but is in fact, the embodiment of everything that is grotesque. Satan's credentials as a destroyer of hope are considerable as is the scope of his influence. To illustrate this point consider just some of the titles he bears, such as, "the enemy" (Matthew 13:39), "the evil one" (verse 38), "the prince of this world" (John 13:31; 14:30), "the tempter" (Matthew 4:3), "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), "the adversary" (1 Peter 5:8), "the great dragon and serpent" (Revelation 12:9, 20:2), as well as "the spirit of apostasy" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). And this is just the short list.

When it comes to his accomplishments they too are considerable. For example: The Scriptures reveal that in addition to deceiving the entire planet (Revelation 12:9), Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4) as well as snatches the truth from hearers (Matthew 13:19). God's Word identifies him as a "worker in disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2) and a sower of tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:38). This evil and treacherous being seduced Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden paradise (Genesis 3:1-20)—but this was only the beginning.

The Scriptures also indicate that he caused Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7), as well as led Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3). He moved David to number Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1) and was an adversary of Joshua (Zechariah 3:1-9) not to mention the source behind Job's troubles (Job 1:7-2:10). His handiwork also includes every murder, every rape, every child molestation, every holocaust, every genocidal and homicidal act, every theft, every assault, every sex traffick and slave trading transaction, not to mention every biological weapon, every word of gossip, every drug deal, and every scheme ever designed to exploit human weakness and strip innocence. Additionally, this insidious creature has been front and center in every act of thuggery and abuse as well as every sadistic torture and moral defect that now saturates the human experience,

However, this enemy may have reserved his most treacherous moment for the last evening of Jesus' life when, in an attempt to thwart God's plan of redemption for mankind Satan actually put betrayal into the heart of Judas Iscariot (John 13:2).

Here is The Point

Ever since the first man and woman walked through the Garden of Eden, the devil has dedicated every ounce of his strength to proving God wrong for ever thinking man could be a part of His Eternal Family. His tools have been, and continue to be, stealth and guile, and he uses every one of them with great skill. Throughout history, he has persuaded man to believe a lie and reject the truth. He floods the world with a steady stream of **deception, distortion, and misrepresentation**, all disguised as moral thought.

In truth, Satan's power to deceive is unmatched in the universe and the scope of his influence touches every square inch of our planet. This once-beautiful angelic creature, who actually had the ear of GOD ALMIGHTY, has corrupted mankind's politics, his culture, his laws, and even his faith. He has convinced the western world to believe that Godly wisdom has no place in society and that freedom of speech can actually be expressed in an endless array of smut we call "art." He has even gone so far as to convince man to believe that the Bible is a threat to our children but studying the occult can lead to enlightenment. Satan has persuaded man to believe he has no Creator and that values are relative. In short the devil has distorted every moral truth ever uttered by God Almighty and man has bought every drop of it **hook, line, and sinker!**

For advocates of this new doctrine to suggest that God must be held responsible for the eternal consequences Satan will suffer stands as further proof that even leaders in His Church can be deceived.

Whose Fault is it?

Despite protests to the contrary, God's Word emphatically declares that the consequences imposed for sin rest solely on the sinner—**NOT GOD!** When writing to the Churches in Galatia, Paul made this fact abundantly clear when he explained the principle of "cause and effect" as it relates to God's judgment. Notice his words.

Galatians 6: 7-8

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall **he** also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Whose Fault is it Anyway?

Here, Paul lays the responsibility for God's judgment directly where it belongs. Furthermore, he warns against thinking that the Almighty's mercy and compassion will somehow soften the blow of damnation. In essence, Paul is saying, "Don't kid yourself, God's judgment cannot be manipulated. The sinner is the cause of His sentence—NOT the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE who dispenses it."

But there's more.

When speaking to the ancient nation of Judah, God used the prophet Jeremiah to indict them for their rebellion against Him and His COVENANT—one that required their unqualified obedience. He then explained the REAL CAUSE of their impending fate as reflected in the **cup of His judgment against them**. He did so by asking a rhetorical question. The point He was making should be obvious.

Jeremiah 2:17, 19

"Have you not **procured** this unto thyself, in that you have forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led you by the way? Your own wickedness shall correct you, and your backsliding shall reprove you: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that **you have forsaken** the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in you, says the Lord GOD of hosts."

God's Word couldn't be more clear. What He is declaring is that those who defy Him are 100% responsible for the consequences of their actions—regardless of those consequences. In other words, they bring judgment on themselves. For anyone to suggest that God "**causes**" His condemnation is like blaming law enforcement for "**causing**" criminals to suffer in prison. SHAME ON YOU!

A Final Thought

The real tragedy in this particular argument is that it employs the same rationale used by those who reject God's existence altogether. According to them, a merciful God would never "**CAUSE**" all the suffering we see in the world today. Therefore, He couldn't POSSIBLY be real.

In truth, the fate of Satan and His demons is the **direct result** of their willful defiance and the price they will pay is truly SEVERE—**eternal banishment from a magnificent Kingdom** into which they were created. They will not be killed because a MORAL God ordained that they should live forever when He fashioned them so very long ago (Luke 20:36). For anyone to attempt to change what God ordained from the beginning would be a mockery of His divine will—and as we all know, "God is not mocked."

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument XIII A Vindictive Tyrant

Question:

If God would “**CAUSE**” Satan to be tormented for all eternity, why would anyone think of Him as anything other than a big bully who derives pleasure from the suffering of others?

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In the prior argument, it was asserted that God would have to be held personally responsible if He consented to Satan being consigned to a punishment that would last for all eternity. This particular argument takes it a step further. Here, the devil is actually portrayed as a victim of a great injustice whose perpetrator is none other than God Almighty.

According to the advocates of this new doctrine God would have to be vicious to impose such a horrible sentence (eternal torment in the Lake of Fire followed by total confinement in outer darkness) on anyone—even the devil. Furthermore, these advocates have actually characterized His administration of eternal justice as the act of a “**vindictive tyrant.**” They make this claim despite the fact that God's Word declares that this is exactly what is going to happen. Here is how the apostle John expresses this TRUTH.

Revelation 20:10 New English Translation

“And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*; and they, *Satan and his demons*, shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity.”

Here is how the leaders of one particular COG attempt to counter John's words followed by my response. I realize they will adamantly deny my characterization of their argument but if one carefully scrutinizes the facts, this truth will become abundantly clear.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“God's mercy is an extension of His love. In fact, He is more loving than we humans could ever imagine. The phenomenal example of Jesus Christ shows that God is actually willing to endure unimaginable suffering in order to alleviate the pain and death that others deserve. The thought that God would “**CAUSE**” those who don't love Him to suffer for all eternity is a horrible absurdity that contradicts the entire Bible. It makes God seem like He is some sort of “**VINDICTIVE TYRANT.**”

My Response:

Just as they did in the prior argument these advocates attempt to minimize Satan's transgression while magnifying the consequence imposed by God—essentially implying that the penalty is unfair because it is

so much greater than the crime merits. In other words because Satan has elected to not love God, the Almighty has decided to impose a consequence for this trespass by viciously inflicting on him “unimaginable pain and suffering” via consigning him to eternal torment—a fate these advocates adamantly reject because of its cruelty, even going so far as to refer to it as a **“horrible absurdity”** that contradicts the entire Bible.” Once again, they offer this opinion even though the Scriptures say this is precisely the FATE that awaits him (See again: Revelation 20:10 cited above).

A Little Perspective

In all due respect to these leaders, the only “horrible absurdity” here is the self-serving approach this argument takes. Furthermore, the notion that a loving God would extend mercy and compassion to those who hold these wonderful gifts in contempt is patently FALSE and totally foreign to God’s Word. There isn’t one syllable in the Scriptures that hints of such a thing. On the contrary, the Sacred Writings declare that when it comes to eternal judgment, God’s **MERCY** is **ONLY** expressed in REDEMPTION and HOPE to those who yield to Him, while His condemnation is reflected in the **vengeance** He executes on all those who don’t (See: Deuteronomy 32:43).

Additionally, the thought of God’s Final Judgment as recorded in Scripture being the act of a “vindictive tyrant” reflects a standard that is **totally arbitrary**. Furthermore, it is NOT God’s standard. Instead, it is manufactured by Church leaders more interested in clinging to a narrative of their own making than to humbly accept the wisdom of their Creator—a wisdom powerfully expressed in both the law and the prophets as well as the teachings of the Messiah Himself (See: Deuteronomy 32:41, Jeremiah 13:14 & Matthew 18:21-35). As a result, these COG leaders have become entangled in their own logic. Consider the ramifications of their argument. According to their reasoning, only a “**vindictive tyrant**” would ever consent to ETERNAL torment and because God is filled with compassion, He would NEVER do such a thing. But what about the other torment Satan is subjected to? Wouldn’t that be vindictive as well?

For example:

- 1) **Would God, who is love, suffer anyone to an existence of “unimaginable pain” for 1000 years?**

I ask this because that is EXACTLY what the Almighty will do to Satan during the millennium. At that time, the devil will be bound up and completely isolated from God’s Kingdom and His people (Revelation 20:1-3). This confinement is even referred to as a state of “torment” by demons themselves (See: Argument IX). Therefore, if Satan’s permanent confinement (Jude 13, Revelation 20:10) constitutes the act of a “vindictive tyrant,” as these leaders claim, why would his extended confinement in a GREAT ABYSS be any different? After all, the only difference between the two is their length, not the severity of the torment they inflict.

The Plain Truth

Contrary to what these ministers claim, Satan’s fate, regardless of what it is, is **NOT** an expression of God’s compassion. It is an expression of His utter contempt toward this diabolical spirit. Furthermore, although many think that what happens to God’s enemies is motivated by mercy, the Bible says something quite different. Consider the following.

