

# The Narrative

## Theology as Story

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June 2016

“What was before the beginning, before the beginning when the first heaven was formed, even before the first heaven was formed?”

“There was the I Am. The I Am was good. He fellowshiped within Himself. The Great Father spoke and His Word was always there, coming from Him, He was Him, His Son, always dancing in His Spirit, who was Him, who also flowed from Him. Just as He has a Spirit, we also have a spirit. Do you understand?”

“No, not fully.”

“Indeed it is a mystery. But can you perceive it as if from afar?”

“Yes, a mystery, I think so. But was He only good and not evil at all? Or could He have been both evil and good as some people say? They call it the balance.”

“The I AM was and is and will be only ever good, since there is no darkness in Him at all. He is a person within reality, not reality itself, though before time He was the only reality. When He began creating with time He created something out of nothing and there was more than He, but He is not just energy or the universe itself, or the feeble consciousness of mankind. They are because He is, not the other way around.”

“But if He was good, before the beginning, then evil must have existed. You cannot have good without evil can you? There was only Him, but did the shadow of Him co-exist somehow?”

“If so, not as a thing of substance, but only as a possibility. Yet this thing we call good was simply life and there was no other way that was, not in existence, since He alone was and is and will be I AM. He alone was, and He fellowshiped within Himself.”

“Was He not only like a Father, but like a Mother to his Son?”

“Yes, but more like a Father, a good Father, and a Son, and Spirit. Those are the best ways to describe Him. The Elohim, Majesties, yet the One Majesty.”

“With love and wisdom He speaks, His Word creates, His Breath overshadows. Word would become man, but already was in eternity, in timelessness, the Messenger of I AM.”

“A Messenger to whom?”

“The Great Bride of course; He does not need her, He wants her. She must want Him also, for it to be love. He wants a Bride who will love Him of her own free will. They were made after His image.”

“Who are they?”

“Male and female; they must have free will so that a Bride will come from them for Him, her Husband.”

“How will this come to be?”

“Listen now; first there must be a beginning, a beginning of time, a time for testing. The first heaven was formed. The messengers were formed; they were created like the Great Messenger, but not the Messenger Himself, for he was begotten of the Great Father.”

“Messengers to whom?”

“The Great Bride of course, but she does not come yet. First the messengers must be tested, trained. In the beginning I AM created the heavens...”

Heretofore and following is a dialogue between a teacher and student. The setting is a living room with a comfortable couch and chair. The dialogue follows an ancient style of rhetoric. After this test of theology the student will go to a gathering where he will be anointed by the elders, who will pray over him and anoint him with oil. Immediately afterwards he will go to a desolate place for forty days and nights with fasting and prayer. Then he will return to begin his ministry. The reader will have to imagine the appropriate gestures of hands, eyes, and smiles or frowns depending on the subject, since the text will not indicate mannerisms, but follow the dialogue itself...

“Son of Morning was created best. He must pass the message on to the Great Bride so that she can surpass him. Yet the I AM knew that Son of Morning would fail the test. It must be then. She must want Him. It is best. Let it begin.

“Even in His Presence – there were no secrets then – Son of Morning swelled on account of his own beauty. He was guard to the garden of the I AM and His Bride. He walked among the fiery stones and they could not hurt him because he was refined. He was perfect, yet under the I AM. Yet when morning dawn became day he looked into his own mirror to

behold his own reflection, becoming self-aware, and he swelled. He said to himself, 'Just as the Bride will be made to surpass me, so I will surpass I AM.' He said in his heart, 'I am, and there is none besides me.'

"Each messenger held a star, set in the heavens, to declare the glory of the I AM to the Bride, but a third of them joined Son of Morning in battle. Light set against light, lights set against the Source of light.

"But the one who is like the Great Messenger took the many stars and fought back with I AM's power shining through them. Then Son of Morning went from day to night.

"Darkness, darkness was born, but only after the little earth had been formed. The I AM made light through His Word, Love and Wisdom and called it good. By doing so He had formed darkness also. Son of Morning set himself against the I AM, the messengers of light, and the Great Bride thereafter. He became the adversary. The adversary wielded darkness and tried to pervert it. He took from the shadow. He took from the Abyss, where I Am was not, or rather if I AM was there He was only there to cast away, to punish, to destroy, but we will call it the great Nothingness. Adversary sought to pervert good with it, though he knew it would burn him in the end like an unquenchable fire, he used it to destroy in his rage. Wanting to become lord of darkness, darkness became lord over him. He had fallen from good. Wickedness was found in him and then it dominated him and he crafted his own perverted form of darkness.

"The light thundered with lightning and sent the adversary crashing down to little earth. Son of Morning would still fulfill his purpose, willing or not. Adversary then roamed through the fires of earth, seeking to have vengeance.

"But the Breath of I Am began creating earth in its shape and diversity. Toward the end of his first days creating earth He made the earthling, the little girl who might someday be His Bride. He separated earthling and made man and woman like Himself. He wanted many children to be like His Son, a Bride for Him. But she must want Him also."

"So it is not so that man was created first and then woman? You make it sound as if woman was created at the same time."

"The earthling was more like man than woman, until she came out of him, since he was made in the image of I AM's Son. Yet she was already present in earthling and needed to complete that image of I AM, both male and female. But all of them together make up the Great Bride. And she must desire I AM of her own free will.

“Therefore a tree was put there, next to the tree of abundant, everlasting life; a rumor of a second and third heaven begins. The tree was put there so that she would want Him as He wants her. The little girl was to demonstrate her love for Him by eating of all the trees, but this one. To love I AM is to obey His Word, His Voice. At first she did, but then adversary came as a dragon and tried to teach her the way of good and evil much too quickly before the transformation.”

“The transformation into what?”

“Into sons of I AM, into His Bride. Adversary was trying to take vengeance for losing his high position. But the I AM knew this would happen, and so in love and wisdom, He turned away from the perverted form of darkness within them, within the little girl also. She ate the fruit. Thus she disobeyed the Voice and did evil. Now she knew evil and therefore also good. But now she was unable to always choose good, thus she could not be allowed to eat from the tree of life. She no longer walked with abundant life. Her spirit died, that which communed with I AM.

“Thus He separated from her, so she would look for Him again. He does not fellowship with shadow perverted, not with any imperfection as adversary had. This would be the time of testing and the second heaven had nearly begun.

“Now He could have left her to simply choose again and again and die in her choices, but instead, in love and wisdom, He gave her over to her first choice, to go on choosing perversion, to lean into it always, as she would naturally do left to herself and without the succor of the Source of Goodness, in order to have mercy on her, so that she would understand separation from Him; that she could not do good apart from Him, not true good.”

“How is it merciful to give her over to perversion?”

“What could it be compared to? What is it like?”

Imagine that a family has two wells of water. One is fresh and full, another is old, unused and makes the one who drinks it sick. The father of that family instructs his children not to drink from the old well, but only the new one. But a neighbor, who hates the father, comes in secret and tells the children not to trust their father, but to drink from the old well. ‘He’s keeping the best water for himself, and doesn’t want you to drink any of it.’ So they break the cover on the well and drink from it, but they become sick. Hopefully they learn from the sickness to trust their father in the future, but if they do not believe him and consider it a coincidence that they became sick, he will let them drink from it again and become sick so that they will know without a doubt that he has told them the truth and is

trustworthy. If they insist on drinking the water again, he will let them do so in order to reestablish trust. It is a mercy. He could punish them rightfully and force them never to drink from it again, but they would always doubt him and so he lets them see for themselves and truly learn it. It is like that. Is that understandable?”

“Yes, I think so. But did she insist on eating the fruit again as the children insisted on drinking from the old well?”

“Yes, He knew she would. The I AM looked down on all the sons of men, on all her offspring, outside the bounds of time. He saw that all of them, apart from His succor, could not be righteous, not one could choose what is truly good and so be in harmony with Him. Thus He gave them over to their disobedience, that they might grope for Him and cry out for restoration. And then He could give it.

“He let her spirit, that which communed with Him, die. The soul lived on, but would slowly die and finally the body also.

“Because of this I AM called out to her until she became old enough for love. Her breasts formed and her shape became lovely. She had been kicking about in her own blood, from being violated by those who passed by her, so He picked her up, put aloe on her wounds, clothed her, and cared for her, even offering to marry her.

“At first she responded and received from Him. He gave her fine jewelry, new dresses, and trained her for royalty. But then adversaries came and drew her away. He had washed her with clean water, scattered her enemies away from her, taken her into his home, nursed her back to health, even taken her through difficult times and rescued her from wicked enemies who had mistreated her. But as soon as adversaries returned with false promises of royalty, she committed adultery with them. They would beat her and mistreat her and she would cry out for Him again. Each time she cried out, He would rescue her. But as soon as she came home and felt secure and prosperous, she forgot Him and ran after other lovers.

“She sold herself to them. She even paid them to have sexual relations with her, like a donkey in heat. But He never stopped loving her and bringing her back, seventy times seven times He did this, but finally He threatened divorce and separated her from Him. He gave her over to her lovers’ lust and they abused her ferociously. Then she came back home afterwards, but He was not there.

“Instead He sent His Word because He so loved what He had made. He came and spoke perfectly of Him. He

walked in the rightness she did not walk in. He sent the Prince to the farthest borders, near the enemy's territory. He saw her again, as a little peasant girl, beaten and mistreated. She was in the dungeon of adversaries' castle.

"Thus the Prince was given as a ransom to die in her place. He went into the dungeon, spoke kindly to her, and ushered her out. Then He and His Father came and bound the adversary. He broke out of the dungeon, conquered the adversary, and spoke to the young girl. He called her a Princess and offered His hand in marriage. She would now become a messenger, a messenger of her King and Husband to offer His hand to all who would receive Him from her. Second Heaven was born.

