

Cosmic Finale

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COSMIC FINALE

Unedited version

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Chapter 1

The Reunion

The telephone rang.

"Hello."

"Hello, is that you Allen" the voice inquired?

"Yah, Jacob is that you?"

"It sure is, I just heard you're back in town; how was your year? I didn't get a chance to talk with you at Christmas break but I tried to keep abreast as best I could through your Mother"

Allen responded, "It was really great. Now that I have the whole summer off, can we get together and talk about it?"

"Well that's why I'm calling. Something's come up that I'm really excited about. My wife has a brother with a mountain hideaway tucked way back in pristine forest country high in the mountains of West Virginia, miles from anywhere. We were there years ago and found it a paradise. He informed me that he wasn't using it because of health reasons and wondered if I could make use of it.

I had already told Rachel of my idea and that excited her; she encouraged me to go for it, even though she can't make a trip like that. So I jumped at the offer and ask him if he thought it would be OK if I

took some friends along and he said no problem. If I remember right it has lots of room, a fresh water spring and a beautiful crystal clear lake for fishing and you know how I love that.

"It got me thinking, and here's the idea: I wondered if some that were with us that night at my house when that astonishing incident happened would be interested in getting together; do you remember that night?"

"Do I remember, you bet. The power went out in the storm and everyone appeared frozen in time? Man it was astounding and then even weirder when it was over and we all told how that darkness seemed to seize our minds and even though it was only for a short time, it appeared unending? I don't know how many times I thought about it for a while but recently not so much.

"Right," then Jacob added "That's when you brought out that remarkable earring that banished the darkness. Often that event has been the focus of discussions I've been in but never by just that group alone; this may be a great occasion."

"Yah, that would be cool Jacob and the earring, I still wear it." Allen reached up and gently touched the stone that was embedded in the gold setting. He said people often commented on it especially when sometimes it briefly reflected an unusual brilliance.

Jacob commented, "That experience was something Allen but do you still recall the conversation you and I had later about the meaning of it?"

"I do, you thought it pointed toward the future, that something would happen to me and perhaps include you; an event that would further clarify what was behind all the mystery and if I recall, there was a second part too, something about a connection with the third member of the triune council. Like I said I thought about it a lot for a while but it slowly faded as I went off to university. Wrestling, studies, clubs and all the other demands on my time crowded it out of my thinking, man it's so easy to fill your life with immediate demands and forget what's really important. I'm glad to see you didn't let it get crowded out of your memory."

"Well Allen it's been quite a while now and as far as giving any speculation, or more understanding, nothing has developed that I can add to the vague conclusion we reached, that it was future. But Theos does have ways of working that often surprise us, right? A grunt of agreement sounded from Allen.

"Anyway I had this wacky idea that maybe You, Corry, Jim and the others that were there that night might find it cool [to use your term] to get together. When this opportunity emerged, I contacted the gang and suggested that mountain getaway as a perfect setting to talk

about old times: that bunch was such a special treat to be with and I rarely get to see them individually any more, never mind together.

"Now as ridiculous as it might sound Allen, everyone I've contacted thinks it's a great idea and their willing to make arrangements to go, you're the last one I had to call. So when I heard you were home; well, here's the call. What do you think, would you join us; it's the last week in July? I've tentatively made arrangements to rent a mini bus so we can all go together. Jim's agreed to drive and Aaron will help. We think we can make it in fifteen to twenty hours. The details will work out I'm sure." Without any reservations Allen responded "Count me in."

Chapter 2

The Departure

The date and time for departure arrived and with much anticipation Allen said goodbye to his Mother and sister, climbed into the family car next to dad and headed for the gathering place arranged for the exodus.

Allen felt a sense of excitement begin to grow as they approached a minibus waiting in the shopping center's parking lot. There was Jacob; Tilley hat, army fatigues and even a fully packed knap sack sitting at the edge of the van. What a striking individual he was, at 80 plus years. No one ever took him for his age.

His father stopped the car and as they got out Jacob was right there to meet them. Allen's dad shook his hand and voiced a hearty hello.

Allen hadn't connected with Jacob for so long that it was just natural to get into that firm comforting embrace of this old saint; man it felt good. After that initial greeting Allen looked around and was

overcome with delight to see all his friends. Again warm and friendly handshakes, high fives and vocal acknowledgements were in order.

Then something unexpected happened. Allen had a new experience, he gazed at what he thought was the most stunning, beautiful girl he had ever seen and he wanted to say hello but it stuck in his throat. Finally pulling himself together he got out the words --- "Conny---Hi---ah---great to see you." He felt embarrassed at his action.

"Hello Allen it's been quite a while since we last saw each other."

It's not that Allen hadn't noticed females before but for some reason Conny looked different. Thank goodness; his awkward situation was interrupted.

"O.K. everyone let's get things together and be on our way." Jacob's friendly direction worked.

Everyone began scurrying around and finally the van was loaded and ready to roll.

Allen waved to his dad, as he had waited for the departure; then turned and sat down next to, guess who? That connection slowly grew into a pleasant life sharing since their last meeting.

The trip was rather tiresome and uneventful and the eight occupants sang, slept, talked, read and did the normal things you do on a long trek like this. As they entered the state of West Virginia the sun was beginning to rise. The two drivers had taken turns driving

throughout the night and now the mountainous terrain began to make itself felt. They had turned off the interstate and were travelling on some back country roads that at times were quite narrow and bordered by spine tingling drop-offs hundreds if not thousands of feet below. Allen found himself torn between the thrill of viewing these frequent chasms that took his breath away and the alternate break of just engaging a book or something else to occupy his fearful thoughts of crashing over the edge.

A close eye was kept on the map that Jacob's brother in law had drawn as no G.P.S. was available; carefully they were trying to avoid any wrong turns. But even with the careful attention given to that chore they found themselves on a road that began to resemble more of a path than a road as it funneled them into an unmanageable blockage. Jim couldn't proceed any further and stopped the mini. Everyone looked at each other in stunned disbelief. How could this happen? "Where's that map" he snapped, "I thought you had it," replied Aaron. Both looked frantically for the map, then all joined but it was nowhere to be found.

Jacob spoke up in his usual calm and firm voice, "O.K. just be calm and let's see what we can do." "Sorry Aaron for losing my cool" Jim admitted to Aaron; "but man this is the pits." A nod of Aaron's head confirmed acknowledgement.

Chapter 3

Unexpected Welcome

The brush and trees on both sides of the van were so dense that it was almost impossible to open a door. However, with careful effort of twists and turns all were able to exit and move to the back, gathering on the path. As a discussion proceeded between Jacob and Jim, it was decided to try and back the van up. Jim remembered an area that he thought would allow him to turn around but it was a long way back.

As the discussion continued a cracking sound like the breaking of a branch abruptly silenced the conversation. Everyone froze. There was another one, then, slowly out of the thick underbrush emerged the muzzle of a gun aimed right at the stunned group. "Don't move ya all." The voice had an exaggerated southern drawl. Then a second muzzle appeared. Slowly two characters from out of a Hollywood movie emerged. Mountain men! Do they really exist in this day and age?

"Is this for real" Allen whispered in Conny's ear. A quick look in Allen direction quickly caused him to shut his mouth. The intruders eyes were sharp and their hearing obviously equally keen. They both

had long unkept beards, vast heads of hair; one quite silver and the other a rusty red, both had patched overalls, tattered shirts and wearing moccasin on their feet.

"What's ya all doin harr, who are ya", the grey hair one demanded? The tone of his voice sounded like a supreme court judge passing out a guilty verdict; you drew yourself to attention and you listened carefully.

A lengthy pause developed, then gently but briefly, Jacob spoke up and told them who we were and what had happen; that we made a mistake in reading our map. The two [out of the movies characters] looked at each other and nodded, then lowered their guns. Next they inquired where we were headed and a description of our destination was explained to them. "Ya all mean the Franklin place?" With a great look of surprise Jacob answered immediately, "Yes", "how'd you know about that"? Words began forming slowly on the grey haired ones lips "We all know these har mountuns like the palm of our hands, ain't many folk live these far up the mountun; the Franklin place be just over yonder, we'll take ya thare."

"But what about the van, we just can't leave it here", ask Jacob? "Just get your gear and leave the macheen ta us." The way these guys spoke seemed friendly but also very much in control to the point you

better listen or they may disappear as quickly as they appeared, leaving a greater problem than any at the present moment.

We all gathered our gear and as the grey bearded one motioned us to follow; we set out for the Franklin Place.

It was obvious the leader knew where he was going. We traversed obstacles, waded through streams, climbed steep embankments, used up all our strength and finally stopped beside a plunging waterfall cascading over huge cliffs that jutted out from the side of a mountain. "Ya all better take a rest", our leader announced. Everyone just collapsed for a few moments and then in unison looked at each other and ran towards the cool refreshing stream much like a bunch of school kids just released for recess. All tension seemed to ebb and a sense of calmness emerged among the crew. "You know, chuckled Joy I think these guys are angels in disguise".

Though meant as a joke, Allen rolled that thought over in his mind. It began to dawn on him that maybe this is more than just a week away with friends. Maybe there's more behind it. When the time was right, he'd talk with Jacob about it.

After a brief refreshing and a snack they were off again. The terrain leveled off a bit and they came upon a most beautiful lake surrounded by tall majestic pines that had never been plagued by woodmen's axes or saws. And there along one side was a cabin. Not you're run of the

mill country cabin but a stunning 'A' frame sitting on a flat raised rock overlooking that mirror. That's what the lake resembled a huge reflective visible image of its surroundings. Though the far end of the lake couldn't be seen it was calm as glass as far as the eye could see.

"There she be, the Franklin Place" our guide announced. "Ain't nobody lived in it for yaars." That statement seemed odd to Jacob because he thought his brother in law had used it quite frequently but not this year and that's why he had offered it to him.

"Ya all can get thare by yur selves now" and with that instruction the two [movie mountain men] turned and headed into the woods. There was a sense of loss and sadness that came over the group as they watched their rescuers fade from view.

Again Jacob brought us back to reality and said "well let's head for the cabin."

Standing in front of the cabin they all stopped and gazed at the view. Like so many times in Allen's life and all the others, words fail to work. It was more felt than telt.

Chapter 4

Unexplainable

After their minds became saturated with this vista, it was decided to go inside. As they turned toward the entrance, they were shocked; the door swung open by its self; full of apprehension they peered inside. Amazement enveloped the whole troop. The mountain men said no one had used this place for a long time so how could this be, how could this happen? These questions though not voiced out loud crowded everyone's mind---but why did they ask these questions: because the table was set; full place servings and piping hot bowls of mashed potatoes, vegetables, meat platters, drinks, you name it? A feast!

Jim let out a sound of exclamation that voiced everyone initial reaction "What the?" everyone was overcome with this amazing sight.

Jacob cleared his throat and asked this significant question, or was it a perception, "Do you sense we're in another realm?" I've been noticing ever since we arrived that things are familiar but different. I noticed the trees, they looked almost perfect, no dead branches no

fallen rotting logs, lush underbrush but easy to walk through and the lake; I've never seen one so pristine and even the wild flowers surrounding its perimeter are outstanding with their blooms and vivid colors. Now look at this cottage. If no one has been here for years how in the world do you explain the condition of the furniture, the clear clean windows, shiny floors and look at those chandeliers their breathtaking. I'm not sure how we are to interpret all this except to embrace it, be grateful for it and see where it leads. Someone knew we were coming"

Conny confessed, "Jacob I'm both scary and excited at the same time". "I hear you my dear and I'm feeling the same way" he replied.

The question soon surfaced, "what do you think we should do next?"

Slowly they sampled the tantalizing aromas that drifted toward them from the table.

"Let's eat!"

Everyone knew where that directive came from: Aaron was well known for his incredible appetite. Memories came back from the times he devoured Rebecca's goodies she presented when the group met at her home. "Sound like a great idea Aaron", agreed Allen. The group hadn't eaten very much since they exited the van and the hike to the cottage was exhausting and they were tired and hungry. Thankfully

they took off their knapsacks, laid down their walking sticks and other garb they were carrying and sat down around the table. It wasn't long until their plates were full from this inconceivable spread. Soon conversation ebbed and flowed and the joy of this encounter rang throughout the cottage.

Everyone had finished when an unusual incident occurred; No one spoke a word. An uncanny silence seized the moment. Suddenly the door opened from the direction of the kitchen. Beings emerged! To use words to accurately describe them would be like trying to describe a sunset. They resembled humans in form but they didn't walk, they glided; you could see right through them. Their faces were quite normal and reflected a friendly smile, their eyes almost seemed to dance as they acknowledged each one seated with an accompanying friendly nod. They moved in silence, not a sound; the one that seemed to be in charge motioned to those at the table to remain seated. There were six of them and they went right to work gathering up the plates, forks and knives, spoons, cups and serving dishes, transporting them to the assumed kitchen. Remembering the leader's request, all those sitting around the table just remained still in utter amazement at what was happening.

When the table was cleared and the last server exited, the door to the kitchen shut, eight mouths around the table shut too. All had been sitting with jaws dropped open like a patient in a dentist chair.

Well now I know we're in another domain" announced Jacob. "Wait, before you say anything else Jacob, I want to see something" interrupted Allen. He got up off his chair and walked toward the kitchen door. He slowly opened it, looked in then turned toward the group, smiled and announced this revelation; "I knew it, there's no one there and the place is spotless." The way Allen said that bust the tension bubble and everyone roared with laughter. All the pent up emotions spill out loud like a field goal that won a championship football game.

The rest of the night was spent in conversation full of wonder, what's this all about, where are we, what's going to happen next? Everyone was totally exhausted but no one wanted to go to bed. Soon however wisdom and exhaustion did prevail over questions and answers; so each person retired to a room that perfectly fit their liking. Not all rooms were the same. Each one just seemed to reflect the occupant's needs. That 'cool' word seemed to describe it well. What an introduction to an unknown adventure to come. Everyone could feel it.

Allen's mind was spinning as he began to seriously think this was part of the earlier conversation he had with Jacob about something

more he was going to learn about the Kingdom of light and especially the third person of the heavenly council. Being as quiet as he could he climbed out of bed and quietly proceeded to Jacob's room. The door was ajar and Allen could see he was reading by a small night light beside his bed. Even that was remarkable because no power lines were seen to service the cottage.

Allen whispered "Jacob can I come in?" "Of course, I was expecting you and I bet I know what you've been thinking." "Well do you think this is connected to---" "He didn't get a chance to finish. "Without a doubt" reassured Jacob. "I can hardly wait to see what's next." "Me too" with those encouraging words Allen announced, "I'm going back to bed" Jacob chuckled and mused ..."sleep tight, if you can."

Chapter 5

Building More Mystery

Morning arrived at this new and strange surrounding. And it started off with another event that restarted everyone's motor running at top speed just like last night's surprise. Eight people all entered the dining area at once. That's right, at once. Looks of wonderment were written across each face. Not knowing what to say to respond to this quirk, everyone just exhibited an ear to ear smile. Then Jacob humorously asked the question, couldn't sleep ah? What else could they do but respond with a round of laughter; then as they stood there an exclamation broke into their enjoyment "Great Scott!" That was one of Aaron's favorite expressions; followed by "breakfast is served!" There, just like the evening meal; platters of pancakes, sausage and real maple syrup graced the table top. What else to do but sit down, give thanks and enjoy. Of course the first set of questions that emerged while everyone was loading up was; how come we all got up at the same time and not only got up but got dressed, prettied up and arrived here together? "I heard something

like an alarm clock go off" answered Joy. "Me too" chimed in Jim. All heads were nodding in agreement. "Not only did it go off but I was unable to remain in the bed, it seemed I was almost helped to get out and get going," confessed Allen; all heads continued to nod. Jacob was ask, what do you make of this?

"Well needless to say I've been full of wonder and my questions number in the infinite. It's obvious this realm is similar but different than our own. As we've seen up to this point the others that inhabit this domain are friendly toward us. All of you that have looked at the ancient book with me and listened to Allen's adventures know such things are possible, and it seems to me for whatever reason we're being privileged to experience something new and exciting for us. My hope is that when it's finished, our view of Theos is further developed and so imbedded in our life that it will enable us to transfer it into the lives of others that are void of His love and what He is really like. I've always thought all of you have great potential for this life giving assignment. The way I've watched you live, mature and interact with those you come in contact with has been rewarding for me. Let's, be vigilant, and see what new understanding Theos has in mind for us. I think we better fasten our seat belts. Eat up!"

After finishing breakfast, sure enough the other world friends appeared and were admired as they swiftly and quietly removed

everything. As they exited, the group just sat and looked at each other in their usual I don't believe it stare, until Jacob played his usual roll as referee in this waiting game.

"In the mean time, I'm going fishing."

"What, you're going fishing" echoed Allen.