Nahum 1:2

“...the LORD will take **vengeance** on his adversaries, and he reserves **wrath** for his enemies.”

Although some may believe that eternal punishment is vindictive, God calls it “vengeful”—and never once does He apologize for it. To suggest that mercy plays any part in it is totally FALSE.

But there’s more.

- 2) **Would God, who is love, suffer anyone to an existence of “unimaginable pain” for over 3000 years—the approximate time between Christ’s death and the great white throne judgment?**

I ask this because on the eve of His crucifixion, Jesus categorically stated that Satan had been condemned (John 16:7-11). Since that time he has roamed the earth awaiting his sentence to be carried out.

Although some advocates of this new doctrine imply that allowing protracted suffering is the act of a “vindictive tyrant,” this is NOT true. The Scriptures declare that a merciful God is fully capable of doing just that. Here is how **God the Merciful** expresses this truth. Notice who receives His mercy and who doesn’t.

Deuteronomy 32:43

“Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render **vengeance to his adversaries**, and will be **merciful unto his land, and to his people.**”

It would seem that this verse makes it pretty obvious who receives his mercy and it most certainly is not the devil as these advocates FALSELY assert. And for them to argue that the determining factor for deciding Satan’s fate should be what **they themselves** think is the most appropriate and NOT what God declares to be the most **RIGHTEOUS** is simply **ARROGANT**. These advocates don’t get to make that call, God alone has reserved that prerogative to Himself. And He has made His judgment graphically clear. CASED CLOSED.

- 3) **Would God, who is love, suffer anyone to an existence of “unimaginable pain” for billions of years?**

I ask this because that is how long it has been since Satan first rebelled and waged war against the Almighty in an attempt to seize His throne. From that point on, God stripped him of his position as the “anointed cherub that covers” as well as expelled him from His Government in the third heaven. (See: Ezekiel 28:16). Based on the argument offered by these Church leaders, God must be a “vindictive tyrant” because He didn’t simply put Satan out of his misery right away.

A Brief Review

At the risk of sounding redundant a brief review concerning Satan and his ultimate fate is appropriate. This is because, despite the dismissive tone taken by the advocates of this new doctrine regarding the gravity of Satan’s transgressions, the evil that defines him is truly severe and cannot be ignored when considering the scope of God’s final dispensation of justice that awaits him.

Consider that justice.

Binding Up Satan

The twentieth chapter of the book of Revelation begins with the apostle John recording an event in which an angel comes down from heaven with a special key and a great chain. With these items, he lays hold of

Satan and binds him up. He then casts him into a great abyss where he will be restrained and cannot influence mankind. John goes on to indicate that he will be in this state for a thousand years, after which he will be released for "a little season" (Revelation 20:5) and ultimately cast into a Lake of Fire (verse 10, See also: Enoch 88:1) followed by banishment to "the blackness of darkness" forever (Jude 13) never to be seen or heard from again.

Although the advocates of this new doctrine insist that such a fate is repugnant and only deserves their contempt, they are sadly mistaken. To better understand why God would impose such a verdict on the devil, imagine the impact this single act of divine justice will have on the universe.

A New Hope

The Scriptures declare that at some point in the infinite past, Satan became so consumed with himself that he actually thought his wisdom was greater than that of his CREATOR. As a result, he waged a rebellion that was so filled with hate, his entire character became immersed in **EVIL**. Today His influence on the human family is so overwhelming that at the end of man's reign on the earth the evil and violence Satan has spread will be so pervasive that God Himself will have to intervene or this insidious being will literally destroy creation itself (See: Revelation 20:7-10)

Satan, who is called the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) has sought to destroy everything that shows the Almighty as infinitely MORAL and he has perverted society into actually rejecting its Creator and Benefactor. As a result, man has been deceived from the beginning and that deception has not let up for six thousand years of human history. Now imagine a world without such an adversary. Such a place would be one in which all nations, races, and cultures will live together in peace, happiness, and mutual respect. In that world, war will be a thing of the past while crime and violence will be a distant memory.

But there's more.

A world without Satan will be a planet free of the pollution that now threatens to destroys it (Isaiah 35:1). The terrible ravages of sickness and disease will also be gone (verses 5-6). There will be no more hunger (Isaiah 30:23), no prisons, no gangs, no flag draped coffins, no orphanages, no food banks, no hospitals, no abortion clinics, no domestic violence, no child abuse as well as no moral depravity.

A world no longer under the grip of Satan will be one filled with unimaginable peace, prosperity, health and unobstructed contentment. It will be presided over by Jesus Christ and a Royal family consisting of the greatest leadership team ever assembled in the history of the universe. In that world, true knowledge will literally cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). Furthermore, every human being will worship the same God, share the same values and embrace the same faith. Then, as a result of God's presence and Satan's confinement, optimism and joy will stretch from one end of time and space to the other. It is a place where the voices of children will actually be heard singing in the street and where truth will be set on a hill for all to behold. In short it is a place where **GOODNESS TRIUMPHS. EVIL FAILS** and **HOPE SOARS!**

The words recorded by John in Revelation 20 which describe Satan being cast into a bottomless pit and ultimately a Lake of Fire followed by permanent darkness (Jude 13) stand as one of the most powerful declarations of hope for mankind and God's KINGDOM ever uttered. The day will come when this enemy, who was created with **infinite potential**, then at some point tragically decided to enslave the entire creation with every imaginable perversion and evil, will be removed and a new King will be installed who will establish a government driven by **mercy, judgment, and faith** (Matthew 23:23).

A Final Thought

Finally, the idea that love and compassion for Satan is actually a component of God's final judgment of him is a LIE—and for those who assert such a thing make themselves complicit in that lie. God's Word

describes the Lake of Fire as a horrible place totally devoid of any measure of pity. For corruptible man, who refuses to yield to his Maker, it is the location of his second and final death (Revelation 20:6). For incorruptible spirits such as Satan and his demons, it is the beginning of permanent exile and isolation (verse 10). One thing is for certain, you will never find one ounce of compassion there—only SHAME and EVERLASTING CONTEMPT (See: Daniel 12:2).

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument XIV His Mercy Never Fails

Question:

If God's mercy NEVER fails, why wouldn't it be extended to Satan and his demons?

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In one installment of an extensive argument attempting to prove that Satan and his demons will die, as opposed to suffer eternal torment as the scriptures require (See: Revelation 20:10), a team of prolific Church writers contend that God's mercy exerts a force on Himself that is so powerful it cannot be withheld from anyone—even those receiving His condemnation, including the devil and his fallen angels. In other words these leaders claim that God's final judgment on those whose names do not appear are not in the book of life, as well as rebellious demonic spirits, will actually be rendered as an act of kindness **not contempt**. There are absolutely no exceptions whatsoever. These men even go so far as to assert that Satan's "execution" in the Lake of Fire, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, (Matthew 13:42, 50, 22:13, 25:30) is actually a "**mercy killing**," and as such, is the only compassionate justice God would ever administer, because His intent is driven by a genuine desire to end the Devil's suffering and put him out of his misery as opposed to being an imposition of great consequence for the horrific evil he has perpetrated since his fall from God's government in the third heaven (See: Isaiah 14:12-14, Luke 10: 18).

When advancing this point, these advocates present what is arguably one of the GREATEST DISTORTIONS of Scripture I have ever seen proffered in God's Church—an opinion I do not offer lightly. Although they quote the Bible, they completely **MISREPRESENT** what it is saying. They even **PERVERT** one of Christ's most powerful utterances when doing so. I realize these words are harsh, but as you read this particular argument, this assessment will become painfully obvious.

Presenting the Argument

Here is how this argument is presented by advocates of this new doctrine followed by my response.

For the purpose of clarity their position is broken into two parts. Part I addresses the mercy of Jesus Christ and how these Church leaders claim it is even extended to those who sin willfully (with purpose and dedication), including Satan and the demonic realm. Part II addresses the mercy of God the Father and how these advocates are convinced that it is compassionately dispensed in His final judgment of those who are consigned to the Lake of Fire. Each is presented independently.

Please read both **very** carefully.

Part I Christ the Merciful

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“Consider the example of the mercy of Jesus Christ. Our Savior was brutally beaten—even beyond recognition (Isa. 52:14). He was dying in agony as His weight hung on nails pounded through His limbs and into the wooden stake. Blood flowed from the wounds in his body as He suffered the rejection and torment of men. During this tragic and terribly painful experience, Jesus found it nearly impossible to breathe. Still, He used what little breath He could muster to pray and ask the Father to forgive His tormentors.”

My Response:

Here, these Church leaders suggest that because Jesus is merciful, His mercy even extends to the architect of EVIL—Satan himself—which is the entire point these men are attempting to make with this new doctrine. However, in all due respect to these ministers, this is a horrible distortion that has absolutely NO basis in Biblical fact. Furthermore, the very example they cite actually contradicts their conclusion. To better understand this truth, consider what was taking place when the Messiah uttered the prayer to which they refer.

“Father Forgive Them”

During the initial hours of His crucifixion, Jesus appealed to His Father to have pity on those whose transgressions were responsible for making His sacrifice necessary. Here are the Messiah’s exact words. Notice the qualifier.

“Father, forgive them; for they **‘KNOW NOT’** what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

The term “forgive” used by the Messiah in this prayer is significant in the context of Satan’s fate. Literally translated it means “to put away”, “to set free”, “to remove,” and “to let alone.” It represents a state of total restoration in which the recipient is no longer bound by a debt. This is what Jesus was petitioning His Father to do—ERASE a DEBT incurred by sin—and allow Him (Jesus) to take personal ownership of it and its consequences. Thankfully, we know the answer He received.