"He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him, but to all who did receive Him, He gave them the power to become sons of I AM. These He chose according to His foreknowledge."

"So did He choose them because they received Him or did they receive Him because they were chosen?"

"This is the great mystery. No words can explain this properly. It is both. When you step outside of time, both of these take place simultaneously, in the eternal NOW. All that can be said is that He knows those who are His. I AM decides, not them, yet she must receive Him. All the work is His, she only receives Him and His work in her."

"But isn't receiving a kind of work?"

"Yielding to another, receiving the work of another is not work. It is the opposite of work. Consider this: There is a righteous judge deciding the case for two criminals. One of them is a murderer, the other a thief. Which crime is worse?"

"The act of murder."

"Yes, because it is a life, not just a possession, that was taken. But the judge decides to pardon both of them and take their sentences himself instead of them paying the penalty. Suppose the murderer says, 'I'll take the pardon' and the thief says, 'Forget it, I'll pay my own penalty!' Which criminal has done a more righteous thing according to the law?"

"Probably the thief."

"But this is what I AM has done for her. And has she done a great thing by receiving this? Now suppose the judge knew beforehand that the thief would not receive the pardon. That is what it is like when people do not receive the Word of I AM. Thus He hardens those who harden their hearts."

"But does He not soften hard hearts also?"

“Yes. He indeed gave himself as a ransom purposely for her. It was not her merit that made Him do so. It was His choice, His decision.”

“So what is the difference between one hard heart and another?”

“Only He knows, yet faith seems to be a factor in that choice. It does not explain it fully, but it touches a part of the foreknowledge. Those He foreknew, He predestined, those He predestined, He also called. Those He called He also justified. Those He justified He also glorified. They err who say that foreknowledge is the same as predestination. They err also who say that predestination is the same as foreknowledge. Yet foreknowledge is deeper than a one time event, it is of a person, a whole life, even of a people; and it is intimate. Yet faith is a part of what is foreknown, though it is not all. But does faith obligate I AM to restore her by law?”

“Not by law.”

“But by Grace. Thus He chooses those who He knows and they have receiving faith, which He has chosen to merit as righteousness because He is so giving. Or think of it another way:

“A wind comes; no one knows where it comes from or where it is going. It blows upon the cheek on a hot, scorching day. The slave has somehow chosen to join the scorching heat as he works in its bitterness, carrying this heavy and senseless load for a ruthless master. The cool breeze touches him; he wants to curse it for reminding him of something better. For years, day after day, it has been like this. Yet today, suddenly, it has softened him. Today he lets the wind touch him, though it has touched him all along. Something breaks inside; something is born; pain like salt to a wound but it begins to mend. He smiles, for the first time since he can remember. But the other slaves around him spit into the air, still wallowing in the heat. The cool wind is wise, you see. It knows when to kiss and how it will feel. Somehow its timing is unmistakable, maybe through the practice of years, yet it has always been blowing and always will be. But why not sooner? Why not this for all? Why this touch of freedom for only one, for only a few? Why today? These are the riddles of heaven, yet love knows today; today he let the wind touch him, though it has touched him all along; the others did not, and today, long before, long after, even NOW the wind decided, decides and will decide to touch him, to then free him, to make him free like the wind. Just like that. It decided to touch him, knowing he would receive, and so the slave is free, even as he continues on.”

“So it is the humble heart that He chooses by Grace?”

“Even the capacity to receive is given by Him. He is the Creator. Thus all the credit is His.”

“Does He give that capacity to all or only to some?”

“In a way all have been given the capacity to receive by that same Grace. One cannot disobey a message if the person has not been given the capacity, on some level, to obey it also.

“That would be like a King issuing an edict, but not delivering it. If He punishes his subjects for not obeying an edict they never had the capacity to obey, He would be a wicked King. Yet the verdict is that men have freely chosen to disobey and thus their punishment is just. If they reject His purpose for them, He has a different purpose for them afterward that is not pleasant, but it is just nonetheless. Yet He knows those who, given the capacity to receive, would not do so, thus He leaves them in their hardness. That is His choice and only He can the judge of who those are. It is not random, but according to foreknowledge. These are given this capacity and not the others, within time and space.”

“Does He love only some then and not all?”

“He loves the entire universe, including those who refuse Him. It is they who excommunicate themselves from Him and thus He gives in to their desire – He grants them their wish- by casting them away from Him. Even though He knows they will not receive, He bears with great patience the objects of His wrath. Like a doctor who ministers to a dying man, though he knows the man will die, so is His love for those who refuse Him.”

“So the atonement is not limited as some suggest.”

“It is limited to those chosen and they receive. It cannot be made for those who refuse. Yet the blood was shed for them also, as a testimony to them and all the universe that He is love. His sacrifice was not only for the chosen, but also for the “sins of the whole world”. Yet at one-ment was made for the chosen. He purchased His Bride knowing those who are His and suffered purposely for her.”

“So it does depend on our receiving if we are chosen. He simply foreknows those who will receive Him.”

“No. It depends more on His choice than our receiving faith. That may be a factor, but that is a mystery that these words cannot even fully explain.”

“So which is it, His choice or her faith?”

“Both, but if we must choose one or the other, it is more His choice than her faith. And it is certainly nothing of merit on her part, not by works of the Law. Indeed nothing can snatch her from His hand. This is the comfort of His choice over hers, thus it does not ultimately depend on her ability, but

His. Once chosen there is no possibility that she will be forsaken.”

“Yet some will be forsaken. If He is loving, how can this be?”

“Love loves. Hate hates. These two do not mix. They are opposites. Love hates hate, however, and hate hates love. Hate does not love love, nor does love love hate. When sodium and water are mixed they explode and change form. When love and hate are together they also explode. Love is jealously just and its jealous justice turns into wrath in the presence of hate. Love casts horrified hatred away, like light to darkness or warmth to coldness. Pure love drives it away. If a person is possessed by fearful hatred, love will come to that person and seek to drive the hate and fear away, but the person will run. Imagine a totally loving woman named Dolce approaches a spiteful coward named Anerel. As soon as Dolce comes near, Anerel is searching for ways to criticize Dolce. She is jealous, angry, and feels condemned by Dolce and so she runs away. But Dolce is only reaching out in love. Now imagine that Dolce is Anerel’s mother. Anerel has rebelled against her totally. She is prostituting herself, selling and buying drugs and wants to continue to do so. She is 18 and old enough to leave the house, but wants to stay under her mother’s roof and eat her food while continuing to live in rebellion against her mother. Is it loving for Dolce to enable her? Or is it loving to say, ‘If you want to stay in this house, you must not sell drugs, make drugs, do drugs or prostitute yourself out for drugs...’? Anerel refuses and runs away. Is Dolce, the mother not angry at the child, especially at her choices? Should Dolce therefore force her back, tie her up and lock her in her room, feed her and imprison her? Or should she let her be free to suffer the consequences and choose this way of life? Which is more loving?”

“The latter and not the former.”

“Yes, and her hope is that someday her daughter will learn. But the tragedy is that some never do. That reality must be faced. But does Dolce ever stop loving Anerel?”

“No, not if she is a good mother.”

“And how much more does I AM love those who refuse Him? Will He not love them forever, even if they never love Him back?”

“If He is infinite, His love must be infinite.”

“Indeed He is love. Yet love is not always He, for there is love that is like Him, but not Him, since He made her to be like Himself. And love does not force itself on another. Thus

many choose destruction and He does not force them to marry Him.”

“But is their destruction really everlasting? Could it be that some will be purged by the fire of His judgment into glory? Could it be that some will be destroyed and the meaning is that their destruction will be once and for all, forever Finished?”

“All of these things may be possible, but trust that He will do what is just. It will be clear, though it is not yet. There is much mystery here. Yet the Husband compared it to the garbage outside the city where the worms eat and the fire keeps burning. Separation from Him who gives life, joy, love, goodness: that is what is meant primarily...what is left without that?”

“Death, sadness, hatred, and evil.”

“Yet this is the great contradiction. Those who were meant to live and be royalty forever, thrown into shadow, the Nothingness (as even some religions have named it and even sought for it). That is why it is painful. The more beautiful the being’s purpose the worse the pain, thus the adversary will suffer most. These were meant to be immortally alive! They will instead be immortally dead. Yet this should not be understood in time as this universe experiences it. The husband suffered this horrible separation in a moment, yet it felt like an eternity, and even mysteriously was so, as it touched the eternal “now”. It is a ghostly existence, not with substance, raised up to death, not life, but shadowy, a semblance of His image, grossly marred and almost nothing. Yet they exist and are cast into Nothingness and thus it is most like a burning. For I AM’s only presence there is separation, punishment and destruction. They are raised indeed, but lacking and infinitely ill.”

“If they are cast into the nothingness will they cease to exist?”

“The Bride will have a substantial life that is rich communion with I AM. They were also made for that life, these children of adversary, offspring of the ancient serpent, but they rejected I AM’s purpose for themselves. Indeed He knows this and destined them for it. Thus in the “now” they are automatically cast away from the Giver of Life.”

“This seems too horrible!”

“It is, especially to the I AM, yet it is nonetheless. And this reality is not just after death, but long before it, all around in people’s lives; yet when grace is taken away it will be seen for what it is. Just as horrible circumstances either brings the best or worst out in people, so it will be at the end of time. Yet we must perceive time differently here. A moment is like a thousand moments, and thousand moments like a moment.

Every moment touches eternity, just as this one does... Thus the Husband experienced this separation for a moment, yet it was sufficient to pay for all eternity, for all."