"Yes, did you see those beautiful fishing poles over there in the corner?" There, just beside the door leading to the porch stood a rack of numerous and different types of rods and reels. "Someone must fish in this lake or why would there be gear available?" As Jacob walked over and carefully scanned the display he also noticed a tackle box and upon opening he was amazed at the selection of lures and artificial bate displayed.

"This is getting better all the time" Jacob remarked with a child like tone. He chose a pole picked up the tackle box and started out the door.

"Do you mind if I come with you?" Allen requested "and me too" asked Conny, "I love to fish". "Of course" answered Jacob, "anyone else?" No other takers responded. "Well, stay alert in whatever you do," he cautioned the others "and I suggest you not venture anywhere alone."

The trio, poles in hand headed out the door and zeroed in on the dock protruding out into the pristine water.

"Hey Jacob, slow down" Allen pleaded "you got a real spark in your step.

"Allen, I haven't said anything but I can't believe how I feel. I don't talk much about it but I've had quite a few physical problems plaguing me recently; you know old age and all" he chuckled.

"Well I did notice a few times that you were having difficulty staying up with everyone on the hike from the van". "Yes it was almost more than I could handle. But ever since I woke up this morning I feel like a new man, all the aches and limitations seem to be gone. The longer I'm here the more things are different. I'm both surprised but also full of wonder."

"I know what you mean Jacob," Conny sided into the conversation." I wonder what's going to happen next."

"Well it's too exciting to just sit around and wait, it seems we are to explore and discover and that's a fun way to live," Jacob conclude the dialogue.

Chapter 6

The First Threat of Resident Danger

At the dock was a small fishing boat. It had two oars but no motor. "Do you think we should take the boat and row out a little Jacob or should we fish from the dock," inquired Conny?

"I can row" offered Allen.

"O.K., lets row, I mean go" giggled Jacob.

They climbed into the boat and Allen was about to place the oars in their locks when suddenly the craft began to move forward on its own.

Allen called out, "Woe, what going on?"

"I don't know but I think we're being taken somewhere," was Jacob's guess.

Their transport moved along at a comfortable pace and headed toward the other side of the lake. About a hundred feet from the shore it stopped. The trio just sat there waiting for something more to happen but nothing become evident.

"Well this must be the place to catch fish." Jacob said with a voice that sounded partly humorous and partly dumbfounded. So the tackle

box was opened and Allen watched as Jacob and Conny selected lures and secured them to their lines. He thought he would just wait and see what happened. He wasn't much of a fisher guy anyway but he came because he wanted to stay close to Jacob and being close to Conny wasn't a bad idea either.

The boat was quite comfortable and had lots of room for casting without worrying about hooking others. First Conny [you could tell she had done this before] made a successful toss out from the front of the boat. Then Jacob followed with his award winning fling. "Hey you guys are good," praised Allen. No sooner had the lures hit the water than both of their poles bent and in unison each let out an exclamation, 'got one!' Man, Allen thought, this is crazy; one cast and both have fish? "What a fighter" Jacob exclaimed. "Ya me too", echoed Conny. As they succeeded in reeling in their prize and getting them into the boat without a net, the next thing was to release the lure from their mouth.

A startling discovery, each of the fish had a strange looking, shiny piece of metal in its mouth, not the lure but something else. Carefully removing it and trying to determine what it was, their examination revealed this mind bending observation; an earring, each one had an earring! An even closer look was equally startling; they were very similar to the one Allen wore. The stone was elegant and reflected short bursts of brilliance.

A boat transporting them across the lake with no motor, both catching a fish on the first cast, an earring in each of the fish's mouths, each a duplicate of Allen's; the three minds were staggering with big time wonderment; this was almost too much.

Finally after some brief conversation, Jacob asked the question that he thought might help clear the air. "Allen in your telling about your fist adventure to the Kingdom of light and the Kingdom of darkness, you told about the role the earring played in its relationship to the Kingdom beings; can you tell that again?"

Allen paused and said "To describe its use as I saw it, I would say it protects from danger or evil, by connecting to Theos in some way. All the Kingdom people had one. And I remember when Michael the angel lost his during the battle with Vulpine, he was almost defeated. Also, my discovery of it, during my escape with Legion gave us the chance to escape. So yah, protection, I think that's part of its role."

Then a look crossed Allen's face that both Conny and Jacob interpreted the same way: "do you think we're in danger?"

With that thought imbedded on each mind, a razor-sharp strip of intense lightning blazed just yards away from their only place of safety [a lone dingy in the middle of a lake]---some protection. The thunder clap that followed the streak was deafening and the trio cowered in

the bottom of their boat waiting for what might happen next; and it began 'right quick'.

The wind began to blow and enormous threatening clouds formed quickly over head. In the next moment from across the lake they could see it coming; like a huge grey wall in motion, great sheets of rain were bearing down on them. The boat began to lunge violently; they had to hang on for dear life. Conny screamed as out of nowhere a huge wave large enough to destroy the boat and its occupants loomed directly in front of her. It just seemed to stop, suspended, like it had a mind of its own bent on inflicting as much terror as possible into the trapped trio.

Chapter 7

Wonders from the Past

Wonder of wonder, suddenly they were no longer on the lake but beached up on the shore. It seemed like the boat and its content was propelled to safety. At the moment they didn't have time to talk about it they just quickly leaped out and ran inland until they came to a sheltered area beneath an overhanging cliff. It was tucked back behind a small hill and protected from the wind and rain, a secluded cave.

Soaked, breathless and exhausted they fell to the ground trying to recover some strength and make some sense out of this chaos.

Even though it was mid morning darkness had settled in around them. To their surprise a gentle warm glow began to fill their setting. Where did it come from? It soon became noticeable that its source was Allen earring. The observation twigged Allen to voice, "someone's stalking us, someone with evil on his mind;" "Vulpine", Conny mouthed? "You got it," Allen affirmed. "Somehow this earring is connected to the source of protection for me and now you have one too." "Oh no!" exclaimed Conny. "I think mine's still in the boat."

"I'm afraid mine is too" confessed Jacob. They both admitted they dropped them when that shattering bolt of lightning struck.

Allen made a quick decision. "I'll have to go back and see if I can find them, stay here and don't make any movement that isn't absolutely necessary." "Oh Allen be careful" pleaded Conny. Jacob inquired "are you sure you can do this?" "With my earring and the protection it has given me in the past, I think and hope it will see me through." A warm hug from each and off to the unknown was Allen's present mission.

He cautiously began his journey. He wasn't clear about what direction or the path they followed to get to the cave. The storm was very intense and they were just trying to find a safe haven, not taking time to remember land marks for eventually retracing their route. However, the rain had now ceased but the blackness still persisted. His astonishing earring seemed to direct him to a path he should take. He noticed a knoll just off to his right and he thought if he could climb to the top he may be able to see the lake, he felt confident as a path lead in that direction. After a rather strenuous climb he achieved the top and sure enough even with such poor visibility he could make it out. Fortunately it didn't appear that far away. His adrenalin was really flowing and his mind was in full throttle too as he carefully moved down toward the shore. As he approached where the boat was

grounded on the beach, he heard what sounded like voices. Who would be in these remote areas miles from nowhere? But then, there they were! He just held his breath and memories from the past flooded his consciousness. Duns! Those creepy little creatures robed in black with folded wings and beady red eyes peering out from under their hoods always responding mindlessly to the control of Vulpines remote.

Now some things began to fall into place. Yes, he and the others were in a different realm, yes this trip was more than coincidental, yes it appears this is a continuation of Legions word to him as he departed that afternoon on Jacob's porch, about more to come, yes Jacob's evaluation was right about that night of mystery when the light went out and the earring came to life. It was all beginning to make sense. But what's happening here? Why are the Duns approaching the boat?

The earrings, yes they're after them, he heard that reason revealed among them as he overheard their chatter. If they can get the earrings, our protection would be removed. His thoughts exposed a very scary conclusion; somehow what's happening is being monitored and we're in the midst of this Cosmic Conflict again.

What should he do? If they see me I'm done for and if I don't get the earring before them; he just buried that thought.

So he made a bold decision, he'd make a dash for the boat and hope to get there before them and if possible grab the earrings and try to out run the runts by racing at full speed into the woods. He took a deep breath, paused and dashed toward the boat. To his surprise the Dunns didn't make it a contest. They just kept moving at the same pace as when Allen first spotted them. Maybe they didn't see him yet, but he was in plain sight. Then he realized; they couldn't see him he was invisible to them. His earring gave off a light that prevent them from seeing him, just like in his escape. Wow, what an advantage he thought. So he rushed to the boat and there they were, two earrings faintly glowing in the bottom of the boat. He quickly grabbed them and placed them in his pocket. Carefully watching the Duns, he promptly retreated back into the woods. He was quite sure this wouldn't be their only encounter.

Chapter 8

Ring of Protection

As the surroundings were beginning to lighten, the glow from all the earrings extinguished. Allen finally reached the shelter and quietly called out to Conny and Jacob, but no answer. He called again with increased volume, still no reply. As he peered into the rear of the shelter he saw a small opening that led deeper. He moved toward the opening, it was tight but he could squeeze through. Strange as it might seem there was an eerie glimmering that lit up the way. As he continued forward, the passageway opened up to reveal a great cavern; all lit by a constant illumination from an unknown source. Allen thought he should call out again, his friends had seemed to just vanish and he wanted desperately to find them.

"Hello" no answer "Hello, the resounding echo, faded, he called one more time, "hello," and then this time along with his echo came another voice; it was Conny. "Over here." Allen looked in all directions as her echo bounced off the walls and he couldn't tell where her voice came from. Then he saw Conny and Jacob waving, they were standing

off to his left, on a stone conduit that bridged over a deep crevasse. A great feeling of relief enveloped Allen as he waded back and began to make his way across the narrow bridge to where they stood. Briefly Allen did take a quick glance down toward the bottom of the crevasse and for a brief moment had a flash back to his exposure to the 'dark region' lurking deep within the bowels of the earth---only blackness.

Achieving his goal led to a warm and intimate reunion between them.

Then Allen confessed, "Man, you guys put me in a panic mode, how come you didn't stay where I left you?"

"Allen, a very strange thing happened after you left. Conny and I were just trying to remain as quiet as possible waiting for your return, when, a very soft voice, like a whisper came from behind us telling us to come back farther into the cave as it would be safer. Of course we were reluctant but after talking about it, we both thought it might be a wise thing to do. We had no idea who or what was attached to that voice. Like so much of what happens here, many events are vastly different than normal. As we ventured farther back, it almost seemed like we were being directed by an unseen force. We were overcome with the vastness and uniqueness of this place but we decided to slowly move forward and that's pretty well all that has happened until

you caught up to us. Having you with us now creates a new pause as we wait for what's next. But what happened to you?"

Allen told them the details of his venture. They had heard of the Dunns from his story telling so it wasn't a complete shock. At the end of his account he pulled out the two earrings. "They're so exceptional" Conny remarked, as she tried to fasten one to her ear. It was strange but she couldn't seem to get it to stay, she tried again but no luck. "Try the other one" Allen suggested, and without any problem she fastened it securely. "What's that all about?" she inquired. "If I remember correctly, each recipient of an earring has their very own, no two are the same," answered Allen. "But there was an exception that I haven't been able to figure out. Vulpine posing as a doctor tricked me into giving mine to him as he convinced me my nightmares were caused from it. Then that encounter with Legion on Jacob's front porch; Legion giving me his--- at least I think it was his---anyway that scrambled my theory: as happened so often a tone of 'not sure' was evident in Allen's assessment "but I haven't had a nightmare since and on top of that I just experience it's protection back there when I approached the boat to retrieve yours. How's that for being mixed up? Just when I think I've got everything figure out in this story, something happens to change it.

"Now that's really coooool," an incredibly wide smile burst across Jacob's face, "I can't think of a better word than your favorite to describe this." I guess this one's for me" and he gently positioned his gem and with no problem secured it to his ear.

After this mini reunion finished, they continued across the bridge. Off in the distance they saw an opening. As they approached it, a pleasant surprise excited them: it appeared the outside world came into view. "Look at that," Allen called out, pointing in the direction of the gap; the trio headed for this encouraging sight.

Chapter 9

Formless and Void

The vista that met their eyes added to the many extraordinary encounters they had already experience.

It was a parched, arid landscape. There were trees but the leaves seemed dried up and their color was similar to the results expected from a severe drought or insect infested plague. There was evidence of once flowing rivers but now only a dry resemblance between crumbling banks. Swirling dust demons roamed at random across the horizon like wandering travelers looking for a home. There was no visible sun but enough light emanating from somewhere to see by. As they looked off to their right, very tall mountains silhouetted the horizon and huge bellows of blackness spewed out from many of them clouding the sky and covering great stretches of terrain with powdered blankets of grime.

Then a moment of bizarre discovery, the viewers found themselves suspended high above this gruesome site and able to see for great distances. Suspended! What a view. Every direction they looked they

experience disorder; in the ancient book it would be called formless and void.

Next was something out of a Jurassic Park movie. Two giant beasts emerged from a wasted area between two smaller hills and they were about to cross paths. "I can't believe my eyes" confessed Allen. The giants stopped and eyed each other, neither one stirring but just looking and waiting for the others first move. It was amazing how long they just remained still but poised. In the silence and anticipating some action, Jacob spoke a reflected a thought.

"Allen, I can't help but wonder if we're viewing the early part of creation on the earth. I keep remembering there was going to be more for you and maybe me? In pondering it caused me to assess a variety of events like the arranging of the trip, getting lost, our mountain men, the earrings, the incredible cabin and it occupants and on and on it goes. I can't help but wonder if this is something we're privileged to experience that will change our lives and perhaps many others."

That thought encouraged Allen as he was drawing the same conclusions.

They continued to watch a current event that man has written about but never seen. How large where these creatures? From his vantage point Allen estimated each one was well over a hundred feet in length. One had a huge head that seemed to protrude out of a

satellite shaped disc that was its neck, with one gigantic horn jutting straight out in front of it. With little effort it was able to rise up on its massive hind legs exposing an under body covered with armor like scales and it began bellowing thunderous roars. Two rows of huge teeth gave further evidence of great potential for destruction. It also had a long tail that now began switching back and forth creating a great cloud of dust restricting their viewing.

The other enormous combatant resembled a great serpent in form, crawling or slithering more than walking. However, its sporadic and extremely rapid movements seemed to confuse its opponent. It could strike with incredible lightning speed and force against the rather slow moving muscular blob. It would slowly coil and then lunged toward its foe. They engaged in combat that kept the viewers spellbound. First one would seem to have the advantage then a reversal would take place. The dust often completely blocked viewing of the action. After extended combat in which both creatures were intent on slaughtering the other, a fatal blow was landed by the serpent attacker that stunned its opponent. With incredible speed for such a giant it quickly coiled itself around its rival and began a powerful constricting action. Slowly but steadily the serpent tightened its grip. The Blob struggled with all its strength but eventually stopped and then, a fatal sound filled the surrounding ether with the reverberation of death and the

'unicorn' monster collapsed. Horribly and as unbelievable as it may seem the serpent, in the manner constrictors on earth today exhibit, immediately began the process of disposing of its prey.

Conny said, "I can't watch this" Allan and Jacob agreed. But how could they escape from where they were? They couldn't walk; they were suspended stationary in mid air.

Chapter 10

Mobil Adventure

Out of sheer panic Allen hollered "Oh" and that small exclamation pushed breath out of his mouth and created a small jet of air that began to propel him backwards. "Hey look at this."

He gently blew a breath and again he moved. Then Conny tried it and swish she floated just like Allen. That left Jacob. "This is ridiculous" he snorted and that 'short snort' did the job. They broke into laughter as they tried their new propulsion system and their laughter created all kinds of reactions as it didn't take much air coming out of the lung to create motion. As a result they were able to exit the gruesome site of combat. They spent a hilarious time getting use to how it all worked but little by little they got the hang of it. For the moment this surprise event took their minds off the gross event they had witnessed.

As they carefully used their new found mode of motion, they glided over this barren waste and wondered what might come next. Allen made a motion that grabbed Jacob and Conny's attention. He pointed to an area that revealed a crater. In its middle a huge saucer shaped

structure lay exposed. Memories flooded Allen's thoughts. "Jacob now I know your assumption about us viewing or experiencing early history is right, because I recognize that vehicle! It's the one Vulpine and all his ghouls boarded when Theos expelled them from the dark region that housed them and their prison of horrors. Legion showed that event to me and helped me understand its importance. Remember I told you he had this uncanny 'instant playback' thing that allowed me to see how the Cosmic Conflict happened. I almost expect him to show up here anytime." Allen had been wondering if his celestial friend might put in an appearance.