However, the advocates of this new doctrine now assert that the Savior’s approach to **all** those who are cast into the lake of fire, including Satan himself is not without its own form of mercy—one that ensures that although the recipient will receive DAMNATION it will not be without COMPASSION. But does such an idea actually exist other than in the minds of these advocates. Furthermore, does the Messiah’s prayer they refer to make any provision for such a thing?

The Answer

To discover the answer we must return to Jesus’ prayer and consider what He specifically said as well as what He **DID NOT** say. We already know His exact words. Now consider what He **never** uttered. Notice He did not say: “Father, forgive them; for they **KNOW** what they do.” This is because to do so would require Him to reject everything about God’s RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE—not to mention His VIRTUE and HOLINESS, each of which define who He is. It is true that our Savior is merciful, but He is not GULLIBLE, nor is He FOOLISH. Furthermore, contrary to what these advocates FALSELY claim, His mercy is no more extended to the defiant than His sacrifice is offered to the unrepentant. At this point, it is important to understand that God’s Word is very clear regarding this truth. Here is how the author of Hebrews expressed it.

Hebrews 10:26

“For if we **sin willfully** after that we have received the **knowledge of the truth**, there remains **NO MORE SACRIFICE** [a product of **MERCY**] for sins,”

The point here is that God’s mercy, as reflected in Christ’s sacrifice, does not extend to those who consciously set their will against Him and toward **EVIL**—which is exactly what Satan has done. The devil was fully aware of the gravity of his defiance when he first rebelled. In other words, he had a “**knowledge of the truth**.” and because of this, he most assuredly knew what he was doing. In criminal law this is referred to as “Conscientiousness of **GUILT**.” Furthermore, he continues to defy his Creator to this very day and doesn’t care one bit what God thinks of it (See: Isaiah 14:12-14). Tragically, this once magnificent creature has nothing but contempt for God’s mercy and because of that, he will **NOT** receive one ounce of it when he receives **HIS FINAL JUDGMENT** (See: James 2:13). Despite any protest from the advocates of this new doctrine, there is nothing in the Scriptures that suggests otherwise. However, God’s word does reveal how Christ judges such matters.

Something to Think About

In what is arguably the most famous sermon ever given, Jesus once instructed His followers to not cast their pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6). The point He was making was that we must cherish the things that possess great value and not capriciously give them to those who would treat them like garbage. With that said, there is nothing of greater value than Christ’s **SACRIFICE** and the love that inspired it (John 3:16).

But there’s more.

Although many true Christians, including some leaders, believe God’s mercy is extended to everyone, it most certainly **IS NOT**. The Kingdom is a great gift—but not everyone will receive it. Christ’s sacrifice is a great gift—but not everyone will claim it. God’s compassion is a great gift—but not everyone will embrace it. These wonderful treasures are **only** offered to those who will cherish them. Satan does not fall into that group. **HE IS THE SWINE!**

A Relevant Question

In light of this great moral principle the advocates of this new doctrine would be well advised to ask themselves a question—one they should find familiar. This is because they will employ a similar stream of logic themselves in their final argument coming up in the next chapter (See: Argument XV). Here is the question.

If the Messiah would instruct God’s people to not cast their pearls before swine, why would anyone think His Father in Heaven would turn around and do just that to Satan?

Rehabilitating Evil

What the architects of this new doctrine have attempted to do is to minimize the severity of an execution in which the victim is intentionally deposited into an inferno and burned alive, writhing in pain and portray it as an expression of mercy and thus a compassionate end to Satan and his demons—while being consigned to a place of total isolation which the scriptures reveal to be his **ACTUAL** fate (See: Jude 13) is somehow unbearably cruel and **DEGRADING**. Sadly, the assessment by these advocates is not only **FALSE** but **CONTRIVED**.

Part II God the Merciful

We now come to Part II which addresses the mercy of God Almighty as it relates to His final judgment as rendered by Jesus Christ from a Great White Throne.

In this section of their attempt to prove that Satan's condemnation will never be completely deprived of some measure of pity, advocates of this new doctrine even go so far as to manipulate Scripture in a desperate attempt to represent it to say and/or mean something it **never, ever, ever** intended. Furthermore, when doing so they must **pervert** the clear words of one of the most exquisite passages in all the Bible.

Notice how this is done followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

"Jesus Christ was a reflection of God the Father. He literally did on earth as He had seen His Father do in heaven (Jn. 5:30, 8:28, 10:38). He judged righteously, showing **love** and **kindness** toward others. Even in the most horrible of circumstances, he continued to show enormous compassion. This multi-faceted act of Christ reveals the essence of God's nature. He is the epitome of mercy. As the Psalmist states:"

"For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations" (Psa.100:5).

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: because his mercy endureth for ever." (Psa.118:1)

The Argument Continues

These Church leaders then offer what they believe is conclusive evidence proving that God's mercy is also expressed in His condemnation—even His condemnation of the devil. Notice the lack of authenticity in this argument when compared to what the Almighty actually said in the verses they cite. Remember, these leaders claim that because God's mercy ENDURES FOREVER it **must** be given UNCONDITIONALLY to **everyone regardless of who they are or what they have done.** There are no exceptions—even the devil is not deprived of it. Furthermore, they claim that those who fail to accept **their** wisdom concerning this assertion reject what the Bible clearly says about God's nature. They offer this even though God WORD forcefully contradicts their claim.

Here is how they express this view followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

"Psalm 136 also echoes this theme in each and every one of its 26 verses. At the end of every single sentence, it is declared that His mercy will never end. God's mercy exists for all eternity! **How could anyone believe that His mercy fails when it comes to Satan and the demons? Such a thought goes against all that we know of His nature.**"

"Understanding this, **there is no doubt** that the merciful fate God has planned for the devil and his demons is to do what is best for them—to end their life and torment—not

prolong it. Those who are filled with envy, anger, hatred and hostility are truly unhappy. They will therefore be put out of their misery—not be **FORCED** to experience even more unhappiness for all eternity.

My Response:

What is a Mercy Killing?

While the advocates of this new doctrine assert that the Lake of Fire constitutes a “mercy killing,” this is light years from reality. In truth, despite any opinion to the contrary, a real mercy killing is what takes place when a family pet has to be put down or a close relative or friend taken off life support. In each case a genuine concern for the recipient is paramount and the love for them self-evident—including a sincere regard for their physical comfort.

Even criminal executions in the United States are considerate of the victim. In most cases the condemned are granted special privileges such as the choice of a last meal as well as the visitation from clergy and even family members. Additionally, they are given an opportunity to speak “last words” to those witnessing their final moments. Furthermore, in virtually all cases they are afforded the quiet respect from those in attendance during the procedure. There are even times when the condemned are offered medication to assist them in dealing with the anxiety and stress of the moment.

With this said, do the advocates of this new doctrine **HONESTLY** believe that if God’s motivation in carrying out His sentence of the condemned was to ensure the execution would be merciful He would **EVER** select as its method consigning them to an inferno and burning them alive while they writhed in agony? **DON'T BE SILLY.**

Being Honest About Satan’s Fate

Personally, I don’t think for one minute these COG leaders sincerely believe that God’s condemnation is an act of mercy and compassion as they claim. However, they offer this assessment because they cannot bring themselves to accept the fact that if given a choice between consigning the condemned to a fate of eternal torment (outer darkness) as opposed to eternal peace (death), a loving God would ever select the former. Thus, the only way their opinion can be justified would be for Him to extend some degree of pity to His enemies in their final judgment even though common sense as well as God’s very own **WORDS** declare otherwise (See: Deuteronomy 32:43).

In all due respect to these fine men and those who agree with them, this assertion is the product of wishful thinking not Biblical insight. Furthermore, I am fully persuaded that their opinion would **NEVER** change regardless of the method of execution. In other words, if God determined that the fate of the condemned was to be tied down and dismembered by a chainsaw, they would still attempt to make the same “**MERCY**” argument. Why? Because they lack the moral courage to accept the obvious—fearing their honesty might somehow hurt God’s feelings and portray Him as cruel.

Well, these advocates may attempt to manipulate the fate of those cast into the lake of fire, as an act of mercy, intended on putting them out of their misery, all they want, but an infinite and Loving God knows full well where **DIVINE** justice demands His mercy be placed and where it requires it to be denied.

An Examination of Testimony

Contrary to what these advocates assert, God’s mercy, although everlasting and unfailing is **NOT** given to everyone. But don’t believe me, believe the very Psalms these men cite in their argument. For example:

Psalms 136 is a declaration of adoration and praise to God as a Creator and Deliverer (Redeemer). The first nine verses of this exquisite passage acknowledge His strength and wisdom when fashioning the

universe—and declare that this act was an expression of His mercy. Verse 10 then transitions to Him as a GREAT RESCUER of His people. However, here is where their argument completely disintegrates. According to the reasoning of these advocates, God must have killed Egypt's firstborn as an act of mercy toward Egypt—to put them out of their misery. He must have also drowned Pharaoh's armies in the Red Sea for the same reason. After all, God's mercy never fails.

Is This Possible?

But is this understanding correct? As you read the verses below ask yourself if there is even a remote possibility that God wants you to see Him expressing mercy and compassion toward Egypt—the enemy (oppressor) of His people as these advocates claim He does when it comes to the devil (their SUPER oppressor). The answer should be obvious.