"Is there full consciousness in this Nothingness then?"

"Possibly not or not fully or yes and no at the same time, yet again, the more aware the being, the worse it will be."

"Could it be a 'place' that goes on forever and yet not everyone spends eternity there?"

"It could be, yet there is much mystery here. Many things 'could' be. But trust the I AM."

"Could it be that all persons will be restored?"

"When you observe those around you, does it seem that all are restored? How would passing through death change this state of being for them?"

"They might understand their state properly in fire and seek to be free of it."

"That could be so, yet people know this state of being already and they suppress the truth of their responsibility for it, so they choose to blind themselves to it. The more obvious the truth, the more they run, like bugs beneath a rock that is overturned and exposed to the light. Some are softened and some become harder."

"This is fearful. But isn't it better not be motivated by fear and rather by love?"

"Indeed, but if this is reality that love will reveal the truth of it. If you tell a group of children to eat healthy food because they could die a painful death from a disease if they persist in eating junk food, you might be using fear to motivate but you do so in love, do you not? It would be better if they ate healthy food because it is healthy for them and they grow to love it, but consequences also reveal reasons that are just as true as a positive motivation. If it is fearful, than a healthy fear is appropriate, whether the truth is liked or disliked, positive or negative, that does not make it more or less true."

"But doesn't perfect love cast out all fear?"

"Yes, but that is the end, not the beginning. Subjects do not presume to have friendship with their King. Fear has its proper place and must be properly directed first. The fear of the I AM is the beginning of wisdom. The end of wisdom is that perfect love casts out all fear. Those with evil in them have much to fear from I AM. Yet He loves them."

"Are all totally depraved then as some suggest?"

"Apart from Grace, yes, all of us would be if God had not in creating us granted us some semblance of goodness, if He had not given us a likeness of goodness just as He gives us breath. Yet there is a likeness of goodness in man; they are

made in His image. Yet many seek to take credit for their own likeness of goodness, as if they cause themselves to breathe. When they hear the Message, they reject it and their punishment is eternal, since the Message is eternal. Indeed His majesty is eternal. Before the Husband came, all went to the prison of the grave. Then the Husband spoke to those in prison and many were raised up with Him who were of old. Then the second heaven came to be and the Husband took His throne again, having conquered.”

“Did those who came before Him also receive Him during their lives on earth in the same way we do?”

“Yes, but only to the extent that He revealed Himself, that is the Message. Abel received Him, Enoch received Him, Noah received Him, Abram received Him. Abram knew Him as Almighty. He was willing to give up his only son, but the Almighty would provide the offering instead; indeed His only Son. I AM called out and Abram heard and obeyed. Thus community was begun around him and his children. Isaac believed the promise. Jacob wrestled with I AM in the form of a man, even His Son. Joseph received I AM. Moses also, and Joshua after him received Him. Thus the dance was enacted with them and community built around them. The Judges also, and some of the Kings; the true prophets, even as they spoke of the One to come. Then He came and community was built around Him; 12, even 3. Then the messengers who were appointed continued the Message to the Bride. Anyone who was willing was brought in, even through what was called the “Dark Ages” there were the faithful. In the Reformations, community was built, light was shed. It spread through Europe, into the Americas also; then throughout the world, the community was being built.

“Through great awakenings, renewals to the present Moment; Community is built Now for those who are willing.”

“So before He came they had faith also, but went into Sheol. But what of Enoch and Elijah? And how did Moses appear to the Son of I AM?”

“Enoch and Elijah were caught up to the second heaven. Moses was buried by I AM, but in order to encourage the Son, Michael fought adversary for Moses body and his soul was reunited with his body so that he could appear on the mountain to the Son.”

“Do all now go to the second heaven or do they sleep?”

“The body sleeps until resurrection. The soul and spirit continue to be united to I AM beyond.”

“Is this the second heaven? If so, what is the third heaven then?”

“In one sense the second heaven came under the authority of the third heaven, after Son of I AM rose from death. Then those who waited in the prison of Sheol heard the Message and appeared for a short time on earth on their way to heaven. The third heaven began as the Son of I AM ascended back to the right hand of Majesties, Father and Spirit. The third heaven will be complete in the New Heaven and New Earth prepared for the Bride, which is even Now prepared for her. The second heaven is also the place of the spiritual realm where the angels dwell, but that too is under the authority of the third heaven. Much strife and battle still rage in the second heaven. But the third heaven is at rest in victory Now.”

“If it is touching Now then it is already present.”

“And still not yet; the darkness is present but passing away. The true light is already shining.”

“How can this be?”

“It is beyond understanding, yet you perceive it as if from afar.”

“Yes. Is that the community that is being built Now?”

“It is. At Babel it was broken; in love I AM scattered the peoples because they were convinced they could find peace in the power of mankind. They built a tower to the heavens, they spoke one language, they were capable of any accomplishment, yet they did not have true peace in their hearts, not true love. So, because He is love, He scattered them to enact His great Plan. He called out to form communion with Her again, but she must respond in love freely. Finally Abram received Him and was chosen to begin the communion with Him again. And so community was being built. His son responded also, as did Jacob who wrestled with the Son of I AM because He enjoys wrestling. And He defined His community as those who wrestle with Almighty thereafter. Joseph received, as did Moses, Joshua, Rahab and the Judges, Ruth, some of the Kings and Prophets, even Cyrus and Nebuchadnezzar but anytime their children no longer communed with I AM, the community was broken and He would call out again. So it was until Son of I AM came and communed with 12, even 3. The Message then spread through the entire world from that small community. Like an immunization shot is very small, but its effect spread throughout the body so the Message spreads through the earth and brings healing and peace for those who receive Him. Any time someone or some persons received Him, by His Grace, He built the community through them. This is His Kingdom come. But before His coming the children of Abraham had not received Him as they ought so He scattered them in love into

the nations. Every year the faithful returned to the City to pay homage to Him. At Shavuot He poured Himself out and all could understand Him again who heard. At Babel they had been scattered. From Babylon they had been scattered again. At Shavuot He began to bring them back in, but Now in Him. Since then the community has grown and still grows today. Anyone who is willing may come and drink and eat without charge. They can join the community and be free. He knows those who are His- these He has chosen.

“But today the tower of Babel lives on. Men still build towers to the heavens, still seek to have one language, great technology and find peace in themselves through the power of the unity of mankind. Yet they have no real peace. Even if they stop killing one another, they still hate each other in their hearts. There is still loneliness, sadness, hatred, shame, evil, even if conditions are wonderful, comfortable, prosperous. Why? Because they are not in communion with I AM, as they were meant to be. Yet to all who receive the community is being built and all are welcome. Some receive; some do not. I AM knows.”

“But Roman Catholics say they are the community, the Eastern Orthodox say they are, and the Protestants claim the same, what is the Community? How is it recognized?”

“All the streams will flow as one river Someday. He has desired it to be so, but, again, He does not force it. And even Now it is one river, yet it is being brought together as one. It began as one river. The enemy sought to reroute the River, to break it into small brooks until it would dry up in his heat. It seemed as if adversary might succeed, his fires burned so hotly on the River’s streams. Yet I AM allowed it to be this way. Each of the seven streams still remained, even if as merely a trickle. The root of Israel was nearly lost, but not completely. In time the Messianic (the natural branches, even the people of the Branch- the Netzer, Nazarenes) stream flowed again, especially after the second to last stream was restored; the gifts of the Spirit; what is called the charismatic stream. And indeed the stream of justice rolled on like a river. The poor were again lifted up. The stream of the Message and messengers rose up again also; these are known as the social justice and evangelical streams. Holiness revived as well among the Community. And Contemplation had risen also, thus the mystics explored the spiritual realm all the way back and up to the I AM. All of these flowed from the Sacramental institutions, the Incarnational traditions that kept ritual, tradition, and authority strong and persevering, desiring to make Heaven concrete on earth. These seven streams will again flow as one River. It is

flowing already and thus the Bride will shine as her Message goes forth in its fullness and not in pieces only, at the end. She will be whole, even as adversary seeks to destroy her completely. All those who have received Him are the Bride, the Community, of the River. They are the Kingdom on earth in His Spirit.”

“Are Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox and other groups all the Bride then?”

“All of these earthly institutions have the Bride within them. I AM knows those who are His.”

“So who has the correct creeds and cannon?”

“All agree on a minimal form of the ancient Council of Nicaea for the creed. All agree on a minimal number of books. These without a doubt are true. That first Council was the last Council of All elders of the Community over each city and region of the day.”

At this point a break is suggested by the teacher for the purpose of eating a snack and having something to drink. They share a laugh or two and some superficial conversation about some of the students’ delightful quirks. Then the teacher suggests that they continue and so they sit up straight to prepare for the dialogue to resume...

“Which view of the end times is the right one? A-mil, Pre-mil, or post-mil?”

“All of these have elements of truth in them. The darkness is present, but passing away and the true light is already shining. In one sense victory is already accomplished and the King is on His throne. In another sense these are important things yet to occur before the end and the physical Jerusalem is not unimportant in those events. Tribulations have come and are yet to come. But all agree on three things: First, we must be ready for His coming. Second, He is literally coming again for Judgment and the Resurrection of the Dead. Third, He is victorious and we are conquerors also with Him. The adversary is bound and will be bound. The thousand years are already and yet to come. The Revelation is literal and symbolic, and it stretches across the ages, being fulfilled many times over. All will be made clear, yet faithfulness in the Now is the key, faithfulness to Him. The territory is taken and the war is won, but there are still battles to be had nonetheless.”

“And what of Israel? Are the Jews the chosen people or is the Church?”