I still shudder when I think about that scene. It was a compelling view of the dark side. Now you know why we all have earrings; without them we'd be fair game for destruction by those creatures that must be here somewhere. I've already seen some Dunns. That should have tipped me off but there was so much happening I couldn't put it all together until now."

"Jacob," you could hear that sense of anxiety in Conny's voice. "I'm not sure how to control my fear." "Conny, I hear you." But let me assure you, if this is all happening for our good, Theos is not going to let harm come to us; we can be confident of his protection from the evil one. Remember what was shared with us when he visited our earth and I've read it often in the bible. He left us that wonderful

request we are to pray, 'guard us and deliver us from the lure of the tempter and protect us from his power', so keep that on your lips. I believe it applies in this realm as well as ours."

"You always come through with words of assurance and love, thank you." "Hey, I need to keep reminding myself all the time too." It was a moment for a huddle, that too helped bring confidence back into their midst.

"Should we continue above ground or park and walk" inquired Allen with a chuckle? "Well even though I'm feeling great Allen, I think I feel safest up here" replied Jacob.

Slowly they proceeded past the giant saucer toward a massive area of hot springs and 'Old Faithful' size geysers erupting giant plumbs of water and steam skyward: as with all of the land they had seen thus far it was very uninviting. Huge swamp areas with dense vegetation revealed other startling creatures never seen by modern man, except as skeletons in museums. The Hollywood Movie Jurassic Park wasn't so far from these authentic portrayals.

As they continued past these scenes of constant pulsations of liquids, waves of intense dust, and parched earth, they were approaching a large rise covered with lifeless forestation and eerie trees whose branches resembled long slender arms with their ends looking like forked fingers. The viewers watched them closely as they

were sure they were going to attempt to reach out and seize them as they glided past.

Gaining height to glide over the top, they heard loud rumblings coming from the other side of this bleak elevation; drifting closer the rumbling became voices. Who else would be here that spoke? Whatever they were discussing, at this point it was too jumbled to understand.

Of course all three thought this must be the next part of this journey and just in case the earrings didn't work in this setting, [they were learning never to take things for granted] they glided quietly landing behind a large dead fallen tree resembling a dead creature. They had great positioning for a look at what was about to shock them.

Chapter 11

The Liar Revealed

It was another startling sight. Allen recognized a mass of loathing creatures: the passengers from the saucer, the inhabitants of the Dark Side exiled to earth.

Jacob and Conny both heaved a sigh of astonishment. Their numbers were vast and Allen immediately wondered why they would all assemble like this? It was only a brief moment before his question was answered.

Vulpine!

There he was just in front of them standing at the top of the mount. Allen quietly and very precisely but silently formed his name with his lips; his partners nodded their head in acknowledgment.

Like Allen remembered he was daunting. His size was massive compared to any in his audience. He had lost his original radiance but still there was a presence about him that reflected respect and demanded attention.

As he appeared the noise of those below ebbed and a creepy silence gripped the moment. He raised his arm and spoke. His voice boomed. Every brute, beast and representative of evil below focused on his anticipated pronouncement.

"I have good news," that tone and volume of voice pierced the air like a jet breaking the sound barrier.

"The location of the paradise that the triune council created for their pleasure and the humans that they have placed there, has been located."

Something meant to be a cheer but sounded more like an indistinct groan bellowed forth. It sent shivers up the trio's spine.

Silence returned. "I believe we can capture it and be restored to our original state before being cast out by that schemer Theos. I've developed a new weapon that will completely remove any opposition to us and will allow me to keep my promise to you of ruling the universe together." Another attempt at vocal acknowledgement erupted.

"I will lead you all to a future of power and authority that will last forever. Wait till I return and present you with Utopia."

The reaction demonstrated by the mass turned into frenzy. To see these living nightmares and to imagine them as leaders of anything chilled the watchers. Vulpine waved his immense arm and the mass

began to disperse. As usual the scene altered from what might be expected. A huge opening shaped like a giant yawning mouth, split open the earth's crust and like pouring black oil into a gigantic funnel, the evil one's were swallowed into that bottomless void and within minutes totally disappeared into the belly of the earth.

Allen's mind recalled his kidnapping into that region; he didn't realize it but Conny and Jacob were also remembering his description of it. Watching this spectacle transpire, the threesome didn't notice the departure of Vulpine; he was nowhere to be seen, just vanished!

Chapter 12

Vista Extraordinaire

There's no way of explaining it but abruptly the threesome realized they were in another completely different setting. It happened in the blink of an eye: Below was something completely opposite, a lush paradise, a delight to all their senses: Trees, such trees, flowers, streams, a glorious sun, and aromas from fragrances that drifted into delightful perfumes never thought of by any perfume company, plus countless varieties of creatures and birds.

What's with the animals? As startling as it might seem they were very normal not like the titans they had seen bent on annihilating each other. These all roamed around freely. Now roaming freely wasn't such a big deal but enemy's roaming together, now that's a big deal. There was a lion and a lamb lying together both sleeping, the lamb with its head on the lions paw and look there, a fawn and a cougar eating from the same mound of grass [a cougar eating grass] and over there alligators and water buffalo lounging in the same pool. Look out

National Geographic. To top it off, there was a large cat watching a mother mouse give birth to young.

It didn't take very long before Jacob voiced words of insight; "this must be just like the garden talked about in the bible." Conny and Allen both emitted an agreement.

Like before, they were suspended and able to be propelled in the same manner as in the other realm.

Then, an incident happened that the trio will often describe when they return and tell of their adventure, a tale of humor. It happen as they were drifting over the paradise and enjoying its beauty and splendor.

Allen sneezed! Describing how that exhale propelled him uncontrollably and his attempts to correct it produced unrestrained hilarity for the two onlookers. It brings a moment of sheer delight to all who hear the story. Antics that can't be accurately described but resembled cloths spinning in a front load washer as it changed cycles. What a difference from what they had been experiencing.

Finally after gaining control of his flight and all the joy and laughter that it brought, they continued to explore and anticipate the events to come in this thrilling tour.

Gliding and being elevated gave them a view of the birds inhabiting this dreamland that was so unique; they flew with them and observed

their beauty and gracefulness from a completely new perspective. They flew with one closely resembled a humming bird and another, a majestic golden eagle, each one a creation of divine beauty.

Looking down into the lakes that they crossed allowed them another rich opportunity that Jacob really enjoyed; great fish and other aquatic creatures above and below the surface abounded. "Where's my pole" Jacob inquired with a hearty bust of laughter. The breathtaking journey continued; each new vista revealed unspoiled and uncontaminated creation.

Unexpectedly without their own action to explain it, they began to slow down and hovered over a lush meadow. At the edge was an indent that opened up a place of great tranquil beauty. An area shaded by immaculate stately trees forming a breath taking cathedral shaped setting. Lush grass that appeared manicured like a green carpet. In the middle were five individual seating positions set around a beautiful table displaying five stunning goblets that looked molded from gold. Three of the chairs were shaped like a throne. The other two were very luxurious but appeared like normal comfortable easy chairs, with no hint of a throne resemblance. No one was sitting on any of them and no one was in sight.

Moments later someone was heard approaching; into this awesome setting appeared the work of Theo's hands. It was the

creation Allen had the privileged to witness on a previous adventure; it happened for Allen on Legions instant playback 'mind projector' that he used to show history. Allen wished he had one.

Wow, first human being lovingly formed by Theos.

But look there are two of them instead of just the one he had observed earlier: it was obvious one was male the other female. They were stunning creatures. They proceeded to pick some luscious fruit off one of the trees and then proceeded to sit down in the comfy chairs. The female stopped and stroked a stunning Bengal tiger that was lying unconcerned by one of the chairs. What a sight.

As the trio watched this exquisite couple there was a remarkable transformation that took place in their appearance. It was fascinating; depending on how they were viewed, the characteristics of their appearance altered; especially their skin and hair. Was it because of the light and shadows or did their colour really change? Conny whispered her surprise at this phenomenon while hoping she wouldn't be overheard by the pair. There was no reaction. Then speaking a little louder it soon became apparent any conversation that Conny, Jacob and Allen carried on was not heard by the dual.

Jacob said what was happening here was quite similar to the garden story in the bible. No sooner had he verbalized that analogy then some other footsteps were heard approaching.

Nothing had prepared the viewers for this; their wildest imagination couldn't conjure up this scene. Allen didn't need to explain it because the others knew immediately who it was that now captivated their full attention. Even so he couldn't help the exclamation; "*The triune council*". There before virgin eyes emerged three beings never before viewed in this manner. Allen had tried to describe them one night back home while sharing at Jacob's house. His description was based on his second visit to The Kingdom of light and conveyed to him by Legion when he was obeying a command from Vulpine to deliver a message to Theos. As he attempted to describe what he saw when he arrived at the councils residence, Allen had sensed his frustration as he was limited in descriptive vocabulary but then who would have a vocabulary to express this?

As the triune approached, both of those sitting in the chairs stood to greet them. There was a wonderful exchange of warmth and closeness. As they turned to be seated a pair of bear cubs had settled in comfortably on two of the throne seats and was gently brushed away as the mother watched without apparent concern.

There were bowls of luscious fruit adorning the large table and all those seated began to select and enjoy their favorite choice. The golden goblets contained a liquid obviously enjoyable to the tasters.

During this time those watching knew there was conversation taking place but it wasn't loud enough or distinct enough to make it out.

But then a change; the senior looking member of the triune stood up and spoke and the onlookers could hear the voice, it was like beauty in the form of words.

"Are you enjoying you're home?" The sound of those words being uttered was like a soothing melody: both creations placed their hands together in a thankful gesture.

It continued, "This has been planned and prepared for you to reign and rule. All the inhabitants are under your power of persuasion. You are to tend and take care of it. One or all of us will visit often to assist you in any need that may arise. There's only one warning that we leave with you, don't sit in any of the three chairs set aside for us. You each have your own reserved for you and when you take the time to sit in it and reflect on what you have, you'll experience great peace and joy and will find yourself freely willing to sacrifice your own welfare for the welfare of all the inhabitants here but now it's time for us to depart, remember one or all of us will return soon."

With that departure statement they all again enjoyed a warm and loving encounter and then the glorious one's departed.

Chapter 13

Deception on Display

Meanwhile unknown to Allen, Conny and Jacob there was another story developing. Vulpine knew there was a paradise somewhere in this part of the world but didn't have any idea where it was located. Then much to his delight one of his 'sniffers' while exploring the land came upon what it thought must be the location; further investigation proved right. Now he could proceed to develop a strategy to enter it and implement his master plan to destroy it and those humans that governed there.

He called together a band of his followers and laid out his plan of attack.

As the marauders approached their target they were startled to see it guarded by a regiment of the Kingdom of Light protectors. They were all armed with the unique weapons used in the battle for kingdom supremacy when Michael and Vulpine clashed at that great Kingdom celebration given for Theos and described by Allen in his first adventure. On top of that all the protectors had earrings on. There

was absolutely no way that Vulpine could engage these sentries. He had to call back his band and rethink a new strategy.

Disguise! That was the new strategy. Vulpine was a master of disguise. He could pose as a human, even a human doctor like he did at the hospital when Allen was recovering from his encounter with that great storm. But being a human wouldn't work in paradise. So he developed his most convincing masquerade ever devised; 'an angle of light'. He could fake an impression of a kingdom dweller that would fool almost anyone.

As he approached the gate of paradise he was stopped by a protector and asked to identify himself and what he wanted. It was no problem for him to lie because that was his very nature.

"I've been sent by Theos with a message for Alpha." The guard was familiar with that name because all the residents of the Kingdom of Light knew of the plan Theos had developed to create humans. That decision was the cause of the war in the Kingdom in the first place; even all those who choose to stay on side with Theos rather than rebelling, are watching everything that takes place and looking for evidence that they made the right choice.

The guard hesitated, and then called over another sentinel to help make a decision. "What's the message", they inquired? Vulpine convinced them that it was so important and confidential that he had

to deliver it in person. Then he produced a form that he said one of the guards had to sign; he would take it back to Theos confirming he had delivered the message. The form looked legitimate, even the forged signature appeared genuine, so they even believed the lie; after all he did resemble a fellow protector, they never checked for an earring, so the guards allowed Vulpine to enter and told him he could pick up the signed form when he left.

"Do you have any idea where Alpha might be, inquired Vulpine?" The area of paradise was vast and locating his prey was not something that he wanted to spend ages doing. The guard gave some suggestions based on his experience of being exposed to a routine that the duet often followed. As those responsible for the health of this haven they tried to cover a full survey of it on a regular basis and as a result often the guards would know approximately where they were and prepare a party when they did arrive. They enjoyed great times together. Often the protectors would assist in helping with a situation that may arise. But finally it was mentioned that their most frequent place of residence was the 'Meeting Cathedral'. "What's that" inquired the sly one. "If you arrive there you'll know why it's called that" answered the adviser.

Vulpine headed off in the direction given. As he traveled even he was amazed at what Theos had created. And in his mind he was

determined to capture it and be its ruler along with the whole cosmos. It didn't take him long before he arrived at what he thought must be the Cathedral. The arched towering mighty oaks, the carpet of green and there in the center was the round polished table set with golden goblets. Carefully placed around the table were five outstanding seating accommodations. Of course he immediately saw that three were different and it didn't take very long before his assessment began to formulate a diabolical plan to disrupt this haven of beauty and innocence.

Just as the protector predicted, before long into the Cathedral two creatures emerged. Something that Vulpine had never seen before. Their form and beauty even impressed him and just for a moment he slipped into admiration for what Theos had created. Then just as quickly he returned to the ultimate villain of all ages---addicted to death.

Unaccustomed to visitors at the Cathedral the dual was startled at first but they soon recovered from their surprise when they viewed his beauty and splendor and assumed him to be a messenger sent by Theos. They greeted him and offered him a drink from one of the golden goblets. Then Alpha apologized for not having a seat for the visitor and explained about the chairs around the table and why they were so very exceptional. Vulpine listened intently to every detail

about the chairs. Alpha then offered to get another chair for him. He had made many chairs based on the design of the one's for him and Bata. They had often sat around on the chairs overlooking beautiful lakes, rivers and other breath taking vistas as they managed this awesome terrain, then he would just leave the chairs there for their use again upon their return.

"It won't take me very long to get one, so will you just wait until my return? Bata can show you around." The schemer quickly replied. "I'll wait," Alpha disappeared into the forest. How convenient to be left alone with Beta: Vulpine instantly set his devious plan in motion.

"Oh look", directed Beta "there's Tip." Standing on the fringe of their location stood a fully matured, magnificent albino wolf. "We call him Tip because of the tiny tip of black on his tail. He often visits us and loves to be petted." informed Beta.

Then an unusual behavior happened, Beta had never seen this before, Tip bared his fangs set his legs and growled menacingly. She was very surprised. "That's no way to greet a visitor" she voiced. She no sooner finished saying that than Tip ran off into the forest still emitting a low grumbling growl.

Bata apologized for the behavior.

"That alright, probably not used to strangers" Vulpine reasoned out loud.

He continued in conversation with Bata. "Can I ask you something about those chairs?"

"Yes", she replied, "what would you like to know?"

"Have you ever sat in one of the three shaped like thrones?"

"No, Theos our creator has warned us not too. We have our own and it's remarkable what happens when we sit and allow our minds to concentrate on this domain for which we've been given charge. We can see things that need to be attended too and are given directions for its care."

"That sounds wonderful. Those are not the only chairs that Theos has. In the Kingdom of Light there are three as well. I think something like you described happens to any of the council when they sit on them only it's far greater in scope. Why do you think they don't want you to sit on one?"

"I don't know, I never thought about it, but it sounds intriguing".

Vulpine continued to paint a temptation. You'd be amazed at what happens to your sense of right and wrong."

"Why don't you try it?"

"Oh, I don't think that would be a good idea, there may be consequences."

"Bata let me tell you something of great importance. Fear of consequences will keep you from doing what fills your desires and what could be more important than that?"

"You sound very wise. You know I never did ask you your name."

Most people who know me call me Dee. It's a short form."

"Deceiver" shouted Jacob. All this time the threesome was able to see and hear what was transpiring but in this dimension they couldn't interact at all.

Jacob was beside himself because he knew what was going to take place. The story of the temptation he knew about from the bible was so parallel to this that he knew disaster was about to happen.

"I don't think anyone will know" encouraged Vulpine. "Just try it once and see what happens."

At this point Jacob couldn't look. No, no, no he pleaded hopelessly, and with 'Dee's' encouragement Bata went over to the middle throne chair and sat down.

"What are you doing?" Alpha shouted as he approached the clearing, a chair in hand. "Bata get off that throne." But Bata appeared to be in a daze, her countenance was bright and her eyes seemed to almost glow.

Alpha cried louder, but to no avail. He scanned the area looking for the visitor but he was nowhere to be seen.