Psalm 136:10-16

- 10 “To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: **for his mercy endures for ever:**
- 11 And brought out Israel from among them: **for his mercy endures for ever:**
- 12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: **for his mercy endures for ever.**
- 13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: **for his mercy endures for ever:**
- 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: **for his mercy endures for ever:**
- 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: **for his mercy endures for ever.**
- 16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: **for his mercy endures for ever.”**

In truth, EVERY stanza of this passage declares God's mercy toward **HIS** people—NOT their enemies. And for any true believer to employ this Psalm as proof that mercy belongs to everyone—including the DEVIL, is guilty of theological malpractice. Their conclusion is nothing short of vulgar and constitutes a reproach to God's word and is an insult to mercy itself. Furthermore, it reflects a brazen attempt to subvert **TRUTH**. There isn't one scintilla in Scripture even hinting that this Psalm can be reconciled with the point these advocates are attempting to sell. There is however an opposing position that was expressed by none other than God's FAITHFUL SERVANT Moses. Notice who receives His mercy and who doesn't.

Deuteronomy 32:43

“Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for **he will avenge the blood of his servants,** and **will render vengeance to his adversaries** (enemies), and **will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.**”

Here, God's word specifically identifies how the ALMIGHTY dispenses His judgment and despite the assertions advanced by advocates of this new doctrine there is absolutely no ambiguity in this pronouncement.

But there's more.

King David put it this way.

Psalm 3:7

“Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: **for thou hast smitten all mine enemies [upon] the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.**”

I'm just curious, but do these COG leaders sincerely believe that breaking the teeth of the ungodly is an expression of God's mercy toward them. Furthermore, do they believe that David would concur with their assessment? In other words, do they honestly think that this king, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), would ever declare God's mercy toward the ungodly, let alone Satan the devil?

A Significant Note:

At this point it is significant to note that when citing Psalm 118 as proof that God's mercy is all encompassing, these particular advocates only quote verse 1. However, if they would have continued Author's thoughts, it would become obvious that he actually identifies who receives God's mercy—and it certainly isn't those who defy their Creator. As a matter of fact the opposite is true. Notice his words.

Psalm 118: 2-4

- “Let **Israel now say**, that his mercy endures forever.
- Let the **house of Aaron [the priest] now say**, that his mercy endures forever.
- Let **them now that fear the LORD say**, that his mercy endures forever.”

Notice those who are exhorted to proclaim that God's mercy endures forever are **the ones who actually receive that mercy**. In this case the **nation of Israel**, not Egypt, nor Assyria, not Philistia, nor Edom nor the city of Tyre nor Babylon, nor the plethora of godless nations dedicated to the destruction of His people.

Also included in this exhortation is the Levitical priesthood of the **house of Aaron**, not the priests of Baal or, Dagon or, the false prophet or, the Antichrist or, a host of other apostates.

Finally those instructed to proclaim the enduring quality of God's mercy are **people who “fear” (from the hebrew word “Yare” meaning literally “to stand in awe of the ETERNAL”)**—**HIS PEOPLE**, not those who hold Him in **CONTEMPT** and certainly not the devil.

But there is more related to how God allocates His MERCY as well as WHO receives this PRECIOUS GIFT. For example.

King David also wrote that:

Psalm 130:11,13

“For as heaven is high above the earth so great is His **mercy** toward **them that FEAR (“YARE” meaning to stand in awe of) HIM.**” [not them that defy Him.]

What Can Be Learned?

Here is the point—and tragically it is one that is completely rejected by the architects of this new doctrine. The notion that God's mercy is expressed unconditionally in acts of kindness to everyone without any expectation in return is wrong on so many levels. Sadly, it is offered by COG leaders more interested in promoting an indefensible hypothesis with trickery and manipulation than to humbly accept the wisdom of

God's very own WORDS. In **TRUTH** the Scriptures are filled with examples of the Creator unapologetically withholding His mercy.

For Example;

The great prophet Jeremiah was actually used by the ALMIGHTY to make this very point concerning His judgment of those who willfully defy Him—a point these Church leaders adamantly reject. Notice these are God's words—the very God whose **mercy never fails**.

Jeremiah 13:14

“And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: **I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.**”

How About Christ?

In the New testament the apostle Peter crystallizes the wisdom of the Messiah relative to His obvious opinion of the devil and the role of mercy this diabolical monster can expect in judgment. And despite the opinion asserted by advocates of this new doctrine, that claims it will be compassionate, this great apostle sees it much differently as evidenced by how he views the Savior's JUDGMENT being righteously allocated.

And for Satan the news is NOT good.

1 Peter 3:12

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but **the face of the Lord is against them that are EVIL.**”

An Indictment Denying the Obvious

Instead of accepting the obvious **TRUTH** reflected in God's Word, including EVERY Psalm cited in this particular argument, these advocates have twisted them at every turn, in an attempt make them say what they want them to say, after which they accuse God of being “**A Vindictive Tyrant,**” (A THUG) who “FORCES” the suffering imposed on the devil—and as such is not worthy of their worship if He fails to accept their wisdom over that of His own (See: Argument XIII).

A Great Truth about Mercy

Contrary to what some people of faith now believe, the Almighty's Word DECLARES with GREAT FORCE that mercy and condemnation CANNOT harmoniously coexist—you either receive one or the other—**NEVER BOTH—ABSOLUTELY NEVER!** This is because one is the **EXCLUSIVE** product of COMPASSION while the other is the exclusive product of CONTEMPT and WRATH. In truth, they are polar opposites and any teaching that goes contrary to this **BIBLICAL ABSOLUTE** is rank heresy and an insult to a RIGHTEOUS GOD and His MORAL CORE. This is why those who are cast into the lake of fire **WILL NEVER, EVER EVER** receive even the smallest measure of compassion with their condemnation, despite what these advocates FALSELY teach.

To illustrate this point consider the words of the Messiah in one of His most powerful parables. It addresses God's judgment as it relates to **His Kingdom** and those who will be a part of it. as well as those who won't. It is actually referred to by scholars as a “Kingdom Parable” (See: Matthew 18:23). As you consider the Savior's words ask yourself if there is any **doubt in His mind** that His heavenly

Father is perfectly capable, and even more than willing to withhold His mercy from those who defy His GREAT MORAL LAW even though His mercy endures forever. The answer should be obvious.

“The Unmerciful Servant”

Matthew 18:21-35

In the parable of the “Unmerciful Servant,” Jesus tells a story about a Lord who is taking account of his servants (Matthew 18:23). The Messiah would later reveal that this Lord pictures His Father in heaven (v. 35). During this accounting it was discovered that one of His servants owed Him an insurmountable debt—ten thousand talents (v. 24)—an amount that has been estimated by authorities to be as much as twelve BILLION dollars today. Enough said?

The Story Continues

At one point, the Lord demanded that payment be made (v. 25). Upon hearing this demand, His servant became overwhelmed with the enormous burden of his obligation and prostrated himself before His Lord imploring Him for MERCY (v.26). Jesus then reveals that the Lord was entreated of His servant and actually FORGAVE the **ENTIRE** debt (literally erasing it). This now brings us to a very important question.

What moved the Lord to extend mercy to His servant?

The answer is found in the very next verse. Notice what Jesus says.

Matthew 18:27

“Then the lord of that servant was moved with COMPASSION, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.”

Notice that there is a direct link between mercy and compassion. But does that link also exist between mercy and condemnation as advocates of this new doctrine claim? Fortunately, the Messiah provides the answer in the very same parable. Let’s continue.

God Withdraws His Mercy

As it turned out, the servant who was forgiven his debt had an opportunity to forgive someone who was indebted to him. Furthermore, his debtor’s obligation was only a minuscule fraction of the one his Lord had forgiven him. Unfortunately, this servant wasn’t the slightest bit interested in extending the very mercy he had received from his Lord. Instead, he threw his debtor into prison (vs. 28-30).

When word got back to his Master concerning what had transpired, He summoned His servant and demanded an explanation. He then unleashed a blistering indictment against him—and actually withdrew the mercy He had extended to him earlier—leaving His servant, once again, hopelessly in debt. As a result, that servant was delivered to the “tormentors” (vs. 31-34)—an interesting term when considered in the context of Satan’s fate. (see: Revelation 20:10)

The Lesson Continues

This now brings us to the question of the day—one that weighs directly on this particular argument.

What moved the King to take the action He took?

Was it COMPASSION?

Was it MERCY?

Clearly these are qualities that define his Lord and according this new doctrine are expressed in virtually everything God does so it must be what He did here. Right? Or, was it? Here is what Jesus said when quoting the Lord’s OWN words.

Matthew 18:33-34

“Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you? And his lord was WROTH, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.”

Notice that when the Lord originally extended mercy He was moved with compassion (v. 27). But now, when He levels His condemnation, He is moved by RAGE—He is “WROTH” with the man. This word is synonymous with “wrath,” which means, “hot anger,” “indignation,” and “violent emotion” (See: *Strong's* G3709). There isn't even a faint hint of mercy in this term. In truth, the unmerciful servant was actually stripped of every drop of pity he had received earlier from his **MERCIFUL LORD**.

With this said, does anyone reading this parable honestly believe that there exists even one fragment of mercy or compassion in the Master's reaction—let alone in Satan's fate?

The Parable Concludes

Jesus concludes this timeless lesson by warning that God will do the same to those who refuse to show mercy toward others—He will consign them to **torment** (the Lake of Fire). In other words, although His mercy NEVER FAILS, IT IS NOT EXTENDED TO EVERYONE. IN TRUTH IT COMES WITH CONDITIONS. Notice the word “**if**.”

Matthew 18:35

“So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, **if** ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

Here is the point:

For anyone to claim that God is going to show mercy to the most merciless being in history is mind-boggling. And for a true minister of the gospel to take such a position is INCONCEIVABLE.

Satan is diabolically vicious and cruel, and he has made a career of showing absolutely no pity on God's people. He is their relentless accuser, not their passionate advocate. Here is how the apostle John described him.