“I AM chose the children of Abraham and retains a special place in His heart, even for those who have forsaken the

New Covenant in Messiah, like an estranged lover still holds on to love. Yet all those, who like Abraham, have faith in I AM and His Son are chosen. “

“Will the Jews who do not believe come back to the Messiah?”

“There will be a renewal of the Jews back to their Messiah at the end of the age.” “Are present events in Israel a fulfillment of ancient Biblical prophecy?”

“Many things are being set in place. But the land is theirs to possess through righteousness and they are not yet walking in the righteousness of I AM. Because of the sin of the Canaanites and the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Israelites were given entrance to the land. But possession is only given through righteousness and this must be received by faith in the Son of I AM. ”

“There are so many views on theology, eschatology, interpretations of Scripture, and ways of preaching the faith. Which are the best? Who is right?”

“In the Body, everyone has something to teach and something to learn. No one part of the Body is more important than another. As we listen to the instruments harmonizing together, we hear the symphony. Each part by itself is just that, only a part. The important question is which instruments are playing their parts correctly? Some are not of the symphony and seek to bring disharmony since they refuse to heed the conductor and composer. In the same way, others are of the symphony, but refuse to play in time with the others. For them it is more of a solo than a symphony. There are many important interpretations of Scripture, some that seem opposite, yet all have importance together. What is vital and necessary remains so.”

“What about those who say homosexuality is not sin or that Christ did not rise?”

“Some are not of the symphony.”

“What is meant in saying that the Bible is infallibly the Word of I AM?”

“It is indeed God-breathed as no other book. It is the unbreakable authority on knowledge concerning salvation. Through all the ages and the messiness of being passed down from people to people I AM is able to speak clearly just as through every storm and wind a strong tree stands. What is vital and necessary remains so.”

“Then what is vital and necessary?”

“Only the one called I AM SAVES, the Message, and His being executed by the world, for the world that missed the mark, yet that Message came back to life again and ascended to

the I AM again. For I AM so loved the universe that He gave His only Message, so that anyone who trusts in Him would not ultimately die, but would have abundant life that lasts forever. That Message is a real human person, who died a real human death and also an eternity of spiritual death. He came back to life, a real human person, but also the I AM. He is the Message. And thus I AM desires a bride who will love Him back of her own free will. This Message is mysterious and too glorious for words to describe it sufficiently, yet each of the seven streams reveals the fullness of the Message. The root describes Him as the Son of David, King of Israel. The second stream declares that His abundant life lives in His Bride, surging through her body that she may speak and act with power. The third stream shows that He brings justice to those on earth through her, that the poor will be lifted up and all spheres of society made right again. The Message that she has been saved from hell and born a second time so she might be worthy of heaven and know I AM personally has been proclaimed well by the fourth stream. The Message that she must be set apart as I AM is set apart for purity in moral living and loyalty to Him alone has been well proclaimed by the fifth stream. Although at time the Message was nearly lost in counterfeit streams, the mystics wrote of spiritual experiences, exploring them far, sometimes into madness, but, also, by His Grace, truly from His Spirit since she is indeed His temple; this stream did beckon many to the true Message, just as the star of Bethlehem led some to Him also. And all this flowed from the seventh stream, which grew again after the Message was nearly lost. This stream kept traditions in place, rituals and writings that made the Message concrete and rooted firmly in the physical, seeing the significance of sacrament in all things. Indeed the Message is all pervasive; thus He is King of the Universe reconciling all things in heaven and earth to Himself through the death of His physical body on the tree, redeeming Israel first, then all peoples being clothed with power from on high, bringing shalom to all aspects of society, salvation from hell to heaven with Him, holiness and purity to His Bride, spiritual revelation even to the depths, and rooted firmly in what is visible and earthly. He will raise her up again at the last day and praise her good deeds for all to see, glorified as both spiritual and physical.”

“Why is the physical as important as the spiritual in this Message? Is salvation not freedom from the body, freedom from the material as the ancient philosophers suggest? Is this not merely the melding of Greek and Hebrew philosophies?”

“It is not merely the melding of philosophies, indeed it is not a philosophy at all. Salvation is not ultimately freedom from the material, but freedom in it. Any philosophy that denies that He came in physical form, that His death was physical as well as spiritual, including also His being raised to life again in glorified bodily form, is of the adversary.”

“Why?”

“It denies His purpose for His Bride. Adversary turns all to the self for salvation. It is within you already, he says. ‘Ignorance is the problem,’ rather than sin, according to adversary. This knowledge is the key, adversary says, rather than receiving His love. For them the message merely shows all that they are already divine. The emphasis is always on one’s ability, knowledge, and power, rather than on I AM. Yet her purpose is to magnify I AM and in Him she is most satisfied, not in herself, but in Him. And wisdom is proved by her actions. If a woman is about to give birth, she can imagine the birth, she can even act as if the birth has already happened and claim a secret knowledge that the spirit of her child has already been brought forth. But until the child is physically born, there is no true birth. So it is with salvation. It will have its effect on the actions of the Bride. She will give birth to good fruit, like a good tree. And in the end she will rise with a glorified body, like her Husband did, not just a spirit, but a body and not just a spiritual heaven, but a New Earth. These are the vital and necessary things, namely the Son of I AM, his execution, resurrection for the sake of His Bride. Every other message is counterfeit and of the adversary, calling mankind to work harder, search longer, and look within; that the power is in self to achieve, yet it comes to Nothingness.

“It is as if a Kingdom has been devastated by a plague, a pandemic. But a doctor in that kingdom finds a medicine that can cure this horrible sickness. The King sends this medicine out with his chosen messengers, but a rumor passes through the land that this medicine is actually poisonous. The rumor was started by an enemy of the King. The enemy encourages the King’s subjects to get more rest, exercise more, and drink lots of fluid to seek their own cures, using their own medicines. He does this in order to kill of the subjects of the King. At first he did so in the hope that he might conquer the King, but when this became impossible the enemy kept this rumor alive in order to kill as many of the King’s subjects as possible.”

“Why is it impossible to conquer the King anymore?”

“After the rumor had spread that the King’s medicine was actually poison, the King sent His Son, the Prince to the farthest villages of His Kingdom. The Prince knew He would

become sick among them, but also took to medicine in order to show them it would bring healing. If His subjects still refused after seeing the Prince's recovery, there was nothing more the King could do for them, but let them die. The Prince also went to the enemy's camp, destroyed all of his armaments, supplies and resources and bound the enemy and all his warriors, cut off their fighting arms, whether right or left, and promised their certain death if they continued their plan. Then the Prince returned to the Castle, sending out messengers throughout the Kingdom about the truth of the medicine and the certain defeat of the enemy."

"Was the Son's atonement concerning the defeat of the adversary a demonstration of sacrifice rather than a substitution as has been taught by the Catholics and Protestants?"

"The first thousand years after the Son's coming emphasized the victory over adversary, but the atonement was considered more than a demonstration. Silence was encouraged before its mystery, but substitution was clearly taught by I AM from the beginning: first with animal skins, with Abel, with Noah, Abraham and especially through Moses and thereafter. Indeed the lamb of I AM would bear the transgressions of His people. A debt was indeed owed to I AM. This is the power of forgiveness; not merely to overlook an offense, but to face it, consider it paid by the Son's execution, and live toward the offender as if it never occurred in a wise manner. If an employee owes his employer millions of dollars, and the employer forgives the debt, that employee will be able to forgive the debts of anyone else in comparison who may owe only thousands. But if the employee refuses to admit that he owed anything, he will not be convinced that it follows to forgive the debts of anyone else if they truly wrong him. The power of true forgiveness is lost in that denial. But true forgiveness that is empowered by the payment of the Son's unjust execution could alter the world towards mercy and shalom if men were willing."

"Will this Message eventually bring world peace then?"

"Not in this age, not true peace, though one will come who will seemingly end the fighting of nations. He will claim to be the Messiah and even use the ethical teachings of I AM's Son, twisting them and calling for a false tolerance, claiming as adversary claims, that all are already divine and all paths are divine. This is the return of the tower of Babel, of Babylon. After the Message comes to a nation, the faithful are persecuted within, then it rises to the top and is mixed with earthly power where it is compromised and the prosperity that was brought by the Message and its benefits causes men to forget and give way

to apathy. Then that nation loses its power and the Message continues westward until it reaches the Holy Land where the last stand will take place. All the faithful will find refuge there in the mountains before the end.

“Since that evil man will be hailed as divine and put an end to worship as an un-evolved thing, he will first cause everyone to disdain the faithful. Then he will put them in camps for “evolution” and conditioning towards “tolerance”. When they still refuse he will have them executed for the sake of progress and the supposed new age of peace.”

“So should we not be concerned for world peace? Should we not work toward it?”

“Shalom should always be sought after, yet it begins in the heart and moves outward from there. Thus it will not ultimately come through political means. One cannot change a caterpillar into a butterfly through external means. It must occur within the cocoon.”

“What of the proposition that our job is to transform culture? Is the ship going to sink and so we need lifeboats or are we trying to repair the ship so it does not sink?”

“The goal of the Message is not first to transform culture, but to transform individuals and communities of persons by I AM’s power, that is the Bride. The result will be the transformation of culture, but a man cannot be told to play by the rules if he is not first playing the game. Students will hear their teacher and obey instructions, but not until they are first made students. So they cannot bring true shalom until shalom has transformed their own hearts and lives.”

“Do we not care for the environment then or encourage others to do the same?”

“We do, as we care for our own bodies, though they will be refined through the fire to ashes. We bring shalom everywhere, even to the earth itself. Though we know our loved ones will die we do not cease to love them. In the same way, although we know the present earth’s form will pass away, we do not cease to care for it. Indeed the New Earth will be the dwelling place of the Bride and Her Husband.”