Then Bata seemed to return to herself.

"Alpha, I just had a most remarkable experience, it's like my eyes were opened and I found myself in situations I have never encountered before, circumstances that required me to decide the difference between right and wrong. I was looked up too; I was a ruler and was able to hand out judgments to influence great control. We've never had to do that. Nothing that was wrong or evil has ever been a part of our lives in this setting. It gave me a sense of power that I never had before. I kinda liked it."

"I think you should try it." "Oh no not me, what if the council finds out?"

"Oh, you're so fearful. Don't you know that fear will keep you from doing what you want and not experiencing your desire."

"Where did you learn that" ask Alpha emphatically?

"Oh never mind just do it." So Alpha obediently but cautiously headed for one of the thrones.

All three other dimension onlookers shouted "don't do it"---but to no avail.

After he sat down a sound was heard, footstep approaching and into the Cathedral, in all their grandeur entered the Three in one council.

A hush gripped the scene. Birds that adorned the oasis with their beauty and many songs were hushed; the gentle breeze that cooled the air no longer stirred, the stream that flowed gently over the smooth rocky bed stopped its babbling, and a silence smothered every living and moving thing.

Chapter 14

Consequences 101

Then comments were voiced that have rung down through the passage of time and continues till this very day; "The woman you gave me, it's her fault, she made me do it."

Bata pleaded "it's not my fault I just followed your messengers orders, he deceived me."

The trio was also caught up in this historical moment; from their exclusive address they were watching the very first example of the survival of the fittest condition that has plagued the inhabitants of the earth since that first momentous flaw. Vulpine had succeeded for the moment by placing a vital selfish blow into the minds of those wonderful creatures that Theos had formed.

Theos slowly raised his hand to the dual to stop and motioned everyone to their seats.

He began speaking with these astounding words of eternal truth "We have simply set up warnings [some call them commands] to alert

and reveal, that there are always consequences connected with disobedience."

Then He added a comforting assurance, "But we will always be working to devise a way of rescue."

Jacob turned to his partners with tears in his eyes. "Did you hear that, I know about this way of life from reading the bible, in fact I'd say it's the story of the bible. This adventure has just strengthens the evidence that it's true and that's why I've chosen to live by it."

"Man Jacob, if everyone knew these stories from this vantage point, I think our world would be different."

"You're so right Allen and many have. However, Vulpine has started something that he'll use to its fullest and try to destroy this splendor that the Council has created. Of course we know his scheme will fail in the end but in the meantime the turmoil he will cause will bring suffering and havoc to all creation but it also will bring the Councils plan to its conclusion and from what I can understand there will be no comparison.

What will we see next?"

Paying close attention to the event transpiring in the 'Cathedral', the trio heard Theos continue His assessment of the upheaval that had been played out.

"Your actions have made it necessary for us to make a decision. You've discovered the power to know good and evil but you don't have the wisdom to always judge correctly between them. This prohibits you from ruling in this paradise because you'll no longer live and sacrifice for the benefit of all that abide here but instead you'll chose what will be to your advantage. You just demonstrated that choice.

You will multiply in numbers and this way of thinking will infect your offspring, unless you recognize its poison and warn them of its consequences.

We are aware of Vulpines ultimate weapon that he'll soon launch into action. He thinks it will prove to his rebellious spiritual followers plus those who will side with him on a human level and any undecided viewers---that his way is the right way to govern. He has to be proven wrong, the whole cosmos is watching. He'll continue introducing the survival of the fittest kingdom in contrast to a sacrificial love for enemy's of our kingdom, until one day all will finally see it as the ultimate cause of rebellion and ruin. We will have to empower chosen ones to warn of the danger. 'Chosen one' Allen felt his whole body tingle at this announcement.

The council continued "It will be his downfall in the end, because we have the greatest weapon, one that the universe will see and embrace and it will spell his demise. Then there will appear a new

creation where the Liar and those who choose his ways will not enter. It will surpass this paradise and will remain a utopia forever for those who choose to abide there. We're aware that many will question our ways to achieve this dream and that the conflict now affecting the whole cosmos will not be understood by many but our plan to redeem is in place and a future offspring of yours will play the major role in revealing it."

Much of what was said that day will unfold over centuries as the cosmic battle rages.

Then a sense of great despair arose as these words were spoken--- "Now you must leave; access to the chairs is no longer your privilege. Come with us to the entrance that will now behold your departure."

What a procession as the consequences of disobedience followed behind the council down a path in paradise that they would never see again. It was such a dark moment, that even the Supreme Council seemed to lose some of their radiance.

As they reached the beautiful gateway of the garden it opened; the dual, at a snail's pace, continued out into an unknown world. Looking back their minds were flooded with regretful thoughts but those were shattered by the closing thud that resounded throughout all the cosmos and echoed down through eternity, as the gate slammed shut and locked.

The three in one could be seen softly lamenting what had happened and knowing that what was yet to come would take their patience and love to a level they never before experienced. But in their many discussions when the apple of their eye was being designed, this possibility was planned for.

Instruction was given to the posted sentry's; no matter what the circumstances, "do not let anyone enter."!

Chapter 15

The Enemies Ultimate Weapon

From their vantage point Allen, Conny and Jacob viewed the departure of the dual. It was difficult for them to endure. They realized this adventure into another dimension reflected much of what the bible story reveals. As they discussed this among themselves they also saw Vulpine quickly headed off across the waste land.

With their new means of mobility they decided to follow.

He came to a rocky bluff surrounded by once huge luscious trees that were now only inhabited by vultures perched in great numbers waiting for some sign of a meal; he disappeared into a cleft in the rock face.

What should they do, should they follow or wait to see what might happen? After a short discussion, they decided to cautiously follow and discover what was inside. It was a passage way that kept going farther and deeper into the underworld. "Maybe we should turn around" cautioned Conny.

Vulpine had disappeared out of their view; then faintly they heard what they thought were voices. Watchfully and carefully they tucked into a position behind a rock that overlooked a huge cavern and a sea of living things, yep, they were the ones from the space craft. Allen was quite sure he had been here before or at least somewhere very similar.

Then they heard a familiar voice, it was Vulpine.

Hush took over the mass!

He began, "the first phase of my plan to rule has happened." A hair raising sound was heard that was interpreted as an approval, it reverberated throughout the huge cavern.

"Now I will release my secret weapon that will complete the occupation."

With that statement a low rumble began to grow in intensity and the whole cavern shook. Off to one side the floor of the cavern began to slowly sink and another level emerged in its place.

Immediately Allen recognized it from being kidnapped and taken on that horrifying journey down into the 'dark region'. Before his escape he witnessed the astonishing control and command that Vulpine wielded; this scene was the most horrifying and he remembered back then they were preparing to be moved into action--- and this may be the action.

He decided to tell Conny and Jacob how he first saw these formidable creatures in that capture.

A cavern took on the shape of one huge nest of these fully grown winged creatures and massive numbers of those in the process of being birthed and all attended to by Duns. At full maturity the dominant features were their heads and tails. Their heads resembled that of a horse but the face was human and their oversized curved tails very similar to that of a scorpion. There was little doubt that the adult one's had potential for great harm. The action was hypnotizing for Allen to watch, as row after row of the fully developed hoards aligned with each other in columns and squads. They resembled an army. Because of their precision in the way they amassed, it looked like they were anticipating departure. Their tails protruding upward; then arcing back and forth over their body in a rhythmic motion suggested deadly conquest for any foe.

His description was interrupted by Vulpines triumphant boasting and disclosure.

"These are Sinns. I've created them to be the means of introducing the final solution to the destruction of Theos and His creation; this will allow us to seize total control.

Frenzy erupted; the noise and action turned the cave into a pool of frightening passion. Even Vulpine raising his arm couldn't stop it. To

finally quell it, Vulpine had to pull off a shock. Another of his disguises that he uses to deceive and get his way; he stunned the on lookers by morphing into a giant dragon. It didn't happen in an instant, it grew unhurried just like viewing it in a slow motion playback. Similar to medieval paintings he also had the huge nostrils that bellowed smoke and fire, a serpent like body with armor covering front and back, a tail that flashed back and forth with great power and potential destruction and yes even massive wings. Every onlooker was astonished; this was new, they hadn't seen this illusion before.

Vulpine a dragon?" Allen's voice contained surprise and question. Jacob reassured him "As strange as it might seem, yes even in the bible he is portrayed as a dragon. The guise is quite remarkable. Though it's symbolic rather than real in the bible, in this realm we're seeing this and many other biblical symbolisms from another perspective.

"Death, Death, Death!" he roared. With each declaration the volume of that new word grew louder and louder.

"This is what will be unleashed through the Sinns and I have devised a plan for the end of Theos---observe!" He shouted as he motioned toward the moving hoard.

The army of scorpion like creations began to exit up through an opening onto the earth above. All the other creatures just watched; even though there were unlimited numbers of the Sinns, no sound was

heard. They seemed to flow out. Then Vulpine bellowed out more threats, "Look at those tails, they can sting and that will spell the end of its victim. Their mission is to prick every living thing, no one will escape." The sting of death was unleashed.

Chapter 16

A Meeting Never Conceived Before

The scene of destruction slowly faded from view and a black pause surrounded the trio just like a scene would change in a movie.

Abruptly Conny, Allen and Jacob found they were introduced into a fresh terrain. It wasn't the paradise but it did have trees, grass, and vegetation of unlimited varieties and the air was fresh and clear a resting place that was very tranquil compared to what they had been experiencing; a chance to catch their breath and allow them to discuss and reflect on what they had just witnessed. A major thought was immediately voiced by Jacob; "I don't think I ever thought of the source of death before. They were deeply engrossed in wonderment at what they had just witnessed.

"Jacob, how do you put that together, how do you think that description of death fits with how it's viewed at home? Do you really think every living creature is bitten by a scorpion? Is death really the end? Is this all symbolism? Allen's usual barrage of questions left them

all with spinning heads deeply engrossed in wonderment at what they had just witnessed.

Then as so often happened in their experience; the unexpected broke in---a bird that talked? Yes, from behind them came a greeting offered by a beautiful white bird perched elegantly just in front of them on the branch of a towering pine tree.

"Welcome visitors".

Each member of the triad had to process this experience in their own way and it was humorous to hear that process come out of each mouth with the same words at the same time, with the same inquiry; all together---who are you? This fluke of timing did bring a giggle, even the feathered one joined in.

Oh, oh, another shock! Even though the listeners could hear what the messenger was saying, there was no movement to indicate where the voice was coming from; each listener heard the voice inside their head not through their ears. It seemed to penetrate right into their brains.

"I'm certain by now that you've realized your trip is the design of the Triune Council."

What a thrill it was to hear or sense that disclosure.

The startling voice continued. "At the time the journey was discussed it was decided the Third Person of the trinity would engage you and carry it out."

The lights went on in all three heads; this is the one Legion announced would appear in the future!

"It's my job to show you more of the Cosmic Conflict, to give you insight and awareness of its impact on earth and most importantly I'll give you a vision of the character of Theos on earth and the way we work to combat and then accomplish winning the war. I'll show you excerpts of history that are highlights in understanding the battle. Are you ready?"

Jacob didn't know if he should speak out loud or just think what he wanted to say; as the others were on his mind but so everyone else could hear he spoke out loud. "May I ask you about those we left back at the cottage; I think they'll worry if we don't return when they expect us."

"They're in good hands and every care will be met until your return; which to them will seem like only a morning."

"In that case I think we're ready," Jacob answered as he looked at Conny and Allen nodding in agreement.

The trio didn't have to go mobile like they had been doing; now they just found themselves viewing what the 'Wonder' was describing. Allen thought it was that playback action again.

The scene was a valley that stretched for miles and tucked between two majestic mountains. There were parcels of land that seemed to be ready for harvest and orchards abounding with fruit trees of many varieties. Villages were interspersed throughout the land on a random basis and occupants were seen clearing land, working land that had been cleared, harvesting, planting and in some cases reaping from what had been grown. They were living and learning by the sweat of their brow. From morning till night they toiled just to stay alive. It was amazing as all this seemed to be happening at the same time.

Their Awesome Companion disclosed how it had taken many generations to achieve what they were seeing. It said when Alpha and Bata left the paradise they had no idea how they would live as everything they ever needed was always available to them. "What you're seeing is their offspring barely surviving after their first parent's removal."

Without warning an interruption; down from one of the mountains charged a band of marauders heading straight for a settlement. They wore animal skins, had long black beards, bands

around their heads and hair that streamed out behind them as they ran, like black vapor trails. They raced to surprise the settlement dwellers before they could get to their meager weapons for defense.

Their long wooden shafts and heavy clubs were meant to threaten and to use. You could see the dwellers running and trying to get away from the invaders but to no avail. Quickly and violently the attackers eliminated the residents [what horror] except for the few that made it into the forest. They then plundered and took everything they could carry back up the mountain.

Conny spoke up and said "This is horrible, why is this happening?" The 'Revealer' replied. "This is just a glimpse of the consequences that transpired for years after the exile.

"At first there were no other humans on the earth. The dual began to have children and their children begat more children. Over time their multiplication slowly began to populate the earth.

"Individuals organized into bands and came together for protection and power to overcome others tribes. Some, tried to cultivate the land, grow provisions and domesticate animals for food and work. Others roamed from location to location living on what they could kill for food and clothing, existing in caves or other shelters and raiding any communities they could overcome. Some became very powerful and controlled vast regions; multiple societies evolved.

"Any thought of their origin only came from stories they would hear that long, long ago there was a couple that lived in a paradise and of course each memory was colored by centuries of time and the tellers' addition or subtraction of events.

"But when the first pair were created, Theos instilled into their being a deep longing for something more, though at the beginning it was latent and not necessary until stimulated by the 'Tempter'. After the expulsion it grew in scope as the population grew. If they just had better weapons, better shelters, greater crops, better protection from weather, or more wisdom to control those who disagreed with them. But even as they did gain understanding in these areas it was never enough. There must be more to make this a better place; is wired into humanity but what is the more? Not things but as some have suggested it's a vacuum shaped void that can only be filled with an understanding of a supreme being of love, though most will try to fill it with some other lesser form of deity.

"The battle that has raged and continues to rage even in your daily life on earth is; you're contending with powers that want you to believe that your circumstances not your heart's are your problem."

The listeners felt they just had the source of their own daily battles revealed. Upon their return it was one [if not the biggest one] of the truths they firmly caught.

Chapter 17

Earth Almost Lost

Wisdom continued to reveal many of Vulpines attacks in history. "He and his hoard constantly tempt with options. They fan the flame of personal power in every individual. As a result, conflict, strife and *I want my way*, ran freely throughout the earth and were passed on from generation to generation.

"A critical early event that impacted the culture was emerging from behind the scenes, evil forces found means of becoming beings that resembled humans. They were giant life forms called Nephelims. They fathered children with human women. The result produced shocking results; massive creatures that were neither demon nor human. They began to dominate and threaten all civilization by becoming the only beings alive. If Vulpine could infect the human race with inhuman beings it would stop a future event that would bring about Theos plan to rescue his creation and also seal Vulpines fate.

“Add to this the Scorpions of death and he was convinced he was gaining control. Earth became filled with violence, rebellion, death and in danger of being lost to Theos.

"But there was one individual that was touched with wonder about the possibility of a supreme being. He had heard tales of the past that stirred his curiosity. In spite of the lawlessness enveloping the earth, somehow when he looked at the world especially when lying under the heavens at night, watching a sunrise, or looking closely at the wonders of beauty around him, these caused his marveling to grow into a quest to discover the cause of all this. Through the years his tender eyes and ears began to acknowledge and listen to our direction for redemption."

'Our', that word jumped out at Jacob! "Excuse me but did I just hear you use the word our?" He rolled it over in his mind. Our, a beautiful white bird, it clicked. "Are you---?"

He didn't get to finish his question; it stuck in his mouth. Then before their eyes a transformation began. Into Allen's visual mind and memory came the description that Legion gave when he visited the Triune Council. As best he could he tried to use words to convey what he had no experience to compare with it and Allen, Conny and Jacob were in the same dilemma. How do you describe a Spirit? There was a soft glow coming from an outline resembling the shape of a being but

a flowing transparency gave it the look of sheer fabric blowing in the wind. For sure it was breathtaking.

Now it spoke.

"Yes, I am the third person of the Council. It's unusual for me to be seen in a physical world. I have the wonderful responsibility to place choice before the minds of humans: another role is to reveal the other members. In this adventure you're experiencing, I'll do the second one more."

"I am delighted at your recognition of me in this realm. Many have acknowledged my prompting in your world too but as you know many other minds are trapped and imprisoned by Vulpine. After this experience is over, it's hoped you will unlock many of those prison doors.

"Now let's continue your journey."

