



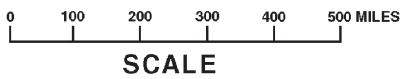
CHAPTER 1

? - 1700 B.C.

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WHAT GOD TOLD MOSES

Creation, Man's Will and His Fall, Began the Redemption of Man Plan, Abraham's Obedience and the Patriarchs



In order to begin a discussion about what the Church ought to be we must go back to the very beginning and that is, creation. Kenyon explained the reason for creation in his "The Bible In The Light Of Our Redemption". **BLOR pp 9. *The purpose in creation seems to be to provide a suitable environment for man. In fact, if we take man out of creation, creation with its resources and its beauty has no reason for existing. If God created the universe as a home for man, He must have had a reason for creating man. Man, in every age of history, has sought in vain for this reason, the reason for his own existence. BLOR pp 12. Man was the goal of the whole creation movement. Science must here agree with the Biblical account of creation in the placing of man at the summit of creation. He was the last and the highest of God's works.***

It was natural that the father -- heart of God should long for sons and daughters. God wanted someone to share his creation and have a loving relationship with Him. God had a meeting of the Trinity and They decided to create man and woman. **AB Genesis 1:26-27 *God said, Let Us (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the (tame) beasts, and over all of the earth, and over every thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.*** Notice in verse 26 God said let Us do this and make mankind in Our image. Because God is a Spirit, He made man to have a spirit and have a spiritual relationship with Him. This man, made for fellowship, had to be in God's image. Man is a spirit, soul and body. The spirit is the real man created in the image of God. His soul includes his reasoning facilities and will. Man's spirit was to rule over his mind and body and he was meant to be in spiritual communication with God.

God took a chance when he created man with a will; however, a man without a will would not have answered the reason for creation. God wanted that man would choose to communicate with Him. God loved

man so much. He gave man the authority over His creation. ***AB Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it (with all its vast resources): and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth . . .*** Imagine, if you will, the status of man at this point. He was the ruler of the world by his association with God, the creator. He was living on the earth and enjoying the benefits. Man had this perfect situation with no pain, no worrying and no problem with evil. He was in constant communication with God who is and was love itself.

Because man had this will, he chose to exercise it by going against God. He ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil so he would not have to depend on God. When this happened, man broke the spiritual connection with God, and Satan, who had directed this process, was there to receive the authority over the physical world that had belonged to man. To survive, man had to depend on his soul (reason) and his five physical senses.

At this point God began the process that would redeem man back to Himself. Man had to become as righteous as when he was created in the image of God. God forever knew his Son had to be the only answer to this dilemma. God must manifest Himself as a man in order to bring mankind back to the original relationship. The perfect sacrifice must be offered to save man from his sins. Of course, because of man's will, he would have to want this relationship and be weary of going his own way in this world without the spiritual connection to God.

From the first man Adam until Pentecost, God continued the redeeming process by manifesting Himself to mankind in many ways. These manifestations culminated with the ultimate manifestation, Jesus Christ, Himself. Since Pentecost, we Christians who believe Jesus died for our sins have this ultimate relationship to look forward to when we die; however, Paul in his letter to the Ephesians tells us there is more. ***AB Eph 1:13-14 That (Spirit) is the guarantee of our inheritance-the first fruit, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage-in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring (com-***

plete) possession of it, to the praise of His glory. After Pentecost, He left the Holy Spirit as a down payment or earnest money on our heritage so we could have some of the benefits of this close relationship with God before we go to be with Him.

From Adam to Noah, God regretted man's creation; however, He was ever mindful of saving the lineage to the Redeemer. By saving the lineage from Adam's son, Seth, to Noah and beyond, God provided the righteous lineage to His Son. Abraham was a part of this and believed what God told him. Abraham had a miraculous offspring named Isaac and he became the father of Jacob who was the father of the twelve patriarchs. All of these were circumcised as a seal of the covenant between Abraham and God. God would show His power by His Holy Spirit to His covenant people during their time and eventually to everyone through His church.