“So again the physical matters as much as the spiritual. Indeed mankind seems to know of the spiritual through the physical. Do they not know through the created things of I AM’s divine majesty and power? But is this revelation enough to restore such a one to I AM and thus immortality?”

“It would be enough, if mankind did not rebel against it, but all naturally do so. Thus the first man was the proper representative of all. No, she needs the Message, the unique revelation of her Husband. Thus she can be united to Him

forever. If they refuse, they will not be united, but she receives and so the union begins. Yet He does not force her. He beckons her and she can receive, if she desires Him. Indeed He gave up His life on her behalf for her hand. If, after the Message has come, they still refuse, how horrid is that refusal! It is worthy of eternal death, not just physical death. Yet how glorious it is for her who receives; it is beyond description.”

“But isn’t it possible that the message is given through all or at least many paths and not just one? Isn’t it all relative to where a person is born, grows up and is taught? How can it be said that one way is right and all others are wrong?”

“Indeed the Way is narrow. Yet it is not merely a path or idea or lifestyle or set of practices, but the Way is a Person. Apart from that Person there is no life, since life comes from Him. If one were to suggest to you that you have more than one mother who gave you birth you would laugh at him and say plainly that it does not happen that way. So it is with the Message. There is one source of life and one way to know Him and live. There are many things like that in the world. We need water to live and there is no alternative to it. If someone believed otherwise their belief would not change the fact that they have need of water. Without it they would die.”

“But what if that Person has many different names among different people?”

“Yes, provided that the Name given is that Person and not another deity that represents a created thing or someone other than the Supreme One. Listen, a man had two daughters and their mother had died, so he was the only parent left. Neither of them was old enough to marry, but both of them were old enough to help their father around the house. They adored him. Yet they despised one thing he cherished: mountain-climbing. He had climbed many mountains, very high peaks, and in dangerous conditions. But one weekend he was invited to climb a very high mountain in the winter with a friend.

“His daughters insisted that he not go, but he would not listen. He was determined to go. His friend packed the gear and drove him to the starting point of the climb. His friend explained that there was but one way up and down the mountain. Any other route meant certain death.

“However, the man insisted on taking another route and refused to listen to his friend’s advice. Therefore his friend stayed behind to call for help in case of danger. But the man climbed the mountain by another route. He nearly reached the top in fact with great stamina and grit. But before reaching the summit he fell into a deep crevice and was no more. Rescue

teams found his body at the bottom of the crevice and his daughters mourned for him severely. This is the outcome for those who insist on finding another way, their own way.

“There are also many voices that come from adversary which tempt men astray. The enemy sets traps for mankind, to take vengeance on I AM; traps like the cares of the world, difficulties, and distorting the Message in peoples’ minds. They are like spies planted by an enemy to cause a nation’s downfall from within, but they cannot bring it about, since I AM’s community, His Bride is shielded by Him ultimately.”

“Is that what some call spiritual warfare or just a figment of the imagination, something psychological, or a scapegoat to blame for human wrongdoing? Is it more of a metaphor for evil in the world or people’s superstitions?”

“There is in the unseen realm a conflict that fits the language of battle and warfare. At times the adversary is said to have more power than he actually holds. At times he is underestimated. At times he is blamed for human guilt or feared too much and hastily slandered by some who claim to know more than they know. Yet his winds are ever present in the world. His minions are always whispering lies, hatred, lust, greed, pride and jealousy. This world lies under his sway. Voices call out condemnation, bitterness, fear, hatred, rage, lust and every other temptation. Some overhear and give into these winds. Some are tempted by their own desires and adversary’s minions try to capitalize on that common darkness. They are attracted to fear, to evil, to hate. Yet the power of I AM is infinitely greater.

“The focus should not be on adversary, but on I AM, though it is unwise to be ignorant of adversary’s devices. Yet I AM will keep the Bride aware of such things and not in ignorance, just as a father cares for his children by saying, ‘look both ways before crossing the street.’ In the West apathy and divisions within communities due to jealousy, judgment, and pride are the strategy of the enemy. In places where the unseen realm is well-noted and where the community is strong in I AM the strategy of adversary is a more obvious, external attack.

“In all of this I AM is victorious, yet trust is the shield that extinguishes every hellish flame. Even more, His Grace will keep the children of I AM from ultimate harm. This is their hope and peace. In a war an opposing leader is spoken of primarily, even if his soldiers are the actual perpetrators of each battle. For instance, in a battle between Portage the Bold and Corona the Dastardly, when Portages forces come against Corona’s, the citizens of Corona say, ‘Portage has come against us from the east.’ But, in fact, Portage never left his castle, only

his soldiers did. Thus it is a military term. It is the same with adversary. If one of his minions tempts a man, the man says, 'it was the devil'. But the demons do not read minds or fill heaven and earth. They are not all-knowing or infinite.

"A young man named Derek walks down a quiet street. He sees a young woman on the other side. She's attractive. He notices her beauty. This is not a sin. He then thinks about her more and imagines her naked body and desires her. No demon was present there, only his own sin. However, the same thing may happen and a demon may send a wind of lust into his mind, especially if he has fought against such sin and conquered it, and is drawing nearer to I AM; thus he becomes a threat to the darkness, since he may well bear fruit for the Light. The temptation may come. He may fight it off or stumble. There is Grace for both, but indeed the source is of darkness. It can happen either way and it is not always clear whether it is only the sin of an individual or a wind of the enemy. However the defense is the same in both cases. When one is mindful of I AM and submits to Him, fighting against such temptation with His power, he will find a way of escape. And escape is the way against it, not sheer will, but fleeing. There is no shame in that because the battle belongs to I AM. There are many ways of escape, such as gratitude to God for beauty. But I AM always shows the Way."

"The power of I AM, is it possible to gain more of this power and do we all possess the same amount and need only tap into it?"

"A slave does not own his master, nor does he own his master's property. Neither does a son or daughter own their father's property, though they have claim to it through their father's permission. One can be more filled with the Spirit of I AM, yet He is not a power to be possessed. He is not an 'it'. Rather, He is the Person of the Spirit of the Holy One. He fills His children and they ought to yield more and more to His ownership, not as puppets, like demons try to attain in men, but as in a union between husband and wife in which the husband initiates and the wife receives. He does not force Himself, but like a gentleman woos the Bride and she willingly submits to Him."

"So is there really a baptism of the Spirit that is a second work of grace?"

"There are many baptisms, many anointings, endless glories to explore in I AM. Indeed He is infinite. It is error to think one has arrived due to being given a single gift. There is a baptism, an immersion of repentance and faith, into I AM, the Son and the Spirit, His Names, a further immersion in the

Spirit in which tongues are surrendered, another into holiness, another further into service, and immersions into I AM never cease; there are many and no pattern in how they might be received, no chronological order because the wind blows wherever it pleases. No one knows where it comes from or where it is going. These are mysteries and it not wise to seek formulas for them.

“What counts is more and more love put into action, sacrificial love enacted out of intimate relationship with I AM. The Son always does what the Father is doing. He does nothing on His own, neither do the adopted children of the Father, if they wish to walk as true sons and daughters of I AM. Knowing His desire in all circumstances, hearing His voice, beholding as if before His face, this is what was lost at the Fall, but it is regained when one heeds His voice which now speaks of the tree of life.

“First men fell by a tree. Thus on a tree He was hung. As men look to Him raised up on a tree, they trust in Him and thus eat from the tree of life. The trees of life bring healing to the peoples. His Voice now speaks that anyone who trusts in His Son may eat from the tree of life and live abundantly forever. Thus she can eat new fruit offered by Him and drink deeply, with further and further immersions in His Spirit, never thirsting as before, always being satisfied in Him with every thirst. Every longing of the heart is a longing for I AM. This tree of life is the way of immortality and joy.

“Do those in love every stop desiring to know each other more, to go deeper, to be more satisfied in one another? These are merely symbols of the Husband and the Bride. But nothing can truly compare to their union and its potency. She will know Him more and more deeply, and on forever.

“‘Let him kiss me with kisses of his mouth,’ she says. ‘You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride,’ he responds. Such intimacy has no equal on earth. Her greatest desire is to see His face. He in her and her in Him. Nothing else satisfies like this and that is why she desires to be filled with His Spirit more and more. Thus love will remain forever between them. And love is the most excellent way, the great fruit of the Spirit.”

“Does this mean that speaking in tongues and prophecy have passed away as some have suggested, since love is what really matters?”

“By no means; not until heaven and earth pass away in their present form. As long as the King is away from the land, he will send servants to bring his messages to his people in the land. If he is in a foreign land the people will need translators to understand the messages. So it is with prophecy and

tongues. The heavenly King sends heavenly messages that must be translated to be understood. But also heavenly citizens have heavenly languages to speak in, and only I AM knows each person's heavenly name, even so their unique heavenly language. The spirit of a person prays in such cases. It may at times sound like gibberish, at times it may be in an earthly foreign tongue, at times it may be a specific angelic tongue, but the person's spirit prays in communion with the Holy Spirit, which blows wherever it pleases. No one knows where it comes from or where it is going. These things cannot be quantified by human logic or understanding. There are spiritual mysteries being uttered by the mouth. Tongues edifies the individual believer, unless they are uttered for the edification of a group and then in conjunction with interpretation. Interpretation is like an impression given from I AM in conjunction with a tongue or an exact translation of each word that is given by the Spirit."

"Should all believers who have the Spirit speak in tongues then? Is it a sign of the Baptism of the Spirit?"

"All believers have the Holy Spirit within them at the time of new birth. Indeed they could not be born again without the Holy Spirit being present in them. A child cannot be born without the water breaking or contractions moving the child through the birth canal."