The trio continued to be astounded by the events they were being exposed to. It appeared like a dream but their senses tell them otherwise.

The Spirit continued.

"You can see the world is in jeopardy, only one person is allied with Theos. Our creation is in peril and the possibility of losing the conflict looms in the balance. No one knows the grief we experienced; what has to be done to keep the dream alive?"

"Before we invoke an unavoidable solution, Theos empowers a spokesperson to call out, to appeal with the inhabitants to change their way of living or they will experience consequences of a Divine nature.

"He precedes in two ways---one by words the other by action. His spokesperson travels the earth explaining and pleading for what needs to change and as a visual sign that something catastrophic is going to happen if they don't. He begins building a huge ark, inland, far from the sea telling inhabitants that there is a flood coming. Of course everyone thinks he's crazy, who ever heard of a flood: a religious nut if ever there was one.

"Time went on and there was frustration on the boat builder's part and increasing levels of grief for Theos, as things grew much worse.

"Finally in order to rescue His one remaining ally and not lose complete touch with His human creations the protection that had been extended in a hoped for repentance, was lifted. The forces that are always lurking to rob, kill and destroy were given their way-- protection was lifted."

The trio watched a replay of monumental destruction in the form of a deluge. The sky darkened and rain began to fall, never before had such torrents been seen. Frightfully the scene also revealed huge gushes of water gushing out of the ground, like exploding city water

mains. The earth was being covered with surges from above and below. The boat builder and his family rushed for the protection of their boat and its amazing cargo. Life was sustained. From this event the bible tells of a new beginning but what a cost.

Jacob was surprised to hear that Theos removed his protection and then the flood ravaged the earth. He always thought it was God that caused that as an act of judgment.

As he voiced that thought out loud, the reply came back with a truth few have understood; "Theos never will use force or coercion to get his way: look closely at events in your ancient story and you'll see another method, the Divine one.

"Remember there's another force lurking, one always ready to destroy. Removing protection is allowed as a last resort and only happens after there is no other possible way to bring about redemptive change. Even then we're always hoping the abandonment will be enough to cause a return to good from evil or our ways rather than Vulpines.

"As we visit the rest of the story, watch closely you'll see this over and over again.

"But if you will allow me," requested Jacob "can you help me understand how many times the bible says that God threatens and

even command that he is responsible for inflicting judgment. How do I understand that; is it different here?"

"For now let me answer your question with a question," replied the spirit. If the writers of that wonderful story you possess, didn't know that there was another power just waiting to impose destruction if given opportunity, who else would they blame except Theos? To them there was only one being that powerful: there was a long pause as Jacob pondered that remark.

The spirit continued with this caution.

"Be careful in drawing your conclusions; make sure you have all the evidence possible. Stay open to wonder and new information, it will always bring change and it can't be exhausted. But also be careful, it's tempting to shift blame for everything onto Vulpine. That would bring other problems.

"Theos has placed many laws in place both natural and social that are predictable and have destructive consequences if broken. Often He gets blamed for allowing them to happen especially if death or pain results.

"Come with me now as I show you the state of the world centuries after 'that' tragedy".

Chapter 18

A Glimpse of Consequences

“After the expulsion, occupants of the land spread widely and it became very important to belong to a tribe or band that was like minded. There were many languages as a result of another event that Theos had to deal with about building a tower so one culture would rule the earth. Human leaders had found a way of believing they could control the whole earth. They had no need for Divine instruction or law. They decided to build a structure so massive and a social civilization so magnificent that it would demand the allegiance of all humanity. It would be invincible and they would control it---'Babel' was born. Theos established a counter measure that would hold back this kingdom. Without violence and destruction, He devised a solution: He allowed free speech to flourish [but in multiple languages] and confusion reigned; diverse nations were born and their one world government plan failed!

"The rebellious spirit of 'survival of the fittest' had contaminated the first couple and it became accepted by everyone---as the way to live. Vulpine was sure his plan would win out.

"Something beautiful that Theos had placed within every one of his creations was a *compelling awareness* that there was an unseen and unknown force able to affect their lives. Responding to that *compelling awareness* over time developed into what became worship. It descended into warped customs producing devastating results. Deity's were fashioned of every conceivable form and idea. There were idols of rain, sunshine, protection, war, fertility, rivers, lakes, oceans it was endless. Multiple gods often revealed by carved or natural replicas. Almost all these gods needed to be constantly appeased in some way in order to find or keep their favor. In countless tribe's sacrifices of first fruits, first born animals, first harvest or a multitude of rituals were practiced, soon the ultimate way of appeasement was finally reached, the murky depth of---child sacrifice. This practice was deeply distressing to Theos but normal to those who practiced it. He wanted to omit it from his people's culture. How is written in your ancient chronicles. Very early in those recorded narratives it says the world again had strayed far from it created purpose. Theos in His wisdom chose a nation to demonstrate how to live with His blessing. His dream was this nation would act and be so different that it would lead the

other nations to follow their Deity: It began by selecting a man called Abraham, he would be their leader. This nation would be different.

"His nation was surrounded by other tribes and cultures that practiced this child sacrificial method so he was well aware of it. One day he heard the voice of Theos telling him to take his son up onto a mountain and sacrifice him. Of course Abraham had the picture of child sacrifice in his mind. The story describes the trip up the mountain, the wood to prepare a fire and the knife to.....

Abraham prepared the necessary ritual items while telling himself it would be OK: Even if he killed his son Theos would somehow bring him back to life. With this hope he continued. The event was about to climax, with the boy secured and with the knife poised a strong voice commanded Abraham, "Stop!"

"That story is full of meaning and mystery but one part is glaring: no child sacrifice is necessary to appease this Divinity's wrath or to gain His favor.

"In addition to all the gods there were two other common icons. They were called by multiple names but often referred to as Leviathan or Behemoth in your ancient writings. One was associated with the sea, the other with land.

"The sea always held mystery and the monster that resided in it was pictured as destructive and fearful."

Allen asked if he could add something; an experience from his visit to the dark region in the underworld. "Please do" was the reply.

Allen had already relayed this segment before but he thought the spirit should hear it.

He began by stretching his arms out beside him as far apart as he could reach.

"A creature of immense size materialized and drifted slowly toward the volatile container I was trapped in: it looked like something out of a nightmare with seven heads and a horn growing out of each one. It had scales over its entire body and three more large horns jutting out of a tail that shifted slowly from side to side to propel it through the water. It was a translucent color of deep red and its size was gigantic. All the other creatures scattered wildly in whatever direction they thought safe but I wondered if there was one, as its power seemed unstoppable. I became petrified as it fixed its focus on me. I hoped that if I kept completely still it may not see me but that didn't work. This Denison of the deep slowly circled around me moving closer and closer. Its sheer size transmitted that at any moment it could abolish me to zilch. That image is imprinted in my memory. Does it seem possible a creature like that really exists?

"Well Allen, that's your description, here's snapshot of the one that's in your bible---it says

"The Lord will punish with his sword-Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea. Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord? "Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. ****

"As you can see the ancients thought him to be real but didn't recognize who he really was. Who is revealed as a gliding serpent or coiling serpent?

"Other monsters that the ancients feared are recorded also. It's interesting that these are not seen as gods to be worshiped but monsters that are to be feared."

The spirit knew what was in the minds of most humans when looking at the world today and hearing stories like this. It posed this question to the trio, "do you ever find yourselves wondering or doubting the Kingdom's way of living? Do you have friends that say it all a 'crock'? Allen and Conny were shocked, the spirit using that kind of language. Would deity talk like that? Anyway they acknowledged the question with a nod because yes, it was common among their friends and the presented evidence of the world's condition, does seem to give the edge to Vulpine and his henchmen. Jacob had a slight

smile on his face and said he wanted to address that question after the spirit had completed this wonderful disclosure.

"There's more that we want you to see but for the present you may return to your friends, share with them what you've experienced and we'll visit you soon.

Chapter 19

Repeat Performance

With that, the spirit vanished and they found themselves instantly back in the cave they had sought for protection. It was easy to find their way back as Allen knew the way.

Returning to the lake and their boat, they noticed the sky began to darken similar to the beginning of their outing. "What's with this storm again?" It seemed ridiculous that the beautiful calm lake could change so quickly. Allen had to raise his voice as the wind picked up and they questioned whether they should turn back or try to reach the cabin before it got worse. Their decision found them in the boat rowing like crazy for the cabin. Yes they had to row, the boat didn't move on its own. Allen anxiously put all his strength and ability into action.

The waves broke over the bow of the dingy and it began to fill, it was useless to try and bail: some hope emerged as they could faintly see the dock in the distance, just a few more heaves on the oars. It almost appeared the storm was playing games with them because just like before the sky grew angrier, more murky clouds began to

threaten, then the wind began a howl. It was an unnatural howl not like the sound of a regular blowing storm but almost ghost like---not normal. The effort to reach the dock was in vain, the tempest was too much. Then a chill went up each back as a bolt of lightning lit up their course and the accompanying thunder was not a clap but a laugh; a rebellious laugh that Allen recognized---Vulpine had made his presence known.

"We're done for", Conny lamented. "Not yet, look" exclaimed Jacobs voice over the wind!

There, right in the middle of this violent raging water appeared a silhouette of a being, walking on the water. Through the tumult a gentle clear voice was heard---'don't be afraid'. Allen had heard that voice before. During his seemingly hopeless attempt to escape from Vulpines deep earth region, that voice spoke life to his situation.

Here it spoke life again. The unexplained burst forth again; their boat was immediately at the dock and the tempest instantly died.

They just sat there, no one said a word.

Then as was so customary, Jacob with a voice full of wonder made a statement.

"I read about an incident like this in the ancient accounts but I never thought it possible today." That statement just hung in the air as they pulled themselves together and started walking up toward the

cottage. Delight sounded in the air from the others as they rushed down to the dock and a reunion of thanks was revealed with hugs and warm greetings.

Chatter filled the air as the group headed back up the stone steps and into the cottage. When all were seated and a lull entered the conversation, Aaron said "It was a great morning until that storm hit, did you guys catch any fish?"

Jacob, Allen and Conny bust out in laughter. Aaron wondered what he had said that was so funny.

As the threesome looked at each other, only one question emerged, where do we start?

As usual while they sat there immersed in discussion those remarkable servants placed lunch on the table and the dialog carried on.

There was no end to the questions that the whole episode created especially the earrings. They were passed around for the whole group to see and even handle. Will we all find one? How will we get them? What are they for? The questions were hot and heavy but no definitive answers were had.

As an end to the whole group discussion, Jacob made it very plain that there was more to come but he had no idea what that would look like. This unknown future caused everyone to be nervous to say the

least, anything that happened was immediately questioned in each mind with, is this more of the story?

Things went on as normal. But was anything normal here?

Chapter 20

What is ordinary?

It was nearing late afternoon and nothing out of the ordinary had happen. It gave everyone time to reflect and ponder the events they had either experienced or listened to others tell. The evening meal was served and still nothing much was happening that would cause them to interpret as supernatural. How soon taking for granted the servers and the food became a natural event. It was so easy to quickly assume these blessings as normal.

Evening was approaching and all was quiet. Darkness set in, the lights came on as usual but still nothing out of significance had occurred, even that event with no generator or hydro lines to give power was taken for granted. Though it was quiet everyone was tense. Any time an unknown noise or activity happened everyone's eyes would open a little wider and expressions would reveal expectation. As the evening rolled on it began to take its toll and a sense of exhaustion slowly but surely took effect; one by one they all made their way to bed.

It was the middle of the night: It started with a low rumble then increased in intensity; everyone woke up startled. The cause of the rumble soon became evident as the whole roof of the cottage was lifting off exposing a dazzling night sky. Then just as their night was invaded by this noisy upheaval, suddenly calmness captured the moment! Every eye was captivated by this spectacle. It felt like each one could reach up and touch every celestial body displayed in the vastness of the universe. They were spellbound.

Then a mysterious display began to take shape; it was a giant book being lowered down from the heavens and then suspended above the cottage in everyone's view. It was aglow with a ray of golden light highlighting its surface. Slowly the cover of this gigantic book was opened and what appeared wasn't writing but a spectacular visual image, then every so often the page turned accompanied by a baritone voice of pure eloquence; interpreting to the viewers what the images were displaying. There was a story line revealing a cosmic battle that had been played down through the centuries. It was like each viewer was a young kid again and being read a bedtime story.

All those watching knew of the battle. Spending hours with Jacob, and hearing of Allan's adventures gave them a firm idea of what was being revealed by this epic because the incidents were so similar.

It began by divulging that after the paradise expulsion, and other events, Theos had chosen a people for a special task. To reveal who He was and what He was like to the nations.

They were the least prominent of all the tribes and cultures but He chose them anyway. He told them he would make them great, be their King and protect them, guide them and meet all their needs. He gave them detailed instructions for their culture to live by. They promised to obey. No other nation had their privileges; all the other had multiple gods, this one had only one. As the scenes played out for the captivated audience, they saw that generation after generation of the chosen ones failed to abide by their promise to this one Deity. They became like every other nation and demanded a King of their own to lead them. The one God idea to care for them was rejected. It soon became very obvious 'Survival of the fittest' was entrenched in their way of living. As they grew larger in numbers they found themselves in conflict after conflict, not only with other nations but very often even amongst themselves. Tribes formed demanding their own way. There were some bright spots as forecasters were often sent to plead for their return to the ways they were shown or face consequences. Sometime their leaders would listen and blessing would flow but again others would revert back to the old ways and things were often worse

than before; often digressing to their worst---worshiping and sacrificing to idols. As a result their influence to the world withered.

Rather than demonstrating to a violent world the benefits of serving this one Sovereign, they drove most away, in fact nations wanted to eliminate them.

Theos again found he was in a situation very similar to the flood. The world was unaware of what He was really like. Even those 'chosen' now projected a divinity that was strict by demanding they keep his laws or else.

Vulpine had become the prince of this world; his Sinns continued to inflict their sting with the hope of annihilation as nothing could escaped them.

It was time for the ultimate revelation.

The spectacle came to an end. The giant book was slowly drawn out of sight and nothing remained but that breathtaking view of the universe. It was so captivating that it lulled it's viewers into a deep sleep.

As morning arrived and everyone arrived for breakfast at the same time [a common occurrence now]; can you imagine the atmosphere? Did you see---became the dominate question looking to be answered.

The hubbub continued and then to the amazement of all a *Bird* flew in through one of the open windows. Instant attention was given

to this visitor. Everyone thought they knew its implication; three did for sure.

It landed softly on the beautiful chandelier. A voice sounded; it was just like the one from the bed time story. Then a transformation that held everyone spellbound; from an indescribable bird: change into an indescribable spirit form.

"Welcome, so wonderful you're all here. Have you heard the expression Chosen One?" No one spoke they just nodded an acknowledgement. "Well I've come to help you realize just what that term means and at the same time inform you that you're all in that 'chosen' family now. I know that each of you have a heart to spread the life of sacrificial love to those you come in contact with. A long time ago Allen was told that your life is watched from another realm. Those watching are looking for qualities that reveal a fertile ground to plant seeds that will grow and yield fruit. You are that ground. I'm going to take you on an adventure that will help give water, light, life and growth to you seedlings."

With those words; transformation back into a bird took place but this time not just a bird but a dove. Right before stunned eyes, it began to flutter its wings and proceeded to exit by the window it entered.

After a period of speechlessness the torrent of questions began to flow again.

Finally good old Jacob raised his hand and voiced this suggestion. "Maybe it would be good for us to stop asking questions and just offer up gratitude for what we've seen and heard and voice a thank you, please do with us what you will. We're ready."

No sooner had that suggestion rung true than a thick mist began forming in the cottage. It was so thick that no one could see anyone else and then music filled the air, delightful joyful music and then laughter. As the mist cleared they all found themselves in a new experience.

It was a wedding feast and party with a beautiful bride and dashing groom. Everyone was dressed in ancient Middle Eastern style clothing and as Conny and the others looked, so were they. What an atmosphere. The wedding ceremony was over and the reception celebration had begun. The octants were warmly greeted and encouraged to join in the festivities. It seemed the whole village was there. Conny was able to inquire from one of the guests, was there something special about this particular wedding, it seemed so upbeat. The guest said it was a bit special because the groom was from another village and almost a year ago the couple made a covenant to be faithful until the actual time of the marriage. That allowed the groom to go back home and prepare a place for them and when it was ready he would come back and take her there. This was very normal for a

couple if the groom lived a distance from his bride to be. In this case, he has returned, they have consummated their marriage and this is the result.

Conny was overwhelmed with the explanation. Jacob had overheard the story and he whispered in Conny's ear: "in the bible do you remember what Jesus said he was going to do after he left the earth?" "Wow" exclaimed Conny, "going to prepare a place and come back to take his own there."