Revelation 12:10

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

A Final Thought

The argument that God will have mercy on the devil himself is a HORRIBLE distortion of His Word and reveals a complete lack of understanding concerning who He is and how He thinks. The Scriptures tell us that the Almighty's judgment of Satan will be totally devoid of mercy. In other words Satan will receive just what he has given. Perhaps James, the bishop of the Jerusalem Church and the half-brother of the Messiah said it best.

James. 2:13

“For he shall have judgment (condemnation) WITHOUT mercy, that has shown no mercy; and mercy rejoices (triumphs) against judgment [Not the other way around].

This is Satan's fate—judgment WITHOUT mercy—a judgment that results in eternal torment beginning in a blazing inferno (Revelation 20:10) and culminating with confinement in the “blackness of darkness” forever (Jude 13).

What is Satan's Fate?

Argument XV Loving the Devil

Question:

If God hates sin but loves the sinner, wouldn't His love also be extended to Satan and his demons by allowing them to die as opposed to being tormented forever?

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In a stunning attempt to prove that Satan and his demons will die, the leaders of one COG fellowship actually claim that God LOVES the devil. That's right! He LOVES Satan—and because of this He can only do good to him. Therefore, given a choice between this despicable foe suffering eternal torment as the Bible indicates (See: Revelation 20:10), or, permanent death, the later seems more compassionate to them—because it minimizes the length of suffering he will be subjected to when his final sentence is carried out.

Like so many other arguments offered by advocates of this new doctrine, this one relies on human reasoning and supposition. In other words, nowhere does the Bible actually say God loves Satan. However, these Church leaders overcome this hurdle by demonstrating how other Scriptures can be manipulated so as to prove their point. In this particular case, they contend that because Christ admonished His followers to “love their enemies and do good unto them” (See: Matthew 5:44 & Luke 6:27-35), it would be hypocritical for God to do otherwise to His enemies—even Satan himself.

Here is how this view is expressed followed by my response.

Advocates of the New Doctrine:

“The Almighty God is the embodiment of love, and **He wants us to become like He is.** For this reason Jesus said:”

“Ye have heard that it hath been said; Thou shall love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you...Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:43-44, 48).”

These advocates then claim that this passage stands as incontrovertible proof that God's love even extends to Satan himself and because of this He would never permit him or his demons to suffer the eternal torment prescribed in Revelation 20:10. They even reason that the Lake of Fire, complete with its weeping and gnashing of teeth (See: Matthew 13:42, 50, 22:13, 25:30) is actually an expression of the Almighty's compassion and goodness. This despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

See if you can follow their logic and where this PERVERSE thinking can invariably lead.

Advocates of the New Doctrine continued:

“It is unimaginable to think that God would expect us to love our enemies, to bless them, to do good works toward them, and then He would turn around and act differently toward His enemies! If we grasp anything about God, we should recognize that He is a being of supreme love.”

My Response:

If these Church leaders are correct in their assessment, **in which they also claim that God “wants His children to be like Him,”** then not only does the Almighty love the devil, but He must want His human family to love him as well. After all, is there anything our heavenly Father would ever think, or do, or say, relative to his compassion, that He wouldn't want children to emulate? Why would it be any different here? Add to that is the **fact** that Satan is specifically identified in Scripture as our enemy too (See: 1 Peter 5:8). Therefore, Christ's admonition must also apply to **our behavior** toward him as well. Wouldn't it? Additionally, if Jesus would exhort His followers to love their enemies, why wouldn't He do the same to His enemies, including the devil himself? Finally, if Loving the devil is good enough for the Father, as these advocates assert, why wouldn't it also be good enough for the Son?

Huh?

But is this understanding CORRECT? Does the ALMIGHTY actually want His people to love the most EVIL being in existence? Furthermore, does this Architect of Eternity and the Holy One of Israel Himself love Satan as these advocates claim?—and if so, is there ANY empirical evidence in Scripture suggesting that the great heroes of faith down through the ages concur with this understanding?

For example:

Is there any evidence suggesting that Elijah believed God wanted him to love the devil while he was confounding (and later killing) the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:41)? Or, does the Bible suggest that God wanted Moses to love the devil while the children of Israel were practicing debauchery before a golden calf (Exodus 32:19)? And what about the two witnesses?—do the scriptures teach that these men will love the great dragon who gives power to the beast and false prophet (Revelation 13: 1-4)? Mind you, this is the same dragon who orchestrates the brutal slaughter of God's people (See: Revelation 6:9, 12:17).

Additionally, can these advocates provide even one example where Jesus ever extended a blessing to Satan? Can they cite an instance when the Messiah actually prayed **for** him? Do they believe He ever once cried out to His Father to comfort this ENEMY in his distress?

Jesus Concerning Satan

The Scriptures reveal that the Messiah was acutely aware of the grave danger Satan posed to God's people and for this reason He specifically instructed them to seek the Father's protection from this evil predator (See: Matthew 6:13). Furthermore, our Savior made that very petition Himself on the eve of His crucifixion (See: John 17:15). With this said, do these Church thinkers honestly believe our Savior ever invested one second of His prayer life expressing compassion for Satan and his demons?

Here is a hint—and it comes from the pen of the apostle Peter. Here is how he saw the Messiah in this regard. These words were expressed earlier but bear repeating.

1 Peter 3:12

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers:
but **the face of the Lord is against them that are EVIL.**”

Other Examples

And what about men like King David, who fasted for his enemies (Psalm.35:11-14)? Do these advocates believe he also fasted for history’s greatest enemy? Then there is Peter who warned that Christians should be “VIGILANT” because Satan wanted to “**devour**” them (1 Peter 5:8). Do these leaders believe he also encouraged Christians to extend charity toward this “adversary”? And what about Paul who wrote that God’s people should “not give occasion to the devil” (1 Timothy 5:14). Do they think he also taught that they should seek occasion to do good to him. Then there is James, who specifically exhorted Christians to “RESIST the devil” (James 4:7). Do the advocates of this new doctrine think he also taught that they should love him?

Finally, if God’s word provides such an abundance of cautionary warnings concerning this sinister creature, why would the advocates of this new doctrine claim that the Almighty, or His Son, would ever think of ignoring every one of them in their own lives—thus throwing caution to the wind by showing compassion to him despite its clear and present danger?

A Diabolical Creature

In truth, the Bible speaks prolifically about Satan and every bit of it is bad. This diabolical creature has been instrumental in every evil ever perpetrated. To suggest that the ETERNAL somehow loves him is inconceivable—but that is EXACTLY what these advocates teach. Why? Because according to them, HE would be a hypocrite to do otherwise. **But is this claim true?**

Can God Hate?

Contrary to what a growing number of people of faith now believe, the Almighty is perfectly capable of HATE without **ever** compromising His VIRTUE. Furthermore, that hate can extend to both the **SIN** and the **SINNER**. First, consider sin and how it sickens Him. The book of Proverbs identifies seven specific transgressions that hold particular disdain in His heart. He actually refers to them as “abominations.”

Proverbs 6:16-19

“These six things does the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.”

Now consider these moral defects in the context of the devil. Satan is the embodiment of every one of them. The Scriptures declare that pride led to his fall (Ezekiel 28:17) and that treachery (a lying tongue) is his weapon of choice. Not only has he deceived the whole world (2 Corinthians 4:4 & Revelation 12:9), but he has specifically targeted God’s people for destruction (See: Matthew 13:19, 38, & Ephesians 2:2). Satan has been called a liar, a murderer (John 8:44), and a PERVERTER of scripture—and to be sure, he is all of that and MORE.

In short, there isn’t one thing about this diabolical being that God doesn’t loathe—and for anyone to suggest that the Almighty feels any obligation to show him even the smallest measure of compassion is inconceivable. But don’t believe me, here is how King David saw God’s opinion of the devil in this regard.

Psalms 5:4

“For you are not a God that has pleasure in wickedness: **neither shall evil dwell with you** [in any form including thought, word, or action]”

When speaking to the children of Israel, here is what God Himself said He would do when dealing with His enemies. See if you can find compassion in His words.

Deuteronomy 32:41

“I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward [by consequence] them that hate me.”

The point here is that God is TOTALLY aware of the destructive power of sin and because of this fact, He views lawlessness as vile and disgusting and a threat to **everything** He stands for. In truth, God can't even look upon sin, let alone love its chief architect (See: Isaiah 59:2 & Habakkuk 1:13).

Loving Your Enemies

When Jesus exhorted God's people to love their enemies, He wasn't sending the slightest signal concerning how His Father felt about Satan. Quite frankly, there is a HUGE difference between our worldly enemies, who, out of ignorance and human weakness, do wrong to us, and Satan, who knows full well what he is doing. The point the Messiah was making was that His followers should be thoughtful in their dealings with others—who are engaged in the same moral struggle they find themselves in—even allowing themselves to suffer wrong in the interest of Christian forbearance (See: 1 Corinthians 6: 1-7 & 1 Peter 2:20-23).

The apostle Paul actually instructed Christians' to “**esteem others better than themselves**” (Philippians 2:3), while the gospels reveal that God Himself shows kindness to people who are humanly weak and sinful (See: Matthew 5:45 & Luke 6:35). However, nowhere does His Word provide one example where He comforts those whose heart is set toward evil, let alone the great dragon. If you have any doubts concerning this I would recommend you refer to the words of the apostle Peter cited earlier (See 1 Peter 3:12). If you do it should be abundantly clear where your Savior's countenance is inclined.

What About the Sinner?

This now brings us to God's attitude toward those who willfully defy Him. And although it is popular to believe that God hates the sin but loves the sinner, this is **NEVER** the case when it comes to His FINAL judgment of both man and spirit, regardless of what the advocates of this new doctrine FALSELY claim.