"But is that believer necessarily 'Spirit-filled' then?"

"What is called by some the 'Baptism of the Spirit' would more accurately be called a further immersion in the Spirit. Otherwise its language can be misleading to some. There are many immersions, however, not just one. The gift of tongues is often the sign of a further immersion, but not always. Again these things cannot be easily quantified. One might praise or prophesy or simply groan inwardly in the Spirit. One might have silent awe, yet usually there is some physical manifestation of these further glories. Whether holiness, service, compassion, or intercession, every further immersion drowns the person and soaks such a one even more than before and there is no end to them. Not only does I AM fill every room of each house, but he soaks each altar so it absorbs more and its capacity for more of Him increases."

"But which is the greatest gift?"

"Love."

"But after that."

"Joy."

"Yes, and all the fruits of the Spirit. But which is the greatest gift?"

“Love is the fruit of the Spirit and brings all other virtues with it, joy, peace, patience and many others. There is but one fruit with many expressions. Yet prophecy is the most edifying of the gifts.”

“What is prophecy? Isn’t it the same as preaching?”

“No, first of all love and all its following evidences are primary since they signify personal knowledge of I AM’s Son. All gifts are under this umbrella and if not enacted in love, it should be discounted as ashes in the wind, fumes and smoke, but nothing more. Then, prophecy is the most important gift and this is not simply preaching nor is it primarily about telling the future, but is forth telling the heart of I AM into a situation or a person’s life. The servant of the King does well if he carries not only the King’s words, but his very heart as well. Yet when prophecy is uttered it must be discerned by the believers present. Sometimes it involves foretelling, but only for a purpose. It should also be demonstrated with humility and love. It is not prescriptive or manipulative and it must be in harmony with Scripture, for the Spirit does not contradict Himself.”

“Are there still apostles or has that particular leadership calling ceased?”

“It is not active calling in the capital ‘A’ sense of the word, since those first commissioned are no longer on earth. Overseers were appointed to carry on their authority, yet even this was somewhat corrupted by divisions; first East from West, then the Protestants and now it is nearly beyond reckoning. Yet there are those who have had visions of I AM’s Son, who have nearly every major gift, including miracles to confirm it and who show signs of such leadership. If a region or group considers such a one an apostle, then it is so. Such a one ought to be commissioned by elders and sent out, since that is what the calling means. But one mustn’t go around claiming such a calling on his own. It is defined by I AM and the oversight of His Bride, in a given place, among a given people.”

“What is preaching and what is teaching then?”

“A teacher is one who passes on the teachings of the Shepherd. Yet no one should be called a teacher except the Shepherd. The gift of teaching is not just the articulation of religious history or context. It carries much responsibility for it has to do with righteousness; how it ought to be lived, not just understood. It is taught by way of life as much as by mouth. One with teaching can rebuke and encourage, bring insight and knowledge and wisdom. Preaching has to do with the proclamation of the Word, the Scriptures, and relating the message therein to its hearers. Pastoring has to do with

counseling a flock, visiting the sick, elderly, imprisoned, oppressed, and wayward. Often these things go hand in hand, but not always.

“The Evangelist proclaims the good news of the Shepherd, whether to a group or individual. He or she frequently has opportunities to communicate this news to those outside the City, yet he or she is sent from the King of the City. Sometimes this proves to be effective, sometimes not, but the gift remains.”

“What other gifts are there?”

“Many; the working of miracles: being caught up in the spirit, raising the dead, signs and wonders having to do with weather, visions, and impossible feats done for the glory of I AM.

“The gifts of healing are given to some for physical healing. These are an ability to see when I AM desires to heal and call it forth. All believers are called to pray for healing, but some are designated with special gifts in this regard. It is not to manipulate I AM, but to call forth His desire for shalom on earth, first the soul and then to the body, even if physical healing comes first it is for spiritual healing so that there may be wholeness. Some are given grace for a particular kind of healing.”

“Isn’t it always I AM’s desire to heal?”

“Ultimately yes, but at times He may have purpose for leaving one in sickness, in weakness, and there must be openness to this for those who are willing. Yet far too many view I AM fatalistically as if He is unwilling to heal and this is an even greater error. What father does not want his son to be healed from a sickness? But many lack faith. It is not, however, a matter of having enough. If it is as small as a mustard seed, it can accomplish much. It is the object of faith that matters. Is it in I AM or fate? I Am or faith? I AM or anything else?”

“What about the gifts of helps and administration? Aren’t those important also, yet they don’t seem as supernatural?”

“Someone who is gifted by the Spirit in helps does not just help people. This is someone who spiritually discerns a need, has a burning compassion which leads to actions of love that fulfill the need as inspired by the Spirit, like that of Dorcas in Scripture. The gift of administration or governing does not simply mean one who is organized or business-minded. Those with the spiritual gift of governing provide governance which guides the Body. It can involve organization, yet it gives spiritual discernment and wisdom concerning how the gifts

should operate in the Body, how things ought to be run, the overall atmosphere, direction and assessment of needs. When the Body saw fit to help some preach the Word and pray while others acted as deacons, this was a decision of wise governance.”

“So is speaking in tongues not the gateway to all other gifts?”

“Tongues are edifying, yet they remain personal unless there is interpretation, which can be a wonderful beacon of light for those in darkness. Yet it is not necessarily for all believers, certainly all believers should learn to pray with their spirits in communion with the Holy Spirit, whether through groaning, tongues, silent awe, praise or prophecy. Let the Spirit decide how it will be manifested. One may have a word of knowledge which is a revelation coming from God to the mind, not simply referring to people who are skilled in the area of knowledge, as even those in darkness can be. It is not come to by study, but by revelation.

“A word of wisdom is also come by revelation, but the Spirit differentiates between this and a word of knowledge in that knowledge is key information. Wisdom is knowing what to do with that knowledge righteously. Wisdom always leads to action. And there are other like-gifts from the Spirit, just as there are many types of flowers, all beautiful, all unique. One might receive a word of knowledge that an earthquake is coming to an area. Another might receive a word of wisdom that water ought to be stored up for the coming disaster.”

“This makes it sound as if everyone in an assembly has equal authority, that all are pastors, priests or clerics.”

“Indeed all those who receive I AM are priests of the Most High; they are a royal priesthood. One has one gift, another has other gifts. There ought to be time for circular gatherings in which many have opportunity to share, all in submission to the overseers.”

“Should women also be overseers?”

“Only if they oversee their own households, such as those who are single, and only then by unanimous agreement of the other overseers. But they ought to pray and prophesy in assemblies. They ought to be evangelists, deacons, preachers, healers, and every other gift that is given. Such difficulties come because many fellowships still follow the Old Covenant in which there is a priest who goes to I AM on behalf of the others. He is paid to do funerals, weddings, sermons, visit the sick, elderly, teach new students, counsel, pray, and lead the overseers. There is no such person in the Scriptures, except in the Old Covenant priesthood. But in the New Covenant all

members of the Body are priests and practice as such. The female members and male alike would use their spiritual gifts. Yet many are not equipped for these things and the office of priest attempts to replace it all with intellectual insight and people skills, none of which are required for service, yet the Spirit and love fulfill all requirements.”

“What requirements? What does God require of us?”

“All.”

“How does one give all?”

“Trust. First I AM loves us. Then we love Him with all. Thus we love others as ourselves. This fulfills all.”

“Do some men do this more righteously than others? Is one man thus more righteous than another in His eyes?”

“If one man jumps ten feet and another fifteen, but in order to escape death they must jump over a canyon one mile long, does it matter if one can jump five feet further than the other?”

“No, it doesn’t.”

“One young man prayed, “Let me know what it is to be without You! to I AM. Thus, some time later, one a night when his parents were away, he suddenly fell under conviction. His goodness, kindness, and love were stripped away and all that was left was a beast of selfishness. He tore off his clothes, thrashed at the walls wildly. Screaming, he beat at the air, trying desperately to attain favor, to impress I AM, to grasp Him, to gain His blessings with the flesh, striving, biting, gnashing of teeth; weeping, seeking to gratify, but never attaining. Wretched, poor, blind and naked, that beast frightened the young man, yet he realized it was he himself. He could not attain favor in this state. Instead he deserved to be crushed like a bug that bites a man without reason, to be cast away from I AM forever. The young man cried out, “Save me...” to the One who he knew could do so and fell backward. Then all was at peace. Yet he wondered in his heart if he were a demon and not a man. But in time he realized that this was the answer to his prayer; that apart from the gift of I AM he was a beast of selfishness, but by that grace he was light in Him. A vision was seen by another, of this young man, while he testified for I AM, he was seen among black darkness all around. On one hand he looked like a dead carcass. On the other hand he was light, full of light and the carcass faded. Thus it is for those who walk in the light. Their selfishness is dead, yet walking around with them, and they are light in I AM. Thus it is not man’s striving that makes him righteous, but rather the grace of I AM through the blood of His Son.

Then this light will be born anew and he will have I AM's favor forever."

"Can a man lose the favor of I AM?"

"In the immediate sense, yes, but once a child is born he or she cannot be put back into the womb again. So it with those born of Light; if they are born, they are born."

"And what if they no longer do what is right? Will they still live forever?"

"They will indeed live forever by the grace of I AM alone, yet they will not be rewarded in the life to come, at the renewal of all things, since they have lived for themselves. If a runner is chosen for the Olympic Games, yet she does not put forth the effort in the race, she will not be commended, but she has still been chosen for the games, and that is an honor in itself. To walk in the deeds prepared for her, she must listen to her Coach and do what he instructs her to do. But many do not walk in holiness, though they have been made holy."

"What does it mean to walk in holiness?"