Before they could discuss it further both were enjoying a dance that caught them by surprise. Already the rest of the gang was having the time of their life in this merrymaking. They all clapped and howled with laughter as they watched old Jacob rollicking around in dance after dance. In the evening they ran out of wine and a most unusual event transpired. Some servants came to the master of ceremony and said a man had given them an abundance of wine. When he inquired how that happened they told him; He turned water into wine! Well that set in motion a stir of the highest order: His name was Goel and he was there with a group of his followers and his mother. There was a rumor going around that there is a man in the area causing some citizens to question just who he was and what he was teaching. When they went to look for him they heard he and his followers had left. It

was a shock later when Conny found out that the name Goel in the current language had a specific meaning---savior.

When the party was over the octet were invited by a local to lodge at their home. They followed after the host and found a beautiful home large and spacious enough for all of them to stay together.

When morning arrived they had no idea what was next when a young woman approached them and said she had been instructed to guide them where the man named Goel was traveling and teaching. They knew immediately that this was part of their adventure and gladly agreed to follow.

They were taken towards a small mount. Climbing up a slight slope they came upon a grass covered plateau. There were hundreds of people there sitting comfortably and they seemed to be waiting for something. Soon a man in a white robe, sandals, long blond hair and well tanned dark skin went a little farther up to where there was a large flat section, giving the appearance of a stage. He sat down on a large bolder and began to speak.

The words that came out of his mouth were well known by the eight but they never thought they would ever hear them said by someone like this, in a setting like this. Of course after the teaching a miracle of miracles happened; he fed everyone; there must have been thousands.

The surroundings and the continued events kept them in absolute wonderment. They were able to accompany this individual all over the country side. They watched miracle after miracle, heard teaching after teaching that consumed their minds and hearts.

One afternoon, Jacob was able to engage some individuals who appeared to have some religious leadership role among the people. They were dressed in a unique fashion and stayed together often asking questions of the teacher. Jacob asked one of these leaders who he thought this person was? The reply startled Jacob; "I believe he's an imposter who is trying to gain a following to rebel against those that are keeping us in bondage. Jacob had noticed many military soldiers deployed wherever they went. They resembled what history depicted the Roman forces would look like. The leader continued "he's a cunning magician, tricking people into believing he has exceptional powers. I'm told he even claimed to be god, now how ridiculous is that. We're looking for a deliverer to get us out from under the rule of these oppressors but He'll be endowed with unusual military power and political capabilities. This guy talks about being kind to our enemies, to do good to those who have you under their control, like I said how ridiculous can you get," then another one of the group chimed in "and when no one is looking he hangs out with the low life, drunks and prostitutes. He lives a double life and stirs up the people; he needs to

be done away with." Another one chimed in with, "He's trying to start his own religious group undermining our thousand year history of following the writings of our leader that delivered our people from slavery in a foreign land."

When the eight got back together and compared stories, what they heard from many that they talked too, mirrored almost exactly those same ideas. But on the other hand, huge numbers said they never heard anyone talk like Goel, they were amazed at the miracles they saw him perform, and it was said he even raised someone who had been dead for three days. Emotions were running high.

No one said it but everyone knew they were experiencing something in this realm that paralleled what their bible revealed.

Chapter 21

Face to Face with Evil

Of course Vulpine got wind of what was happening in this culture and in his sly deceptive style, found an opportunity to engage Goel and try to see if there was a way to eliminate this threat.

He found out that Goel would often go away by himself into the desert. No one seemed to know just why he would do that but Vulpine saw it as an opportunity to get him alone.

He needed to implement a plan to stamp out this way of life that was in opposition to his. 'Survival of the fittest' was working well throughout the whole earth and he wanted to keep it that way.

There in the middle of a barren desert---GOOD AND EVIL met. Vulpine began setting his trap in the same way he'd always done---it worked in the Kingdom of Light, it was very successful in The Paradise; all those who listened, and believed it paid a heavy price.

"I understand you want to change the world I want to help you do that." What an opening statement. A pause, then he continued "in fact for us to rule it together will expand your influence beyond just this

earth. We can preside over the whole universe. I've heard it said you believe you're the son of a god; if you really are you have the power to bring me on side to help you rule. You know I presently rule this earth, so with our combined powers there's no limit to our increase in scope and our subjects would live forever. We could even create more earths and extend our power farther and farther. No one would ever be able to challenge us."

The listener paid close attention but never spoke to what was being offered. His silence seemed to suspend this decisive moment into eternity. Then like a dropped glass vase on a tile floor the silence was shattered; a vulture screamed [almost on cue] as it circled overhead looking for the results of a death; then more silence.

Vulpine was getting nervous as the silence settled back in. He blurted out another challenge. "If you're who you claim to be, you'd be crazy to reject my offer." More silence.

Finally, The Voice of Wisdom spoke.

"We've been talking about you Vulpine. All three have agreed you're a masterful liar and deceiver. You've betrayed us with your craving for power; you've placed suspicion on our character by saying we have restricted freedom and held back a quality that would empower humans to become something they never were meant to be. Your lies and deception will lead you to your own destruction." This

response to Vulpines offer now turned the encounter into another deafening silence. Then this final exposure sealed the end of this summit---"You brought death into this world"---another lengthy pause. "We believe you've even convinced yourself that your lie is truth. We're about to expose it all and then your annihilation will begin."

Those words stopped Vulpine in his tracks. He had known from the time he was cast out that there would be a day of reckoning but his scheme was so successful on earth, he had convinced himself it wouldn't happen. Instead of this meeting achieving his goal of tricking Theos to cooperate it became a bitter reminder.

To keep up his image---in a boastful manner he scoffed at this pronouncement, turned and began to leave. With a mocking expression on his face he looked back over his shoulder and bellowed "You'll be sorry "and that blood curdling laugh thundered across the landscape.

Chapter 22

Fear Hits High Tide

In a voice of wonder Allen asked "where's Aaron and Jim?" Gathering back together after a day of travel with the "Teacher", Jim and Aaron failed to show. Joy and Conny said they became separated early that morning and hadn't seen them all day.

What really happened was; as the teaching was over and the crowd began to disperse, Jim and Aaron found themselves separated from the others but they weren't too concerned because they had a habit of always meeting at their current residence each evening to discuss what they experience that day.

They noticed many of those leaving seemed to be heading in the same direction, so they decided to follow the crowd. The city seemed extra busy that day so they inquired from a bystander if there was something special happening. He explained that everyone was going to the temple to offer up special sacrifices and celebrate a deliverance event that occurred centuries before when they were enslaved by another nation. It sounded interesting so they thought they'd go along

and see what this was all about. They were also very aware of that military presence that always seemed to lurk in the background, it kept them on edge.

"You!" a voice rang out. Jim realized a member of the military was pointing at him. "Let me see your nationality card". "I, I, don't have one" Jim confessed "and you," pointing at Aaron, "I don't have one either". A second officer came up and swiftly they were seized, bound by their wrists and taken to a city government military post. They were forced into a dim cramped space with two stools and told to sit down. As the door slammed shut Aaron looked at Jim with bewilderment written all over his face; "What's going on Jim?" "I have no idea but I don't like what happening," he replied.

Time became a blur. They knew there was activity on the other side of the door as they could hear voices and bodies coming and going; they finally heard someone stop outside their door---it opened. A very officious looking officer commanded them to follow him. As they were marched through the staff area, all eyes followed them. The leader stopped and motioned them to enter another room. It was large. A huge desk conquered one end with windows that overlooked a large covered square. It had immense white columns around its perimeter to support the roof. On the wall behind the desk was a huge photo of what looked to Jim and Aaron similar to ones they had seen

of ancient Caesar's. The high ranking officer looked up from his chair and with squinting eyes and a threatening voice demand "Who are you and what are you doing here"?

Now how would the two caged detainees answer that question? As they tried to explain, their story only brought complete confusion to the interrogator.

After a brief encounter he motioned to a guard standing by the door to open it and bring the "prisoners" as he called them. He marched out the door, down a long corridor to another section where a number of other hostile looking officials were gathered around a table.

"Sit down." They were ordered.

Needless to say the pair where totally confused and seized with fear: then this grave announcement.

"I'm sure it's them" informed the interrogator. "They fit the description and their story is full of lies."

The leader of the group looked directly at Jim and Aaron and asked, "Do you know why you're here?" Both shook their head no.

We've been informed that there's uprising being planned. We received a description of the leaders and you fit. Both tried to speak but both were instantly struck with back hands beside their mouth and

told to remain silent. "You know what we do to zealots; your crucifixion will be carried out tomorrow.

The two were shocked! Crucifixion!

There was no discussion, no defense, just immediate sentence. They tried again to plead their innocence but were instantly silenced.

Without further discussion they were removed and escorted down to a dark murky dungeon and placed in a cold, filthy, barred cell---the door slammed shut!

They didn't say a word; they just sat there with their face in their hands. Finally Jim lamented, "I can't believe this is happening Aaron, I think its part of a dream or vision, like the house top coming off; I want to wake up."

"I sure hope your right but it feels very real to me. My mouth is still stinging from that slap. That word crucifixion it still echoing in my mind. Jim this must be Rome and this must be Jerusalem, just like it's reveled in the bible: my head is spinning trying to determine what's real and what's symbolic in our adventure."

"Yah me too, I guess all we can do at this point is hope that the spirit is allowing this to happen for our benefit but in the back of my mind I can't help but think, what if it's not."

"Why are you in here?" A voice out of the darkness grabbed their attention. "Hello", replied Jim. "We've been accused of plotting a rebellion and sentenced to be crucified, who are you?"

"My name is John. I'm a voice crying in the wilderness of this world. I've been sent to announce the coming of the Messiah, he'll free these chosen people from the bondage they're in. Their history has predicted this event and He has arrived.

"I'm in here because I dared to expose the ruler of this city." There was no time for John to explain what he meant, he no sooner finished this brief description of his situation than a trio of guards came to his cell and took him away; again that awkward moment when words just don't seem to come. Then Jim softly ask "do you think that was," he paused and then struggle to form the name "John the Baptist?"

Aaron put his head down between his knees and confessed; "like I said I don't know what's real and what's not anymore."

"Well our being in this dungeon is real, and what's scheduled to happen to us tomorrow seems awfully real." You could hear the panic in Jims comment.

All night long the dual discussed the events they had been exposed too. They had no idea what time it was as there were no windows and only a dim flicker of light eked its glow onto one wall as reflected from

a flame burning just around the corner from their prison vault. They both dreaded the thoughts of morning and what may lie ahead.

They fell into an exhaustive fitful sleep. They awoke with the chilling sound of footsteps coming closer and closer. Four escorts approached their cell and unlocked the door. They were put in chains and then with two strongarms on each side they began their ascent to the upper world.

A door swung open from the darkness and for a moment they were blinded by the sun light. The guards commanded them to be quiet and stand still. Slowly a scene unfolded.

They were on the edge of a huge courtyard filled with people; it was the one they had seen from the office of the interrogator. In front of them and slightly elevated was what appeared to be a high profile official, not military but dressed in a flowing green robe with a brilliant yellow sash flung over his shoulder and a turban to match.

In front of him stood the figure of a man; there was little doubt he had been beaten as his clothing was tattered and stained with blood. Oozing wounds from brutal lashes covered his back. On his head was a wreath made out of thorns branches and it resembled a crown. It pierced the skull causing blood to flow from his temples and trickles down his face. Listening to the conversation they soon realized this was a trial. This prisoner was before a magistrate or judge that was

hearing evidence from some in the crowd that appeared as witnesses and accusers. Jim recognized many of them as the group Jacob had described as religious leaders.

"He's a blasphemer" shouted one, "he claims to be god." The crowd murmured in agreement. "He's trying to stir up the people to rebel against our religious leaders and start his own religion;" another sound of approval from the throng. Further accusations were brought forth and each one seemed to arouse the masses more and more.

The magistrate lifted his hand to quiet them. "I hear all your accusations and for you they may seem enough to condemn this man to the fate you're demanding but none of them threaten the state and therefore I can't pass judgment for a crucifixion; you can do with him what you wish." There was silence and then a lone voice penetrated the air. "He claims to be a King and he said he'll set up a new kingdom, do you want your ruler to find out you didn't stop this rebel when you had a chance. The magistrate looked over the crowd directly at the accuser, then at the rest of the religious leaders and asked "Is this true?" They shouted, "he said he was a king, he said he was a king." They kept on repeating it, and then many in the crowd picked up the chant. The official raised his arm to silence the mob. "That charge alters my decision. I'm still not totally convinced what your saying is true, so I am going to offer you a choice. You know how often rebel

leaders are brought before me and you know how we deal with them but you also know how fair I try to be in passing sentence. I know this is a special day for you and I want to show special fairness, so in this matter I will offer you a choice.

"Look over there," he pointed directly toward Jim and Aaron as they were securely constrained by the guards. "These two men have been found guilty of organizing a rebellion against the empire and are sentenced to death by crucifixion. I'm giving you the choice, either I release these two or the so called king who I can't see has done any actual harm but has made a few claims but there not supported by any evidence of rebellion."

In unison the whole crowd and the reported 'king' turned and fixed their gaze on the pair. Aaron and Jim's eyes fixed on the accused like a bar of iron to a magnet. For a moment no crowd existed. Only a tremor flowed through their bodies as Goel smiled at them and then turned back.

"Let them go, let them go!" The chant began to grow in volume; mob rule was birthed and consumed the crowd.

Out of the corner of his eye Jim saw him---frantically encouraging the crowd. Though he was human in form, something about him was distinctively compelling: he shouted louder than anyone else, the force of it captured the crowd "yes he said he would be king, crucify him;"

Others confirmed his shouting, "Judas is right; Judas is right listen to him!" The crowd would not relent and the chant exploded, "Crucify him, crucify him!" The volume was deafening.

Then a second remarkable instant seized Allen, he caught a glimpse of something that rattled his mind---everything stopped; all shouting, all movement, the crowd, soldiers, all loud chanting. There---a creature gripped his attention---A Sinn, just one! It was unseen by the mob as it poised right next to the prisoner with His frightening scorpion tail swaying back and forth in a rhythmic motion. Suddenly it injected it deadly stinger into the prisoner. This shocking sight penetrated deeply into Allen's mind and it happened in a flash---then back to real time.

Noise and chaos continued with a possible riot in the making.

The magistrate held up his arms but the throng refused to stop their ranting. He then stood up and gave a signal for the guards to prepare to engage. As they drew their swords with threatening gestures, order was quickly resumed. He again raised his hand and pronounced "All right, this man's blood is on your hands."

Then with a sweep of his right arm, he motioned to the guards holding Jim and Aaron to release them. Without a moment of hesitation they quickly headed out before anyone had a chance to change their mind.

One final glance revealed Geol was surrounded by guards and was being lead away to 'His' ghastly fate. The dual didn't take any time to talk or discuss what had happened they just ran full speed ahead hoping for a rendezvous with their friends.

They wandered for hours and at the same time trying hard to keep a low profile from the military presence that lurked everywhere. They were at their wits end when hope broke through.

"Jim"; a sigh of recognition erupted under his breath, "I know that voice." "Where have you been, we've been all over the city looking for you." It was Jacob.

Jim had wondered if he would ever hear that voice again. A warm embrace from the old man was welcomed as the trio sat down and caught their breath. Jacob suggested they return right away to their accommodations and explain what had happen.

Arriving back proved almost more than Jim and Aaron could handle. Their emotions spilled out like a pot of boiling water over a roaring fire. Their friends recognized something very dramatic had happen; so to give them time to gather themselves together, some went out on the porch, others just sat down around a large circular table and enjoyed the ever present variety of fruit so gracefully supplied by their host; thus giving them space for their story to unfold when they were ready.

Jim was the first to speak, he inquired, "Before we tell you what's happened, Jacob do you think we're still experiencing what the spirit had in mind for us or are we trapped in some kind of time warp?" "Well it's difficult to sort everything out at the moment but I have a feeling all this will somehow benefit us when we return to our world."

"So you don't think this is a dream or some kind of hypnotic trance, but we're still in another realm, one that represents in many ways what we've discussed at home.

"Yes I do," affirmed Jacob.

With that confirmation, the two began to describe their ordeal, especially the part where Goel's' sentence to death in their place saved their life. They talked far into the night but finally, completely exhausted they all retired.

Chapter 23

Searching For Answers

Very early the next morning Jacob aroused everyone and said he thought they should go back to where Jim and Aaron saw Geol condemned and see if they could find out what happened. Everyone agreed and so they set off on their quest. Jacob encouraged everyone to stay together in their group hoping that would minimize any possibility the armed one's wouldn't pull off another mistake like yesterday.