Conditional Love

One of the greatest misconceptions among Christians today is that God's love is unconditional—that it is offered with no expectation of anything in return. Some who embrace this belief even contend that those who are cast into the lake of fire are not deprived of His Kindness. But is this true?

Contrary to this view, everything about our relationship with the ALMIGHTY comes with conditions—whether it is His **mercy** (Matthew 7:2, 18:35, James 2:13), His **forgiveness** (2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 13:3-5, 1 John 1:9), His **friendship** (John 15:13-14), or His **Lordship** (Matthew 7:22-23). The Scriptures shout out that God doesn't give these precious treasures away causally. Furthermore, when it comes to **compassion**, His infallible WORD declares that there is definitely a point when God's love will cease and in its place will be nothing but **contempt**. Furthermore, that contempt

will be focused directly toward the **sinner**. If you have any doubts regarding this TRUTH, consider the following.

A King's Perspective

King David often wrote concerning how God viewed iniquity. On more than one occasion he proclaimed that His disgust of lawlessness can even extend to the perpetrator (law breaker). Notice his words.

Psalm 5: 5-6

“The foolish shall not stand in your sight: You **HATE** all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will **ABHOR** the bloody and deceitful man.”

In another psalm, David expressed it this way.

Psalm 11:5-6

“The LORD tries the righteous: but the wicked and him that loves violence His soul **HATES**. Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their **cup**.”

It is not by accident that the term “cup” is used prolifically throughout the scriptures as a metaphor for Gods judgment (See: Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15, 49:12, Zechariah 12:2). Even Jesus employed this term at the end of His own life in an appeal to His Father to be spared from the condemnation He knew He would have to bear as the Savior of the world (See: Luke 22:42).

Returning to David

With these particular Psalms, David was putting a king's perspective on God's view of evil. Simply put, the Almighty will NEVER accommodate lawlessness, or those who commit it. It is true, that as an act of LOVE, HE offered the unblemished life of HIS Son as a ransom for the human family (1 Corinthians 15:3, Hebrews 9:28), but that sacrifice and the love that inspired it (John 3:16, See also: Psalm 103) does not extend to those who set their will against Him and refuse to repent (Hebrews 10:26). To believe otherwise is foolish

At this point, it is also interesting to note that the word “**abhor**” used by David in the first Psalm cited above, comes from the Hebrew term *ta' ab* (*Strong's H8581*) and means: “**to detest**”, “**to loathe**”, and “**to regard as an abomination**.” This is how a A RIGHTEOUS GOD sees those who show utter contempt for His moral authority—including **everyone** consigned to the Lake of Fire, including Satan himself.

God and the Sinner

A Lesson from the Messiah

To best understand God's perspective on sin and the sinner, consider how He viewed the sacrifice of His Own Son. The Scriptures reveal that as Jesus was suffering the final moments of His torturous execution, He would have to bear the sins of all mankind—taking them upon Himself. In other words, all the evil ever perpetrated by the human family would have to be conveyed to Him. In this state, Jesus BECAME SIN (II Corinthians 5:21). He now felt the ugliness of every act of depravity as well as every nuance of error. He also knew that in this state He would have to become everything His Father despised. The book of Hebrews actually reveals how Christ saw himself in this condition.

Hebrews12:2

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, DESPISING THE SHAME, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Defining Terms

The word “shame” in this verse comes from the Greek *Aischyne* and means **“ignominy, disgrace and dishonor arising from guilt”** (See: *Strong’s* G152). The source of this shame was sin—and Jesus ABHORRED every drop of it—He “DESPISED” it because He saw it the way His HOLY Father saw it.

The word “despise” is translated from the Greek *kataphroneō* (*Strong’s* G2706) and means to **“condemn”**, and to **“hold in disdain.”** The point to this verse should be obvious. As the bearer of man’s sin, Jesus knew what he would have to become in order to redeem the human family from the **guilt** and **consequence** that would be exacted on all those who were condemned to the second death—which, without a savior, would mean EVERY HUMAN BEING that has ever lived (See: Romans 3::23-24). He also understood how His Father would ultimately view Him in that role, and the thought of it was absolutely heartbreaking to Him because He loved His Father so much.

At this point, it is hard to imagine the enormity of stress our Savior was going through when He appealed for relief from His Father’s impending condemnation and although the Scriptures do not say, in all likelihood His words were accompanied by copious tears during what may very well have been the most vulnerable moment of His life. It is interesting that just a few hours earlier Jesus informed His disciples that the burden of His emotional condition was so great that it actually reached a level of being LIFE THREATENING (“My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto DEATH.” Mark 14:34). When describing this moment, the gospels indicate that the Messiah had become so depleted by this experience that His perspiration **“became as it were like great drops of blood”** (Luke 22:44). So intense was this moment that an angel from Heaven was actually dispatched to strengthen Him (verse 43).

A Heartbreaking Reaction

The Scriptures reveal that as our Savior hung suspended in this sinful state, His Father turned away (IN DISGUST), leaving Him to die alone. This act prompted Jesus to cry out, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). The term “forsaken” comes from the Greek *egkataleipō* (*Strong’s* G1459) and means **“to totally abandon”**, **“to desert”**, **“to leave in straits”**, **“to leave helpless”**, and **“to utterly forsake.”** The point here is that God didn’t simply step back and observe Christ’s final moments from a distance—He literally walked away and **“TOTALLY ABANDONED** His Son—and there was a reason He reacted this way—one that relates directly to the fate of all those He condemns, including Satan himself.

The Ultimate Reconciliation

As hard as this might be to comprehend, as the atoning sacrifice for humanity, Jesus actually became abhorrent to His Father. He was repulsive and THOROUGHLY disgusting to Him. As a result, all the intimacy they had experienced throughout eternity was completely severed. In essence, Jesus became TOTALLY estranged from the Father. With that said, it is ironic that while the Messiah had become estranged from His Father, God’s human family was becoming reconciled back to Him (Romans 5:10).

In essence, Jesus took upon Himself the penalty reserved for mankind. This was the **“cup”** He would have to bear. In other words, He accepted His Father’s CONTEMPT in order that His human family would not have to. In that state our Savior was deprived of any mercy or compassion. His fate was ABSOLUTE REJECTION and TOTAL CONDEMNATION—which is the fate of all those who are cast into the Lake of

Fire, including the devil (See: Revelation 20:10). In other words, those who are condemned receive **absolutely no mercy or compassion (Not ONE Speck)** as the advocates of this new doctrine FALSELY assert.

Something to Think About

The price Jesus paid to redeem the human family from the consequences of sin is far more remarkable than many may realize. Perhaps the following explanation will add some perspective to this extraordinary act of courage.

The Price of Love

Those who ultimately repent and claim their Savior's sacrifice, will one day be a part of God's Eternal Family. At that time they will celebrate their infinite DESTINY with the King of the Universe forever. At this point it is interesting to note that during their physical life God never **TOTALLY** abandoned them. Even in their wicked and sinful state He was mindful of their circumstance and weakness and His LOVE for them never completely abated. The scriptures tell us that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8), and that God so loved the world he offered the life of His beloved son as a ransom for sin (John 3:16, I Timothy 2:6).

The point here is that when God's Eternal Kingdom is finally established and everything made NEW (Revelation 21), Jesus Christ will be the only one in it to have ever experienced the full weight of His Father's judgment. For all eternity this one fact will set Him (and His sacrifice) apart from all others. This is the price He was willing to pay for the redemption of His Father's children and His bride, the Church (See: Ephesians 5:25).

At this point, it is important to understand that our SALVATION was not achieved through capitulation or compromise but rather purchased with blood—the ultimate measure of our Savior's devotion to His Father and His PLAN. Furthermore, the Messiah NEVER flinched in the face of the enormous sacrifice required of Him before the foundation of the world (See: I Peter 1: 19-20 See also: Expositors Bible Commentary concerning the word *foreordained* recorded in this passage).

A Great Tragedy

The real tragedy with respect to the Messiah's sacrifice is that some will actually refuse to claim it. As a result, the sin and subsequent condemnation that Jesus took upon Himself, on their behalf, will be conveyed back to them and they will have to pay the **full price** for their own transgressions. Hence, they will become **TOTALLY** estranged from the Father. In that state, God will completely REJECT them—and turn His back in disgust. Furthermore, the scriptures shout out this truth.

A Prophet Speaks

The great prophet Daniel once wrote of God's final judgment on man. When doing so he revealed that there were two broad types of resurrections—one for those who are redeemed and another for those who are condemned.

Notice his words.

Daniel 12:2

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some **to shame and everlasting contempt.**”

A Dark Pronouncement

This is indeed a dark pronouncement. However, it graphically conveys how God truly sees those who are cast into the Lake of Fire (human or spirit). Consider what is being said here. The word “**shame**” comes from the Hebrew term *cherpah* (*Strong’s H2781*) and means “a **reproach**” and “**disgrace**.” It pertains to the full weight of sin the defiant must bear in judgment. There isn’t even the smallest measure of relief from the horror of this moment. They had their chance, but sadly rejected it. Now they are left with NO HOPE—ABSOLUTELY NONE.

But there’s more.

“Everlasting Contempt”

We now come to the state of “**everlasting contempt**” referred to by Daniel. The word “contempt” is translated from the Hebrew *děra’own* (*Strong’s H1860*) and means “**averse**”, “**abhorrent**”, and “**repulsive**.” The contempt spoken of by Daniel is GOD’S CONTEMPT. Contrary to the view embraced by the advocates of this new doctrine, God doesn’t love those whom He has condemned. He ABHORS them. In their defiant, sinful state, they are vile and disgusting to Him—and so is **everything** and **everyone** who consciously sets their will toward EVIL (See: 1 Peter 1:12). For physical MORTAL human beings the result is a horrible death (Romans 6:23). For Satan and his demons, who were created IMMORTAL, it is total exile to a place of infinite darkness (See: Jude 13, See also: Argument X “Wandering Stars”).