"It is not simply what one refrains from doing, like a set of rules one makes for himself or herself in order to feel righteous. To be holy is to be set apart. It is to set apart absolutely every area of life and living for the glory of I AM. This is what brings meaning to life."

"Is this then the meaning of life?"

"Yes, to bring glory to I AM is the meaning of life. If a man goes out and works hard, gains wealth, comfort, marriage, children, housing, fine foods, wine, pleasures, music, science, learning and the respect of many, even fame, he will remain empty in the end. These pleasures will only last for a little while before they are gone. But any of these things, indeed, even the smallest action, such as a movement of the hand, can be blissful if done for the glory of I AM. Surely this is paradise – to do everything in the Glory and find pleasure in Him. Simple things may have great pleasure for one who is alive to I AM and His purposes. What can it be compared to? A mechanic, when he works day and night on a vehicle, but cannot find the problem, it remains a mystery. For months he takes the engine apart piece by piece, rebuilds it. Checks all the hoses, belts; uses computers to diagnose it, pours money into parts and tools to fix it, but cannot find the problem. Then one day he finds the missing piece, the one little thing that makes the vehicle run well, and he replaces it. Finally it runs smoothly and lasts a long time in that working condition. Once a man, woman or child finds the meaning of life all else becomes worth it, all else falls into place."

“How does one do this? What is so great about I AM that we should do this? Why would this be satisfying above all?”

“Intentions, trust and action. Take this shepherd for example, and his neighbor. They lived on a Native American reservation. One was a tribal council member, the other a shepherd. The shepherd owned one hundred sheep, but one was his favorite. This one carried the bell around its neck and the others followed. When one sheep went off course, the owner or his dog would bring it back. But this one was his first sheep, older than the others, and he never strayed from the path. He was the leader of the sheepfold. Sometimes the shepherd even slept next to the sheep, he loved it so dearly.

“Then one day, while they were out in the fields, an ice storm came through the area, that made all the sheep very cold. They became susceptible to sickness and many did become sick over the next days, the entire flock, except his cherished leader sheep.

“There was a medicine for the sheep that could cure them, but the shepherd had no money to buy it with. He had decided not to kill his cherished sheep long before, but now the only way to make money was to sell his only good sheep for slaughter. Their coats had already been sheered and it was too cold to shear them again. So the shepherd sold his cherished sheep to a neighbor and his neighbor paid him. The neighbor would soon slaughter the cherished sheep for food.

“Then the shepherd paid a local veterinarian to medicate his sick flock and they were all saved from death. But the neighbor saw how much the shepherd loved his cherished sheep, so, instead of slaughtering the sheep, he gave him back to the shepherd.

‘I cannot repay you,’ the shepherd replied.

‘There’s no need,’ said the neighbor. ‘Next time, ask and the money will be yours for the flock.’

“This delighted the shepherd. He and his flock lived on happily. The neighbor acted in love, but if he did this for the sake of his Creator, he would be fully satisfied, both in doing the deed for his neighbor and in loving His Creator.”

“This story reminds me of the Son of I AM, the Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world.”

“Yes, but he was slaughtered and raised to life again. He did his deed willingly like the neighbor. Hit is the center of motivation for true love.”

“What is love then?”

“As it says, He sacrificed His life for us, so we ought to lay down our lives for each other.”

“Then why does the Body of I AM’s Son seem to never do this for each other? Why are there so many divisions and denominations?”

“In the West this has been so; at times this has spilled into the East through arrogance. It is like an army in which the soldiers refuse to fight side by side. They bicker among themselves, while their enemy comes upon them. Adversary’s strategy in the West is not to attack in a direct onslaught, not yet. No, he sends spies to breed gossip, jealousy, self-righteousness that all lead to divisions within the ranks. In this way these children of I AM become weak and are no threat to the adversary, thus they are nearly ineffective in their work. They have glimpses, however, of unity and thus victory. Yet it is like a little girl who is sucking on her Lully-pop. That day she feels happy. She sits down on a bench in a nearby park. The birds are singing, the sun is shining, and she is ecstatic. The next day she no longer feels happy, so she goes and buys a Lully-pop, sits down in the same park, on the same bench, but she is disappointed because she cannot regain the same happy experience as the day before. She does not realize that it is not the Lully-pop or bench that made her happy, but that it was the gift of a good mood. Many in the West seek feelings, but lack perseverance or sacrificial obedience.”

“You said that the adversary would not attack in the West with a direct onslaught, not yet. Does this mean that someday he will?”

“Many in the West do not even acknowledge invisible things. That wind is changing in this time. It has been to the advantage of the enemy for people not to believe in the spiritual world. But later there will be many manifestations both good and evil, and the enemy will use that even more to their advantage.”

Before the dialogue continues the teacher takes a drink from his glass of water and then sits up straight again. They proceed...

“Explain how it will be in the future, even in the last days.”

“Imagine a woman named Elizabeth, many years in the future. Maybe this is how it will be for many in those days:

“Elizabeth was an American who lived after the fall of America from its position of power. A nuclear attack on the east coast had devastated the US powers. The economy crashed into oblivion. Natural disasters abounded: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes. All these

crippled her power also. An outbreak of disease unstoppable; terror attacks, unpredictable all added up to the downfall of the States. After the world wars, China; however, with the upsurge of the good message, became the next superpower. America took her place with Europe as a secondary nation, even as a set of nations; no longer a great empire. Now the days came of prosperity for China and she ruled the world. But, as in America, the prosperity blinded her. She became apathetic, polluted, arrogant and careless.

“After many had learned to speak Mandarin, the Message had turned to the Middle East, and Christianity became the preferred religion of China, but it lost its vitality. Every Chinese leader claimed to be a Christian. It was the popular thing to do, in order to get votes and gain prestige. Once again the real followers of I AM went underground, as it was before Communism took its place as a secondary party.

“Now the Islamic world had become peaceful towards its Christian neighbors and learned to live in peace even with the Jews. An accord was made between Israel and Palestine; two states living without war or insurgency. The three major religions had learned to live peacefully together again. After the world wars were settled nuclear weapons, which had been used on many occasions and nearly devastated much of the world, were disdained and there was much negotiation about disarming, but no one was yet willing.

“During the world war there was a great awakening in Israel of Jews receiving the Son of I AM as Messiah who would return. Because Israel and America had Islamic countries as a common enemy for so long, and there was so much love from I AM’s followers for the Jewish people, their hearts were won over. The Chinese followers had led the way for peace in the Middle East.

“But in time in all the nations of the earth a new philosophy was arising, a new optimism. The philosophy of humanitarian tolerance, world peace, and self-actualization reemerged and spread widely. The idea that all religions were the same and led to the same end became more and more popular throughout the world. It was in that time that Elizabeth lived, when most people spoke of peace and harmony, of the divine spark within and the promise of Utopia. The League of Nations had grown strong and a new facilitator was elected who was Jewish by birth, part Arab and Roman Catholic in religion. His name was Orenam, and many marveled at his abilities to bring peoples together.

“Elizabeth was also Jewish, living in America, yet she believed in the Son of I AM as Messiah. Her parents had

taught her well the things of I AM. Yet both of them were euthanized in their old age and though she resisted it, she could legally do nothing to stop her government from terminating their lives. She never married, for there were few who shared her convictions. The few who did met together in their homes, taking turns, eating meals, singing softly, since they all lived in high rise apartments. People didn't appreciate their songs there and complained if they became too loud. Only the rich owned homes and yards by that time and the population had increased so that every square inch of land was overcrowded, except very controlled areas of farmland. That is of course why the government had implemented restrictions on child-bearing, age limits, and especially terminating pregnancies with any disabilities or defects.

“Bio-engineering zygotes was encouraged in those days; part of ‘evolutionary progress’. Elizabeth often questioned whether it was progressive to allow ‘beasta-sexuals’ and ‘peda-sexuals’ (those supposedly born with the desire to have sex with animals and children, since there was chemical differences found in the brain between such persons in contrast to heterosexuals just as there had been differences found in the case of homosexuals and polygamists) to practice their lifestyles legally as long as there was mutual consent. But her opinions were not popular in her time, so they did not carry the day in the age of ‘true democracy’.

“It was in that age that the new spirit of the times took hold. Orenam simply announced it officially through the mental waves. ‘We are all one, all from God and returning to God. If we can simply believe in ourselves, love ourselves unconditionally, and find the power within, we can accomplish anything. Just as Jesus taught, God is within us. We just need to open our eyes. Mohammed, Moses, Jesus, Gandhi, Buddha, all had the same revelation of God. If we can open our eyes we will all see clearly. God lives in us. This is enlightenment, salvation, and peace. All religions worship the same God. All roads lead to heaven. Think of history. So many wars have been fought because of the dividing walls between people and faiths; but we can have world peace if we just believe. Be like a child, just as the prophets say. Let's put aside our nuclear weapons. Let's put aside our differences and focus on our common belief in love, in God, in peace, in right belief, right thinking, right knowledge and make the holy pilgrimage to our destiny. If we all join together we can make it happen!’

“And the nations applauded uproariously. After these great speeches all the nations publically disarmed their nuclear weapons. Militaries were done away with. They simply

became part of the new world police. War would be no more, it was said. And everyone knew it had taken place because of Orenam's message.

"Then came the assassination attempt. Orenam nearly died after he was shot. Everyone prayed and believed. Everyone hoped for his healing in the world by hoping in the common spirit of man, which was said to be the true god, and he was healed according to the best world doctors. When he returned to his office, he claimed to have an even deeper revelation, especially of Jesus' teachings.