When they arrived at the square it was deserted: no magistrate on the elevated platform, no crowd, no guards just some people passing through on their daily errands. As they pondered what to do next, a group of men entered the far end of the court. They were talking intently among themselves and at times quite loudly; not paying any attention to Jacob's group. As they passed by Jacob overheard the name Geol mentioned and that prompted him to excuse himself and interrupt their conversation. "Did I hear you mention the name Geol?" "Yes", answered one of the troop.

"What happened to him?" inquired Jacob.

"You mean you didn't hear?" A surprised expression appeared on their faces.

Hoping to help the situation, Joy spoke softly into Jacobs ear, "I saw these men often when we listened to Geol teach and demonstrate healing and compassion" Then the lights went on for Jacob. "Are you his disciples?"

"Yes, and they've murdered him," was the reply. "Our hopes are gone; we thought he was the one that was going to free us from our oppression. We've spent three years traveling and learning from him, waiting for the right time to act and now he's gone."

It was obvious the group was in deep grief wondering what to do.

Jacob was in great distress too, wondering if he should tell them he knew the rest of the story but was this for sure the same story, some things were different. In his wisdom he thought he should remain sympathetic but not reveal anything more.

"Is there anything we can do?" he inquired. One who seemed to be their spokesman moved forward and extended his hand in friendship. "My name's Peter", he said. "Thank you so much for your interest. Did you know Geol?"

Again Jacob found himself flooded with possible answers but he just answered how much the teachings had meant to the eight and

hoped that others felt that way too. He also said to Peter that he thought the teaching would have impact on the world over time and that even his death couldn't stop the truths he taught from gripping hearts.

Peter was very grateful for the conversation and encouragement; wished the group well and they parted. Then Jacob called after Peter, "do you know where they buried him?" Peter described where the tomb was located outside the city; after giving the directions he waved and disappeared with the others.

Following the directions given, the eight found themselves viewing a familiar sight, one they already had pictured in their minds. Jacob said he was sure it was the right place because it was secured by soldiers. He asked the group if they remembered how the bible described the crucifixion story, how the religious leaders ask the magistrate to post sentries at the tomb because Jesus had said he would rise from the dead. The leaders were afraid his disciples would come and steal the body and claim he had risen. They all acknowledged they remembered and replied how this whole situation is so similar that they can't believe their eyes. There were a few others passing by but the guards beckoned them all to stay away. So Jacob and the others departed to their lodging awaiting a next step.

That night Jacob found it impossible to sleep. The site of the tomb haunted him---so, very early before daybreak, he got up, dressed and without saying anything to anyone, headed out to the burial site. As he approached it dawn was about to break. Still dim He detected a glow surrounding the tomb. He was startled to see the huge stone securing the opening had been rolled away. There was no sign of guards or anyone else. He moved in closer to see where the glow was coming from: there sitting one on each end of the slab that would retain a body, were two beings. Jacob had never seen anything like them before but it didn't take him very long to realize they were heavenly beings---angels. For decades he had often wondered what they would look like but nothing had prepared him for this. He was completely dazzled with their appearance. Now he knew why Allen found it hard to describe his contact with these beings. Also another startling observation---there was no body. As he tried to make sense of what he was experiencing, he was startled by a voice positioned directly behind.

"Hello Jacob." The sound of this voice seemed to make him feel like he was going to melt. He turned around and there was the silhouette of a figure standing in the dimness. He couldn't make out the features but as he allowed his eyes to adjust and his mind to catch up to the sight and sound, he assumed it must be Goel. Gradually a body came

to light with hands and feet revealing scars. He had on normal culture clothing and the face slowly became radiant. Then those eyes, like laser beams they penetrated Jacob's astonished being.

"I'm glad you came." That melting voice again.

Jacob stood transfixed. "You've been watched over the years; you've allowed your heart to be won and your passion to tell and show others about a Savior. This adventure is a gift from the past and a glimpse into the future.

"The time has arrived to disarm the evil one of his powerful tools, He's created fear and a lie in the minds of most mortals, I've come to expose and defeat them."

Jacob continued to stand speechless but enthralled.

"Mark these reasons in your memory. When you get back people will ask you, why Jesus came to earth, these simple thoughts will help them understand.

"He defeated Death!"

"That's Vulpines major fear imbedded in the human race. This eternal promise is made to all: If they will allow Him to capture their heart, they will find that such surrender will bring about His way of living now and forever; they'll rise again to live with Him and will defeat death too!"

Jacob knew that from reading the bible but to hear it from these lips was like pouring a foundation and watching it harden to secure a solid base to build on. He was reminded about a saying that Jesus had said about being wise and building your house upon a rock instead of sand. This was rock building.

Wisdom continued, "Another victory over the enemy happens when the apple of his eye hear about this resurrection event and realize His love for them is what caused it.

"Do you realize your value to Him? Only when you see the price someone is willing to pay to purchase an object do you realize its value? What did he pay for you?

"For too long, His Chosen One's have projected the idea that in order to please Him, they had to keep rules; that lie hides His true character from the world. It had to be shown that His love is not based on what's done or not done, it's based on grace [offering what you don't deserve]. Any who see this truth will embrace His way of living out of gratitude not fear; like you do Jacob.

"The Sinns, those deadly hunters, have placed their sting on every being born into the earth. Living the survival of the fittest way of life has produced the consequences of that sting---death!

"The resurrection has removed it. *Oh grave where is you victory or death where is your sting?*

"That announcement is in your ancient manuscripts. Tell it to all!"

"Finally my friend there are countless accounts about the future recorded over the centuries that reveal the coming of a Savior, their called prophesies. What you're experiencing is some visual representation of those prophesies.

"Quickly now be on your way, as someone is approaching." "I want to stay here forever but someone said *to obey is better than sacrifice*.

Jacob obeyed, mouthed a feeble "thank you" and proceeded to leave. He cast a quick glance over his shoulder to see who it was---a young woman was approaching the tomb.

He continued his return to his friends and as usual his head was spinning. Who was that that he just talked to---Was it???? His heart was pounding and his mind was numb from the experience. It was almost too much for this old one to process.

When he arrived back all were ecstatic to see him. They voiced their concern wondering at his disappearance. Many events here appeared so real while others seemed to play out as a dream.

He apologized for causing them anxiety and then tried to paint a picture of what he had experienced.

Chapter 24

Evil Makes a Move

Unknown to the visitors, another sinister scene was unfolding. Events were happening that prompted desperate moves by the *Dark Side Enemy*.

"Listen up!" It was Vulpine. Things were getting tense. He summoned his mutineer leaders together. What a sight; what once was angles of light were now demons of darkness, they all crouched like those sinister characters out of the Planet of The Apes Movie. Across the *Controllers* evil face unfolded a look of urgency.

"Something has taken place that calls for a change in strategy. The one that we successfully had condemned to death has found a way to conquer it and he's preaching his new Kingdom ideas to multitudes of listeners and they're beginning to buy his lies about the benefit of sacrificial living and loving even one's enemies. Well I'm going to give Him a chance to show that love to His enemy. We're going to see how he reacts to my final plans to conquer.

"We're going to step up our presence to the highest level. Immediately you'll stir up an outrage against his follower's, also the turmoil from the tactics we've learned over the past centuries will be increased: the battles for power, the demand for individual rights, we'll pit race against race, and religion against religion; above all create a lust for economic security. We'll escalate wave after wave of natural, spiritual, and personal terror. In every region of the world everything we have influence over, we will enhance its power to destroy. You know each of you have been given great authority over cities, and nations, now go and launch these forces in greater measure than ever before by using any methods you know or can devise. Theos the controller will be brought down as the conflict will soon lean in our favor. It will take time but we'll surly win. Then that laugh again.

Countless evil minds were all set in motion as they endorsed the plan.

Chapter 25

Is This Whole Thing A Hoax?

"Man, this is crazy" exclaimed Jim.

Crazy or not they were back at the cottage. "How does this happen?" Everything from smiles to dazzled expressions of confusion spread across eight faces.

"Welcome back." It was the spirit/bird sitting there on the chandelier like before. Here we go again, words like unbelievable, incredible, amazing, and astonishing don't begin to describe the emotional impact on the viewers.

To the viewers it almost sounded humorous when the spirit opened with:

"Well I see you have unnumbered adventures and questions bursting in your minds that you want to discuss." They didn't say it out loud but everyone voiced to themselves---"you got that right!"

In response to their unspoken reaction, an additional direction continued. "You'll have ample time for that in the near future but there's still one major event that I want you to experience. The result

will give you a level of faith that will make your life and all who embrace it priceless. "This sounds like a biggie", whisper Allen to Conny.

"But before I show you, I would like to ask Jacob a question. Some time back we talked about doubt and you said you wanted to wait before you answered my inquiry about people sometimes having suspicion about this wonderful message. I suggested that looking at the world's situation causes many to have reservations about who is in control. The war waged by many against your bible, trying to discredit its authenticity, adds to this perceived puzzle. How would you help someone work through this?

Jacob was overwhelmed that the spirit would be asking his opinion on anything never mind this all important question. Was this a coincidence? Recently there had been a major set of findings for Jacob on this very subject.

As He often did in situations like this, stroking his beard, he slowly walked over to a comfortable chair sat down and then began to reveal his thoughts.

"It's not something that people talk about very often. In some circles it's equated with unbelief. But I think everyone at some time will ask themselves; is this for real? How can I be certain? I've come to the conclusion right or wrong that nothing is certain, everything we

believe is based on evidence. Through being taught, reading and experience we draw a belief or conclusion based on our interpretation of the findings.

"Some years ago I read an author, his name is Greg Boyd. He talked about his struggles as a new follower of Theos. He used the term 'house of cards' for the dilemma that enters our thinking when reading the bible if we're told, 'this is true and inerrant ' and find out later it raises questions we have no answer for, then down goes the house of cards, our belief crumbles. Some say 'if the bible says it, I believe it', don't bother me with the facts, I've got my mind made up. Well, in just the book of Job alone there are all kinds of accusations made about God from Jobs friends and others that you better question their accuracy; large list are available from both the old and new testaments. And we could spend endless hours debating or even arguing about the list. What Greg Boyd has suggested has impacted me greatly.

He list four tests that strengthen his faith and none are from reading the Bible.

The first one is basically what's called a world view. If we'd take the time to check out other stories, other religions, other ways of living then find their source, their history, their guidance to run the world, I think we'd find the one that makes the most sense would be the one

that Jesus taught, lived and encourages the entire human race to follow. Of course each religion or story would have its own arguments for its validity. But again we would have to sort out the evidence and draw our own conclusion.”

“Next he said, no other writings in history have been studied, analyzed, scrutinized and then agreed to be authentic documents like the New Testament gospels, of course some won’t agree even to that.

“In comparison, if we believe that Alexander the Great lived and we accept as true his exploits, we also have to admit that most of his history was written some four hundred years after he lived and mostly from one Roman historian called Livy. The gospels were written less than fifty years after the cross and resurrection; many that saw it were still alive both believers and non believers. No significant historical arguments refute these events and there are many secular documents that support the human Jesus. Then there's those other early letters by numerous authors; not to mention the volumes of writings from the second generation martyrs that also exist.

“Then perhaps the most convincing was based on history other than what the bible records. Very shortly after Jesus resurrection a band of his follower began to form. Something happened that caused them to become so influential in the powerful Roman Empire that the emperor tried to eliminate them by his violent acts included burning

alive, crucifixion, feeding to lions and a further list of horror that is sickening to even discuss. They introduced radical change through non violence but it brought immense persecution and great physical suffering into their lives but impacted their world for good. Nothing like it had been presented before. Their one God concept swept away the emperors deity and exposed the flaws of power seeking. What was it that would cause that kind of loyalty? What was it that would have people give their life for others rather than take a life for their own benefit or believing it to be Gods will? What would cause those brought up with a concept of God based on their thousands of years of history and religious teaching, to reject it at the enormous cost of losing family relationships, expulsion from their faith community and experiencing violence or death from their peers?

“If their reason wasn't that this crucified one had made them a promise of a future destiny worth their faithfulness now; and guaranteed it with his resurrection from the dead, then what else could it be? Can we come up with another answer to explain it? After weighing all the evidence it seems good for me to simply believe what he did and taught; what's recorded is the only thing that makes sense to devote my life too. Therefore, now I look to the bible with joy to find out how He wants me to live. I take my questions about what

Deity is like and look at them through what He did; facing death in my place, forgiving and rising from the dead---that's what He's like.

“It's amazing what that event has accomplished in countless lives up till now and will continue in the future. Its mind boggling to realize he never taught or used the survival of the fittest way to solve problems; His way is always enemy loving sacrifice.

“Another source of evaluating and gaining evidence but is often over used, is the prophetic events recorded in the bible. They can reveal mind bending disclosures and they are numerous.

“A final point Greg makes is his own life and how he has seen it impacted by events and situations that only this kind of God could initiate. I can say amen to that. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Boyd for stating those sources of evidence.”

Everyone was hanging onto Jacobs remarks, no one saw the spirit leave, but yes, it was no longer present at least not within their view.

Jacob was overcome at this disclosure, he wondered, did he say something that offended the spirit, why would it leave without saying goodbye? A hush blanketed the moment.

Chapter 26

Beginning Of The End

The silence was broken as a knock came to the door.

Allen went to the door and opened it; everyone gazed in wonder!

"I've been sent to show you a final mystery," the visitor said very briefly "and here's a message from the spirit."

The courier was a heavenly being; similar to those Allen had been exposed to in his first adventure to the Kingdom of Light. Massive wings, a superb body, glowing garments and a face radiating warmth and security: much like the ones Jacob described sitting at the tomb and yes, an earring.

Allen didn't know if he should invite him in or introduce the group to him or---his mind was blank.

"Please open the note," a gentle but strong request.

So he opened it and read it out loud.

"Allen, Conny and Jacob, you will no longer need your earrings; they all touched their ear, sure enough no earring."

The note continued. "Now your faith is strong enough to reveal to you the evil ones lies and deception. Allen, your earlier travels happened at a time of new growth, accelerated by unusual exposure. Conny and Jacob, your brief exposure was intense, therefore your gift of the earring. When you return it will be different. At a later time, all of you will receive a unique stone with your own name engraved on it. That presentation will take place when you reach your final destination. It won't be in the form of an earring; the stone will be set in a ring for your finger and placed there by the Son as He reveals his bride to the Father."*** The note was signed, The Spirit.

"Now come with me," the messenger urged.

They had no time to digest that beautiful message.

As the author, I don't know how to describe these next scenes but maybe the term 'caught up in the spirit' may help.

All eight found themselves suspended above a large exquisite city situated on an enormous mount. It was filled with inhabitants that were experiencing and expressing joy. Allen immediately compared it to the city he visited in the Kingdom of Light; in fact he was sure it was that city. From that adventure he knew every citizen in the metropolis had 'connected' with Theos while living their life on earth and this realm was his promise to them. It was real cool to see it again. But something was different; he couldn't put his finger on it at first, but

then realized it wasn't that heavenly city; this one was located on earth. He talked about his thoughts with Jacob and right or wrong their conclusion was this was like the heavenly city that will come down to earth that is talked about in the bible, where the council and their creations would remain forever.

It was immense, totally self contained but surrounded by a wall. Of course modern cities didn't have walls so the question loomed, why this one?

As they viewed the area outside the city it became obvious. It was surrounded by a sea of darkness; no clearly visible landscape was apparent---only darkness. As their eyes slowly adjusted, a panorama unfolded; it was staggering. At first there was just an outline then shocking clarity---Vulpine! He was in command of a vast army of beings. Their numbers far outstripped the quantity Allen had seen removed from the Dark Region; its size extended far beyond what they could see. The mass had found a way of multiplying over the centuries, by recruiting other rebel wills to reject Theos and his way of living. Along with the Duns, many in their ranks bear a resemblance to a human form. Further examination revealed they were all in military groupings carrying flags representing multiple nations; massive extravagant formations all crouching in the darkness but slowly becoming more visible. They had silently surrounded the city. In one

section another breath taking discovery: the Sinns in their scorpion appearance, tails arching back and forth seeking to sting anything that resembled a human; resurrected or earthly. All were being directed by Vulpine. He was carefully arranging their positions. It became evident; they were preparing to attack the city.

Exaggerating his great form, he hovered above the multitude; his voice like thunder saturated the stillness.

"This is our greatest hour." For the first time out of the eerie silence a cheer broke forth "We will overcome this city and its citizens. I told you we would win the universe to our way of life, now upon my command--- strike with full force!"

He paused, then as he formed a gesture to attack---a single voice rang out, it was clear, powerful and shattered the moment! Allen was stunned; he recognized it---Legion; his rescued partner from the Dark Region. A chill went down his back as he heard his old friend and immediately recognized he was in peril. To be this daring in the midst of an army brain washed with Vulpines lies, he must have sincerely meant what he said that day to Theos. He had promised out of gratitude for redemption, to do whatever he could to crush the cosmic conflict.