The Conclusion of the Matter

We now come to the conclusion of the matter.

The belief that God actually loves the Devil is a heresy of immense magnitude—one born out of a grotesque perversion of the Sacred Writings and is an insult to love itself. In truth, its assertion is TOTALLY ANTITHETICAL to everything God is as well as everything His Royal family will become. God doesn’t want His children to pity evil or its practitioners. He wants us to “**eschew**” them. In the words of the apostle Peter:

1 Peter 3: 10-11

“For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him **eschew evil** and do good...”

The word “eschew” in this verse, means “to avoid”, even to the degree of “shunning” (See: Strong’s G1578 G575). In other words, **to block, to prohibit and to deny any access to one’s life**. This is the Almighty’s injunction to the body of Christ and is unquestionably a practice that defines His righteous judgment in the third heaven as well as when His Son executes His final judgment from a Great White Throne (See: Revelation 20: 11-15). Furthermore, GOD’S PEOPLE should want this as well because they have experienced firsthand sin and its destructive impact and brutality in their own lives.

Now consider just a few reasons this particular argument should be REJECTED.

1. Contrary to what its advocates assert, nowhere does the Bible ever describe the Lake of Fire as a place where God’s mercy is dispensed. On the contrary every mention of it reveals it to be TOTALLY devoid of God’s compassion. Demons even referred to it as a place of “TORMENT.” Furthermore, the book of Enoch actually describes it as a place of unspeakable horror and suffering so much so that this preacher of righteousness was genuinely terrified by it—requiring the comfort of an angel from heaven (See: Enoch 18:11-15, 21:7-10).

2. Contrary to what its advocates assert, **NOWHERE** does the Bible ever define the second death as a “Marcy Killing.” Actually the opposite is true. God’s Word reveals it to be a period of great anguish and suffering. But there is good news. When the advocates of this new doctrine actually observe God’s final judgment first hand, as born again witnesses in His Kingdom (**which is exactly where I believe they will be**), they will have absolutely no difficulty understanding this ETERNAL TRUTH and Satan’s ultimate fate.
3. Contrary to what its advocates assert, nowhere does the Bible teach that God’s final condemnation of the defiant provides even a small measure of compassion with it. In truth, both the law and the prophets, as well as the gospels themselves provide tangible examples of the Almighty meeting out His judgment without even a faint hint of pity. (See: Deuteronomy. 32:41, Jeremiah, 13:14 & Matthew 18:21-35). Furthermore, in an epistle that bears his name, the half brother of Jesus Christ specifically wrote that condemnation is a verdict totally incompatible with mercy as opposed to a companion of it. (See: James 2:13)
4. Contrary to what its advocates assert regarding Jesus’ admonition to His followers concerning loving their enemies, His words aren’t even an oblique reference to God’s approach toward Satan and for anyone to butcher one of the Messiah’s most sacred utterances as was done in this particular argument is disgraceful. There isn’t one syllable in the Scriptures in support of it.

Furthermore, while these advocates make every attempt to redefine how the Almighty executes His final judgment of Satan by portraying it as an “act of **love** intended on putting him out of his misery for his own good,” the apostle Paul offered a far different picture. When writing to the Church at Rome he stated dogmatically that:

**“LOVE abhors that which is EVIL
and cleaves to that which is GOOD.”**

Romans12:9

These words should leave little doubt concerning God’s opinion of the force behind every atrocity ever committed. Simply put, God HATES the one responsible for each and every one of them and His contempt will be graphically expressed in Satan’s **merciless fate**—Eternal TORMENT beginning in a blazing inferno (Revelation 20:10) where he will be forced by divine justice to watch the fruits of his **evil** go up in smoke followed by his exile into a place of infinite darkness (and silence) throughout eternity never to be seen or heard from again (See: Argument X).

A Cautionary Warning

With that said, it genuinely pains me to offer the following to anyone who has succumbed to this particular argument not to mention this entire doctrine. In truth I cannot emphasize enough that after an exhaustive and thoroughly objective investigation of this NEW THEOLOGY it simply does not comport with Biblical orthodoxy. Simply put, it is **TOTALLY FALSE**.

A Final Thought

Perhaps the greatest indignity proffered in this particular argument is that It actually diminishes the immense value of LOVE itself and how the Great God of Eternity expresses this wonderful quality as well as on whom it is **rightfully** and **righteously** bestowed.

The Scriptures speak prolifically about LOVE. They reveal what it is and what it is not. God’s WORD also explains how one may receive it as well as lose it. It identifies those who have it and those who don’t.

The apostle Paul explained that this one quality held the highest position among all spiritual gifts even eclipsing faith and hope in preeminence (See: I Corinthians 13:13). He also referred to it as a “bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:14). Jesus once identified it as the GREATEST commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) while the apostle John wrote that it was a one word definition of God Himself (I John 4:8).

The Scriptures tell us that David LOVED God’s law (Psalm 119:97) that GOD the Father LOVES His human family (John 3:16), that Jesus LOVES His Church (Ephesians 5:25), and that His saints can be identified by the LOVE they have for each other (John: 13:35). When writing to the Church at Corinth Paul described LOVE as the ultimate SUPER POWER (See: I Corinthians 13). When presenting its extraordinary features, he confidently proclaimed that it is more formidable than the gift of prophecy or the ability to command the forces of nature (verse 2). It is more valuable than wealth—even wealth dedicated to philanthropy (verse 3).

Paul went on to say that love is greater than intellect and wisdom combined (verse 2) and has a staying power greater than prophecy, knowledge and language itself (verse 8). He also revealed how LOVE is manifested in the lives of those who have it and how it is demonstrably evident in what they CHERISH as well as what they **HATE** (Romans 12:9).

Add to this is the fact that genuine LOVE is reflected in the lives of the saints and can be observed in their **patience** and **kindness**, their **humility** and **modesty**, their **deference toward virtue** and their **respect of truth** (I Corinthians 13: 4-7).

However, perhaps love’s most powerful endorsement comes from the pen of Saint Paul himself who wrote that:

“LOVE NEVER FAILS”

I Corinthians. 13:8

The reason for this timeless axiom is really quite simple. Contrary to what the advocates of this new doctrine falsely assert, mercy and compassion do not come in lower grades in order for them to be conveniently dispensed to those who will never be a part of God’s Kingdom. In truth, **the only thing the condemned will ever receive in judgment** is SHAME and EVERLASTING CONTEMPT as the scriptures require (See: Daniel 12: 2)—a consequence God declared they had “procured unto themselves” (See: Jeremiah 2:17,19).

The plain Biblical truth is that God’s **love**, His **mercy**, His **forgiveness**, and even **salvation** itself is always bestowed in **full measure** by an infinite God—and those who receive these priceless treasures will always have reason to be thankful and rejoice—knowing that each one of them will be employed in the service of an infinite KINGDOM and its infinite KING.

What is Satan's Fate?

The Last Word A Brief Review

Dear Friends,

Can spirit die? Furthermore, is DEATH the ultimate fate of Satan the devil? According to a growing number in God's Church, including some of its leading figures, the answer is an unqualified YES. But is this true? Let's review the arguments they present.

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that because Paul wrote that only God has immortality, angels are somehow subject to corruption and therefore can be eradicated. What they fail to acknowledge is that when Paul wrote those words he wasn't contrasting God to angels. He was contrasting Him to mankind. Furthermore, Paul's proof that mankind wasn't immortal was the fact that humans couldn't see God or His spiritual realm—something angels are fully capable of. In other words, they passed that test. (See: Argument I)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that because man can destroy everything he creates, God must be able to do the same. Therefore, He will always be able to destroy spirit. What they fail to acknowledge is that God is perfectly capable of creating the infinite—something beyond destruction. He has done so in the past and He has given His word He will do so again in the future. (See: Argument II)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that because Paul said that "The wages of sin is death," Satan must die—because he is the "original sinner." What they fail to acknowledge is that Paul specifically stated that his words ONLY pertained to human beings—NOT spirit beings. (See: Argument III)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that the spirit in man is no different than a spirit being. Therefore, if God can destroy both the body and soul (spirit), as Jesus said, then He can destroy all angelic creatures as well. After all, spirit is spirit. What they fail to acknowledge is that when Jesus spoke of God destroying both body and soul He was ONLY speaking of the human body and its mind and He made that point abundantly clear. (See: Argument IV)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that because Christ became mortal, the same thing can happen to Satan. What they fail to acknowledge is that God's word specifically states that the only way a spirit being can become mortal is to be BORN into the corruptible realm ("BORN of the flesh"). Furthermore, they fail to acknowledge that such a

birth has **ONLY and will ONLY** happen to Christ—a point the apostle John made unequivocally. (See; Argument V)