With his voice strong and firm he beckoned the mass; "Listen, you have been told a lie; promised over and over for eons that you would

rule with Vulpine but he has no intention to share his power with anyone. Look and see you're all slaves! He's destroyed your access to the Kingdom of Light by deceiving you with lies and promises he hasn't kept and can never keep.

"You know my story. Theos is a redeemer not a destroyer. In this final act if you do what the liar commands, you are deceived again and all hope will be gone forever. I've spent measureless time urging you to consider what I've just said. I know your fear and your sense of being trapped, but in this final moment. What will you choose?"

Legion had worked relentlessly devising ways to infiltrate the Dark Region and tell the Duns of his rescue.

At this point he had no idea which plan the swarm of destruction would choose; life or---*other*. His contact had always been one on one and he lived with his own existence in constant danger but this was the climax. Silence was so intense you could feel it.

Then a stirring, it was faint at first but grew within the gathering of darkness. For the first time ever, differences were being revealed. Many had questioned themselves about Vulpines promises but would never say a word for fear of that brutal punishment they were constantly threatened with; others just blindly followed the lie and enjoyed their power to destroy minds.

Vulpine shouted back, "don't listen to these lies; you know I'm determined to conquer and sharing with you. I know it's been a long battle but this is your moment."

"Listen to me!"

The level of murmuring continued to spread and increase throughout the vast multitude. The eight looked on with utter amazement at the scene unfolding before them. The rigid rank and file units began to show signs of fracture.

Then something that Vulpine never dreamed could happen unleashed: More strong voices spoke up and began to take charge of the moment.

An accusation broke in, "You said death would give us final victory, it hasn't worked; it's been defeated!"

Clear as a bell another voice shouted, "we've seen the results of Goel's crucifixion when embraced by beings; they resurrect too!"

Then one final pressure question, "how do you defeat that?" The great rumble reflecting dissatisfaction escalated.

Abruptly off in the distance a level of hostility surfaced; disagreement merged that could be seen increasing in intensity and soon creatures all over began skirmishing; engaging in combat between each other within their own ranks.

Nothing like this had ever happened before in the Kingdom of Darkness. With a motion Allen caught the eights' attention by pointing to an incident happening where Vulpine was standing. He had descended and immediately some of the hoard began to move toward him. Under their black hoods, he could see red hateful eyes focused on him. Closer and closer they came. Vulpine for the first time ever---panicked---there was no retreat. Their revenge boiled over and he was seized but with his massive size and strength he broke away, he needed help, where could he turn? He could fly!

No! Blocking any aerial escape route were his once faithful commanders and they had a look of extinction in their expression.

He knew if he was caught again the results would see him ravaged. He began to run and then hope came in sight---the pit. Yes, Hellop had created an opening into the underground pit; his plan had been to throw the enemy into its horror. All the options had run out, there was no other place to run; he was sure that his faithful Hellop and his henchmen would protect him. Countless times these powerful brutes had forced order in the Dark Region, so he headed for their safety.

Astonished, he saw what had never entered his mind before, that seething ball of liquid mutation rose up in defiance---for the first time Vulpine was without help.

Unparalleled in history, the supplier of terror was full of terror!

Unexpectedly a startling new sound broke into the blackness. It began low in volume and then grew to an intensity resembling crashing thunder; there's was no mistake, it had a rhythm, a cosmic drum roll reached all ears. It was followed by a trumpet blast that filled the air with expectation. Together they announced a majestic entry. Gradually a huge door of the city began to open. The whole scene seemed to unfolded in slow motion; steadily brightness materialized as water and fire began to slowly spill out from the massive door; cascading down into the chaos below. The huge dark valley was being relentlessly flooded and filled with cleansing and purification. Evil was being eradicated.

Standing in the gate, in all their glory was the source of this power--- *The Council*. No coercive power, no violence, just the light of love's consuming fire invading the darkness of selfishness and rebellion. The viewers continued their stunned focus on the events unwilling to even take the time to blink.

As the chaos relentlessly occupied them, they saw Vulpine being pressed closer and closer to the brink of that gaping precipice; it drew him like a magnetic. He took one frantic glimpse behind him: the scene he was presented with allowed him only one action---the destiny of Resident Wickedness.

Like many countless pawns of Evil---a Judas, a Hitler and others throughout history, he faced the decision that accompanies hopelessness--- a major weapon inflicted on earth---self destruction.

Without warning it seemed like a 'pause button' was pushed; silence blanketed the multitudes of darkness and time without end hung suspended: The eight were frozen in a similar state, everything was on hold; all movement stopped, breathing stopped their hearts stopped, life itself stopped---is this a taste of annihilation, is this permanent? Then just as suddenly 'play' was resumed, revealing another frightening incident. Molten liquid from the pit leaping high, it was accompanied by a sound never heard before, a chilling tremor of extinction echoed down its walls and though the corridors of time, followed by an eerie silence as more light continued to pour into the darkness.

Then a voice like the sound of a thousand cascading waterfalls spoke from the city.

"You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

You were in Eden, the garden of God;

Every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.

Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till wickedness was found in you.

Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.

So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.

So I made a fire come out from you and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more." *

Never again would evil be on hand to tempt.

As the doors of the city remained open the surrounding area began to reflected life and beauty. In the presence of Light---darkness disappears. **

Jacob turned to Allen and with a sense of astonishment in his voice said, "Allen, those words that were spoken are in our bible: their revealed in a letter written to the ruler of an ancient city. However, it has a much deeper meaning especially after what we've seen in this realm."

Allen's reply spoke for everyone. "Jacob the things I've witnessed here, will cause me to rethink much of what I thought before, much like your coaching's has done."

Then just as they viewed this final victory and everything appeared in a state of renewal, another extravaganza began to materialize. A second gate within the great wall opened.

A voice spoke directly to the observers; it sounded crisp and clear like a trumpet, "come up here and I'll reveal the 'Victor' of the Cosmic Conflict."

Needless to say the octet felt paralyzed as they viewed this spectacle and heard this voice, but they were also overcome with a desire to obey.

As they approached the gate the scene that met their eyes was breathtaking: an out of this world sight emerged revealing a throne

with someone sitting on it. Its appearance resembled glistening jewels, like jasper or rubies. A rainbow of emerald encircled the whole throne. In front of the throne were other smaller yet impressive thrones with beings dressed in white robes; they were sitting and facing the centre. Each being wore a golden crown.

From the central throne came flashes of lightning and rumbling peels of thunder. Situated randomly were blazing lamp stands; the entire setting appeared sitting on a sea of glass, crystal clear. There were other creatures too, with multiple eyes and huge wings.

Allen murmured in surprise: Phims! He remembered them from his visit to the Kingdom of light. One had a face of a lion, one like an ox, one like an eagle and the fourth had the face of a man---and those eyes; nothing could avoid their gaze. These unusual but magnificent creatures served Theos day and night.

In this setting and in unison with those in the white robes, they all would offer loud praises to the one seated on the throne and as they did their crowns were cast toward the throne and they would fall down in worship. It was obvious, these beings had unlimited gratefulness and thanksgiving for being in the presence of this obvious Deity.

Gathering all his courage, Allen turned and asked Jacob if he thought this was Theos? One look at Jacob quickly answered Allen's inquiry.

The old one was on his knees, hands cradled to his chest, overcome with awe.

Suddenly a second great angel appeared and pointed to a large sealed scroll being held by the one sitting on the throne. In a voice resounding throughout the chamber [and Allen was sure, throughout the universe]; the angel continued to speak, “who is able to break open the scroll?” The silence was gripping and extended, without end; no one was responding.

As the lingering progressed Allen and Jacob made eye contact and ventured to speak. “What do you think is in the scroll Allen?” “I have no idea but it must be vital.”

Allen could see that Jacob was visibly shaken as he began to speak. “Allen, in my years of reading the ancient manuscripts; many times I read a section in the last book that has haunted me. I felt somehow, it reflected a closing scene: it described an event that would remove any possibility of a future Cosmic Conflict, with its rebellion and destruction. It was a vision that one of the ancient manuscript writers had; he recorded something very similar to what we are seeing; so similar that I can hardly believe my eyes and ears.”

“What did it show”? Jacobs comment had caused Allen’s inquisitive mind to become a catcher’s glove waiting to receive the strike out pitch.

“It revealed what I would call a ‘savior’. “

“From what” inquired Aaron? By this time all the others were listening in on the conversation. Jacob continued, “a savior; one that has rescued Theos reputation that was almost ruined beyond repair. Vulpine convinced countless beings that Theos had lied, was violent, and uncaring which lead countless beings to suspicion and lack of trust. Even now you know how that is causing unlimited rejection and rebellion throughout our world, not to mention the whole universe is affected.

“How does this event connect with that”, inquired Conny?

“Do you remember our encounter with Geol”, ask Jacob? “You mean the man that was crucified. I remember Jim and Aaron telling about their encounter that almost saw them crucified too, man that was scary, she replied.”

Nodding his head Jacob continued, “If you recall that innocent one was put through an ordeal in our adventure similar to a story in our scriptures describing you know who, right;” more nodding of heads confirmed Jacob’s assessment.

“You mean one of the triune council?” Coney's voice reflected a ‘light bulb moment’.

Jacob continued, “We know that Vulpine has lost the conflict. But a lingering question has hung around for centuries; what would ensure

that the conflict would never happen again. What could be done to regain the trust of all beings?

“I think the answer would be an event that when viewed, would show the ultimate extent that Theos would embrace, to silence all potential accusers. He would be willing to experience a brutal incident as a human; one wrongly convicted as a reprobate in a mock trial, slaughtered like a helpless lamb by being beaten, nailed to a cross, hanging there in agony and humiliation before throngs of mockers: doing the unbelievable---forgiving those responsible for His death.

“Now while that is happening, think of this; at any time, He could have called legions of heavenly warriors to stop this mockery and destroy the enemy assailants. I believe that any being that actually viewed that event, recognizing who it was--- Deity; without thought they would renew their trust. Never again would any being, heavenly or otherwise ever consider mutiny against this individual’s teachings and the way to live life.”

A shout cut the silence: another great angel captured the viewer’s attention. Its features resembled a white dove; it was magnificent and massive in size. The voice was immediately recognized; all minds came to the same conclusion---the Spirit?

“Behold” it proclaimed! What a jolt to the senses, what a word, what a command, what an exclamation. How could one word have

such a magnetic impact ---Then more proclamation, “The Lion of Judah” split the silence!

Everyone expected to see the majesty, glory, awesomeness and grandeur of Theos emerge from the throne; instead a remarkable sight appeared---Geol! Not the man seen in their adventure but the savior [that’s what his name meant] one of the triune council. Then the scroll was opened and a vision began to form, like a video story, right there, before their eyes! A portrayal; showing and telling the whole crucifixion, death and the coming back to life story of Geol. Seeing His appearance took everyone’s breath away: the victim with unlimited power and authority---was slaughtered; to show how The Kingdom operates, love with sacrifice, to gain the trust of all.

He moved toward the throne, stunned the group watched as the dazzling occupant got up and vacated His position to the slaughtered one. All the occupants paused in wonderment.

Slowly at first but with growing volume and intensity, additional commotion birthed around the throne, more beings began to appear, hundreds, then thousands, millions, then an unlimited multitude of beings from every nation on the earth, from under the earth, from the sea, from the heavens, from the universe, all worshipping the one who won hearts and minds with love and sacrifice.

What a beginning for the new heaven and new earth!!!! Everyone wanted to stay here forever.

In the minds of Jacob and the eight, plus the millions times millions watching---the question of any future rebellion was eternally erased.

Chapter 27

A Wide Eyed Departure

A fine mist began to enshroud the eight and the scene before them evaporated. They sensed they were floating on a cloud, and sure enough they were; as a gap in the density revealed the earth beneath them. As they glided along, gradually everything began to increase in brightness and the gap opened further, to reveal they were suspended above their cottage; steadily the cloud drifted lower until it was close enough for them to step out onto the ground and then it evaporated.

Joy who was usually a quiet one let out a joyful squeal that caused everyone to begin to laugh. They all just rolled on the ground, giggled, hooted and rejoiced until exhausted in wonder.

Then calmly the ever present wisdom of old Jacob said. "Now what; how do we get out of here?" Though a serious thought, it brought another chuckle as he usually brought answers not problems.

Just as he said that the door to the cottage opened and there like so often the large table was fully set with dishes, cutlery, and platters full of eye popping vittles. This overwhelming sign of welcome and

servant behavior always left the guests speechless, so they all filed in quietly and took their places of honor; at least that how they felt--- they were being honored.

After the meal was completed, most went out onto the porch to relax and view the incredible surrounding, waiting to see what might transpire next. They didn't have long to wait before Aaron came around the corner of the building huffing and puffing totally out of breath. He stopped, bent over, put his hands on his knees, looked up and ask; "Guess what I found?" Of course no one even tried to venture a guess as this whole adventure was full of the unexpected.

"It's our van, and a road. I was walking back into the wood just exploring, and there it was. I couldn't believe my eyes. Come and see."

He took off and everyone followed close behind. Sure enough just a short distance behind the cottage---there it was, just like he said.

Jim opened up the driver's door and looked inside, the keys where in the ignition, he turned it on and the fuel gage read full, he turned the key to start and the engine roared into action.

"Amazing" Jim remarked.

"I think our time here has come to an end," was the thought voiced by Jacob. "Let's go back to the cottage and pack our things".

Everyone agree so they returned to the cottage and were astonished at what they saw; a cabin that hadn't been inhabited for

ages. The windows were covered with spider webs, the floor revealed signs of little rodents having been there, the furniture protected with dust covered sheets, one chandelier hanging lopsided as one of its supports had broken, Conny looked into the kitchen and they could tell, it hadn't been used for a long time; as usual a mystery.

They all went quietly to the rooms they had slept in and the same kind of scene met their eyes; hadn't been used in ages. Next another discovery, all their cloths and belongings were gone. As they began to question each other on what to do next, Aaron yelled from the back porch of the cottage; "hey guys look at this!"

As they scrambled to respond to his summons, the mysteries continued. There on the porch were all their suit cases, knapsacks and other gear, everything neatly arranged for their departure. The same response that was so common happened again; they just looked at each other with wonder.

The mini was packed and everyone settled down. The engine groaned then roared into action for their departure, they were off for home.

As Jim carefully and slowly maneuvered down the narrow road bounded on both sides by majestic trees, deep ravines or steep cliffs, an atmosphere of silence and contemplation reflected the occupant's moods.

After a time the silence was shattered; "Look at that!" Jim hollered.

There flying in front of the mini was a beautiful white dove. It continued for a short distance ahead of the van and then landed on a low hanging branch of a stately West Virginia pine. Jim stopped and everyone watched as its wings fluttered in a motion resembling a wave, then it left the branch and mounted high into the sky and was gone. Everyone sensed it was the spirit bidding them farewell. "What a thrill" voiced Joy and everyone acknowledged with a chorus of agreement.

Jim carried on and found the driving both scary and fun. Aaron remained close by his side becoming familiar with the conditions, as he would soon have his turn. Everyone was settled down anticipating a comfortable but long ride home, when it happened again. Jim's voice cut the air once more. "Is that what I think it is?" He stopped and motioned for everyone to look out the left side of the van.

As they all scrambled for a glimpse, amazement surfaced again. There, seen through the trees, on a ledge high up the mountain side, stood two figures waving to them. Yep, it was those 'mountain men'. Everyone excitedly jumped out of the van and started to wave back. Allen cupped his hands and shouted as loud as he could "Thank you!" The words echoed up the mountain side. The two acknowledged with another wave and then disappeared out of sight.

Each traveler could be seen trying to deal with their individual emotions as they contemplated their departure from this adventure

Of course discussion began to surface and carried on all the way home. Mostly it was dominated by the question, how do we tell people at home about this experience? There were all kinds of suggestions.

Jim offered this solution. "I think I'll write a book." That brought a great chuckle from everyone. "Don't bother" replied Aaron, you'll never get it published.

On a more serious note Jacob asked Allen what kind of response he received when he tried to tell people about his first adventure. He told Jacob that his insistence to get people to hear his story turned people off. He said it was so easy to make yourself important because you knew something or experienced something that no one else did. The story became more important than what it was trying to show. He said he had to learn when and to whom he talked too about it. He believed that the adventure was to get him to think about what was really important. He had never heard or thought about a cosmic conflict before never mind how it might impact him personally. And most of all, if it didn't impact his life to show and demonstrate that a Savior is needed by the whole world to rescue them from the 'survival of the

fittest' way of life that is destroying this planet, what's the point. The end of any story should reveal the plot of the beginning.

*Ez. 28:11-19 NIV

**John 1:5

*** Rev. 2:17

**** Isaiah 27:1