Those who embrace this new doctrine imply that death came by Satan even though the scriptures say it came by Adam. (See: Arguments III & V)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that when God told Satan that a descendant of Eve would “bruise his head,” He meant that the Messiah would kill him. What they fail to acknowledge is that virtually every Bible commentary on the subject states that God was referring to Satan’s rule over mankind being crushed—not that he would die. (See: Argument VI)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that when God expelled Satan from the third heaven, He pronounced a death sentence on him. What they fail to acknowledge is that Messiah specifically stated that He (Jesus) was an eye witness to this event and that the extent of God’s action was Satan being CAST OUT of GOD’S KINGDOM—not that he was threatened with execution. Additionally, when revealing this truth, Jesus was conveying the same authority to the apostles—the authority to cast out demons, not KILL them. (See: Argument VII)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that when God said “Never shall you be any more,” He was speaking to Satan. What they fail to acknowledge is that God was actually referring to the prince of Tyre (a man) and the fate of a city—NOT the king of Tyre (Satan) as these advocates incorrectly assert. (See: Argument VIII)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that Satan will die in the second death. What they fail to explain is why he never dies a first time. Furthermore, they NEVER explain why every human being who is cast into the Lake of Fire will have died at least once during their normal (MORTAL EXISTENCE) while every demon will **ONLY** have experienced prolonged confinement—NOT death. (See: Argument VIII)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that when demons asked Jesus if He had come to “torment” them before the time, they were referring to their impending death in the Lake of Fire. What they fail to acknowledge is that the demons themselves specifically stated that their torment actually came from the futility of confinement—not death. (See: Argument IX)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that Jude 13 is addressing the issue of apostate teachers as opposed to fallen angels. What they fail to acknowledge is that it was Jude himself who specifically likened these apostates to the “wandering stars” mentioned

in the book of Enoch and that Enoch specifically revealed them to be “fallen angels whose [ultimate] fate is to be imprisoned FOREVER.” (See: Argument X)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that Jesus’ intent when He said angels cannot die was only that God’s saints in the resurrection will be made of spirit—not that angels are immortal. What they fail to acknowledge is that the Messiah NEVER mentioned the composition of angels but did specifically mention their IMMORTALITY and directly likened it to what man would experience in God’s Kingdom. (See: Argument XI)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that God would have to be held personally responsible if He “CAUSED” Satan to be tormented for all eternity as opposed to being mercifully put out of his misery. Additionally, they claim that only a cruel and “vindictive tyrant” would subject him to an eternal existence of pain and suffering. What they fail to acknowledge is that both Paul and God Himself stated that the sinner is TOTALLY responsible for the consequences imposed on him—NOT God. Furthermore, these advocates fail to acknowledge that Satan’s fate is specifically articulated in the Scriptures as being “tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (See: Arguments XII & XIII)

Those who embrace this new doctrine imply that when Jesus asked His Father to forgive His tormentors, He was also appealing to Him to have pity on Satan and his demons as well. What they fail to acknowledge is that Christ’s prayer was ONLY directed for the benefit of those who sin out of ignorance “Father forgive them for the KNOW NOT what they do.” Furthermore, these advocates fail to acknowledge that Christ’s sacrifice, and the mercy that inspired it, was never intended for those who sin willfully despite the fact that the book of Hebrews makes that point very clear. (See: Argument XIV)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that God bestows mercy on everyone—including the devil. They even assert that Satan’s ultimate fate, which they falsely claim to be death is actually an expression of God’s compassion on him to “end his suffering.” What they fail to acknowledge is that it was God Himself who declared that the ALMIGHTY only extends mercy to His people while He exacts vengeance on their enemies. (See: Argument XIV)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that God’s mercy and compassion are also expressed in condemnation. What they fail to acknowledge is that God’s Word says just the opposite. The Bible declares with GREAT FORCE that mercy and compassion are ONLY expressed in forgiveness and redemption. Furthermore, God’s Word states with equal FORCE that these wonderful gifts CANNOT harmoniously coexist with judgment (Damnation). You either receive one or the other—**NEVER BOTH**. (See: Argument XIV)

Those who embrace this new doctrine claim that not only does God love Satan, but that He desires His people to love him as well and when doing so they are to bless him and pray for him. What they fail to acknowledge is that every syllable in Scripture not only expresses God's utter contempt for this despicable monster, but also warns His people to have ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to do with him. (See: Argument XV)

What is the Truth?

Virtually every argument promoting the belief that Satan's ultimate fate is DEATH is built on personal theories disguised as Biblical truth. This is not to suggest that the advocates of this new doctrine are deliberately misleading God's people. Unfortunately, the result is just the same.

With that said, is there a reliable narrative regarding Satan and his ultimate destiny—one that doesn't require spin? Fortunately, the answer is yes. Consider the REAL FACTS concerning the spirit realm and how God will ultimately deal with Satan and his demons.

Real Fact 1

At some point in the vast expanse of eternity God created the angelic realm. Furthermore, He made them from spirit and as such they were incorruptible. In other words, they were created out of the very fabric of God's eternal domain. At this point it is interesting to note that there has NOT been one fatality in the angelic kingdom. This is even more remarkable when one considers that they have been alive for possibly BILLIONS of years.

Real Fact 2

At some later point God created the physical realm and eventually the human family. When doing so He made mankind out of corruptible matter (Gen. 2:7)—He made animals out of corruptible matter as well (See: Genesis 1: 20-21, 24-25). In other words, like the angels, mankind was made out of the fabric of his realm. At this point, it is interesting to note that as corruptible beings, virtually every physical creature ever created has or will eventually die. (See: Hebrews 9:27)

Real Fact 3

God's Word reveals that the ONLY way man can enter into the spirit realm is to be BORN into it (John 3:1-3). When that birth takes place, His human family will shed the mortality of the physical realm and put ON the immortality of the spiritual dimension (1 Corinthians 15: 51-53). In that state, mankind will be like every spirit being in existence—he will be incorruptible (Luke 20:36).

Real Fact 4

God's Word also reveals that the ONLY way a spirit being can become a literal member of the physical realm is to be BORN into it as well. Furthermore, despite any argument to the contrary, there is **absolutely no provision** in the Scriptures making it possible for spirit beings to be supernaturally **“transformed,” “transferred,” “changed”** or **“converted”** into corruptible beings, and thus subject to death. Furthermore, it is absolutely certain that no such thing ever happened to Christ as a part of His incarnation. On the contrary, God's Word **BOLDLY** declares that every physical birth must be of a woman (including the Messiah's) (See: Genesis 3:20, 1 Corinthians 11:11).

Real Fact 5

The Scriptures also state that in order for man to be BORN into the **spiritual realm** he must first be begotten by God's Holy Spirit. The same is true for a spirit being and their birth into the physical realm.

Real Fact 6

God's Word declares that ONLY one spirit being in history has ever experienced such a begetting and subsequent birth—Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the apostle John stated unequivocally that He was the ONLY incorruptible being that will EVER have been BORN into the corruptible realm. (See: John 1:14)

Real Fact 7

The Scriptures declare with GREAT force that the Almighty is a RIGHTEOUS God. As such He requires moral purity from all His subjects. This applies to both angels and humans.

Real Fact 8

The Scriptures also reveal that those who refuse to submit to God's moral authority will ultimately be cast into a Lake of Fire where they will suffer God's eternal judgment. Once again, this applies to both human beings and spirit beings. Furthermore, the result of this judgment will be overwhelming and INFINITE. Mankind will PHYSICALLY experience the effects of this inferno, while Satan and his demons will experience its impact on a SPIRITUAL level. In both cases God's judgment is permanent and unwavering. This now brings us to the CORE of the issue.

What actually happens to those who are cast into the Lake of Fire?

If one relies solely on the authority of Scripture, this question isn't even difficult. However, if one relies on personal theories DISGUISED as Biblical absolutes, there is no telling where he or she might wind up. With that said, here is the **PURE UNADULTERATED TRUTH** straight from God's Word—beginning with mankind.

Real Fact 9

When speaking EXCLUSIVELY of the human family, the apostle Paul revealed that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Although some claim that Paul's words actually apply to everyone who sins (human or spirit), this is **TOTALLY FALSE**. Furthermore, those who believe this myth can't find ONE verse that makes such a claim. In truth, when Paul wrote this pronouncement, he specifically stated that his words ONLY pertained to mankind, NOT spirit kind (See: verse 19).

The bottom line is this. The eternal consequence of HUMAN sin is DEATH. It is actually referred to as the "second death" (Revelation 20:6). This is because every human that suffers this fate will have already died once before (Hebrews 9:27).

What about Satan?

This now brings us to the fate of Satan and his demons—and as much as some contend that they will be changed into physical beings and burned to death in a Lake of Fire, God's Word TOTALLY rejects this theory (See: Argument V). With that said, HERE IS SATAN'S FATE.

Real Fact 10

The Scriptures declare that like defiant humans, Satan and his demons will also pay an eternal price for their rebellion. Furthermore, God's Word declares what that price will be—and like man it involves a massive inferno. These defiant spirits will be cast into this inferno and forced to watch the absolute destruction of every evil they have ever perpetrated. This will be their first moments of what the Bible calls ETERNAL TORMENT (See: Revelation 20: 10).

The apostle John expressed it this way.

Revelation 20:10

New English Translation

“And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*; and they, *Satan and his demons*, shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity.”

One Last Pronouncement

Ultimately, the Lake of Fire will burn out. At that point, Satan and his diabolical cohorts will be consigned to a place beyond the new heavens and the new earth—a place literally outside the universe. The Scriptures refer to it as “the blackness of darkness” (See: Jude 13). It is there, that this insidious enemy and his evil companions will wander without purpose for all eternity (See: Enoch 18:11-15, 21:7-10). This is the divine justice that awaits these once majestic beings. Sadly, it is a fate of their own making. (See: Jeremiah 2:17, 19)

A Final Thought

Finally, as the last chapter of history's most evil villain comes to an end, GOD'S ETERNAL FAMILY may rest assured knowing that they will never have to deal with this despicable adversary again. In truth, once the ALMIGHTY'S final judgment is imposed on him, Satan will play no part in eternity. Furthermore, he will leave absolutely no legacy. His tyrannical rule will finally be destroyed. His governments crushed and every scheme he has ever imagined decimated. His merciless fate will be eternal exile in a desolate place—a place where there is no hope. However, one thing is for certain, it is there that he will be as good as dead.

P.S. As for the Father's Beloved Saints, their GLORIOUS Fate is only Beginning.