"The assassinator had been a self-proclaimed Christian. Orenam pardoned him, forgave him and restored his finances, winning him over. Many news waves questioned how Orenam would respond to the criticism from Orthodox Christians, Jews and Muslims, but especially Christians since Orenam had originally claimed that religion. Orenam gave a speech that convinced many and would change history forever:

"In my near death experience I saw light and spoke to God and Jesus and Moses and Buddha and Ghandi and Mohammed, all in a great assembly. They told me that Jesus' teachings were the most important, but that these were all the teachings of the great teachers, if men would only have eyes to see. Jesus was the Messiah, and he came in many forms and has come again in all of humanity. We have to come to a new day; the return of the Christ in the hearts of all men, if we are willing. When Jesus Christ came the first time they rejected him because they hardened their hearts and did not see. Let's not make the same mistake again. Of course it is not as we expected. But let's soften our hearts and receive the message of God, through all of his prophets: love.

"If we just love God, ourselves, all others; if we will just come together for peace; if we will just realize that he lives in us already, give to the poor, turn the other cheek, love our enemies, love our families, love our neighbors, respect each other, stop killing each other, stealing and judging each other, we can reach enlightenment, salvation and peace. It's right before us. Will we take it?"

"Many other words like these were used and millions of Christians, Jews, and Muslims praised Orenam's teachings and some even called him the 'new Messiah'.

"That belief slowly grew as the nations of the world no longer fought and Orenam's teaching spread to every city by mental waves, the new great technology.

"Jews were asking, 'What else are we looking for? He appeals to Moses and Torah often. He is Jewish. He ushers in world peace. He is the Messiah, isn't he?' Christians said the

same. Muslims agreed, since he encouraged the five pillars as well. Buddhists and Hindus paid homage almost without exception. There was much happiness in the world in that time.

“But Elizabeth questioned the ideas Orenam presented, even secretly calling him the anti-Messiah. Some who also were in her group decided she was crazy and narrow-minded. Only a few remained in her group. And there were others like them in the world, but not many.

“In a few years Orenam was invited to mosques, churches and synagogues worldwide. The Jewish community hailed him the Messiah by that time. It was then that he announced his plan to build a sacred temple of God. In three years’ time he did so, and built a throne. In his speech he then said ‘To help us understand that God lives in us all and that we are all sons of God, I’m going to sit on this throne humbly. Not because I’m any better than the rest of you, but as an example to you.’ He did so. ‘And I declare to you that I am the Son of God and so are you. We are all the Son of God, all a part of the great divinity.’

“He was applauded. People came and paid homage to him. The Pope even bowed before him. Over the next few years Orenam was given power to govern the nations as King. He claimed to be the servant King of kings, a President to the Presidents, even a god to all his fellow gods, being careful to recognize that the One God lives in all. Many coins and dollars were soon made with his inscription and all the identity waves were required to transfer under his governance in order to function in the market place.

“Now came the test for Elizabeth. She struggled about what to do. She had the identity circuit in her wrist from the American government, but she never felt comfortable with it. Should she transfer her identity waves to Orenam and his one world government system?

“She refused. But this meant she would have to run away from her place of residence and go into hiding. She found an abandoned church building that was a hiding place for others as well, in the more dangerous part of her city. But she and those who were with her were tracked down by the police and taken in for questioning.

“‘If we are to love and respect each other,’ she protested, ‘why can’t I be allowed to let my conscience decide whether I want to pay homage to Orenam? I don’t hate him, but I also don’t agree with his philosophy. Why should I be forced to do so?’ she asked.

“The police did not know what to say in reply, so they let her go. For the next ten years it was tolerated to not transfer identity waves to Orenam, but it was taboo, even scorned.

“When that ten year period was over, she (and all those like her) was forced by the police to pay a fine and not allowed to trade in the marketplace, as it was with anyone who refused to transfer their identity waves to Orenam’s governance.

“Thus many of those who refused joined an underground market, so they could buy food and uncontaminated water. Many were already self-sustaining farmers and became suppliers for that market.

“But quickly that market was deemed unconstitutional and Orenam even called it ‘un-community minded’, speaking of the importance of self-sacrifice for a greater cause rather than selfish interest for the individual. ‘This selfish mindedness has been the cause of all our problems from the dawn of our memory as humanity: greed, war, and corruption were built on this kind of selfish mindedness.’

“Thus Orenam ordered that all persons were required to transfer identity wave rights to the government, which was ‘representative of the people’.

“At that time underground surgeons helped many remove their identity chips. Elizabeth had the surgery done, using all her life-savings to pay for it. Her particular surgeon was a kind man, but could afford no anesthesia. He removed the chip from her wrist and gave her strong whiskey as a pain reliever. Now she was on the run. She was selling soap in the underground market that she made herself. All those in the underground market bartered their resources and moved from town to town, living on the streets and in the countryside.

“On one occasion two well-dressed men followed her so closely that she couldn’t trade at all for three days. Secret police were always pursuing those who traded in the underground, sometimes arresting them, sometimes unable to find them. However, in the third decade after Orenam’s government was instated, he set up ‘educational complexes’ which were designed to ‘spur on the evolutionary process’. People there were forced to attend classes, kept awake for days with certain drugs in place of food, and given work assignments designed to enhance brain activity. Assignments ranged from computer programming to typing government materials.

“If a person refused to comply they were taken in for interviews, starved, and subjected to ‘repetitive therapy’, which included being forced into a room where the ‘patient’ was forced to hear loud messages from Orenam over and over again for hours, even days at a time. If the subject still refused he or

she was sent into difficult and dangerous labor, usually working with heavy metals, oils or coal mining. In the following years some even died in the process. Some recanted and joined the 'party of freedom.'

"For eight years Elizabeth was able to evade the secret police. But one night, while she slept behind a dumpster in an alley in Buffalo, New York, she was spotted and taken into custody.

"After the police violated her, they sent her to the nearest educational complex on a glider (a small vehicle that hovered above the ground.) Once she arrived there she was taken to her quarters and given meal pills for sustenance and boiled water to drink. She spent that night in tears rather than sleep. The next morning she was taken to her first class at the sound of the intercom. 'Class begins in five minutes.' And an escort came to take her there. After she dressed she walked to the classroom with the escort close behind her, down a hallway and to the left. There she sat down with twenty or so other ladies and a tall woman in a police uniform entered the room.

"She spoke with authority. 'Too many days have passed with war and hardship for us to forsake so great a cause as this. We cannot allow anything or anyone to infringe on this new age of peace and freedom. If you don't understand now, you will. We are not here to incite hate, but tolerance. There can be no greater cause than this. We welcome Elizabeth to our school, our newest arrival.' All eyes were fixed on Elizabeth now. She peered downward at the floor. The instructor continued, 'Elizabeth called herself a Christian, another label, another religion. But Elizabeth will learn who she is uniquely and not to label herself as such things. We are all one, yet we are all special. She will learn the true nature of her faith and ours. Faith is good. We need to believe, so do not persecute her for her beliefs. Only love her and she will understand.'

"Elizabeth looked up now. 'Is this what you call love? Your fellow police officers raped me and forced me to come here. You know nothing of Christ and His love. But if you are so tolerant then let me go free and practice my faith as I choose.'

"Other ladies yelled, 'Here, here!' and 'Amen!' But the instructor's voice carried through the room even louder than theirs. 'If you have a complaint with the police it may be filed, but do not resort to false accusations to prove your point. Freedom is not in the old ideologies. You must allow yourself to evolve beyond superstitions of the past that caused war and division. The only thing that will not be tolerated is intolerance and your interpretation of religion does not tolerate any other

way, lifestyle, or creed. Therefore it cannot be tolerated in the new age of true tolerance. Yet we tolerate you as a fellow human being, giving you a place to live, food to eat, free education, health care and many other rewards as you progress in knowledge and understanding. We're here to help you, not to harm you. Finally we have world peace. All the nations are under one banner. We are the world. We can now explore the farthest galaxies together as a united humanity. How can you oppose such a wondrous ideal? Can't you see the wisdom in this, dear Elizabeth?' she asked with a smile.

"You assume my allegation of rape is false just as you assume everything I say to be false, but we do not have world peace when men and women are forced into compounds and brain-washed to think as the government thinks or be punished for refusing!'

"Silence! Elizabeth, you will no longer speak in this session or you will be forcefully removed. You were brain-washed by your religion. We are here to help you practice your faith in a loving way, not in this spiteful manner that you are presenting to us today. This is a place of education and free thinking, but you will not spit out your superstitions and rebellion here.'

"I will not be silent while these injustices still remain; the elderly are euthanized, the disabled and unwanted terminated in the womb, sexual immorality is rampant and everyone thinks he or she is a god! How right Jesus is in calling the world's deeds evil, but you sanction them as good, how twisted...'

"Guards!'

"Immediately a host of male police officers bounded through the automatic doors and seized Elizabeth from where she sat. They forced her to come away to a small room where she was thrown to the floor and left alone for several hours.

"In these hours she had time to think, knowing the intention of the police was to arouse fear, but her thoughts went to I AM. She prayed.

"When a tall man entered the room, bringing a padded chair for himself to sit on while she remained on the floor. Elizabeth kept her head down.

"I understand you have a complaint to file?' he stated gently. Now she peered upward locking eyes with the officer. 'I have been raped by your policemen and forcefully taken to this compound against my will.' The officer stared back at her. 'What proof do you have that you were raped?' Now she simply stared back at him.

“I’ll assume that means you have none. It will not help your case to make false accusations against the police. So let me advise you, it is best to cooperate and learn some tolerance so that it will go well with you and you can live in harmony with everyone else. The reason you’re here is that you haven’t yet learned to live in harmony with the rest of the world. We found you on the streets with proof that you have been buying and selling in the underground market. No identity chip was found in your wrist and there is absolutely no need for you to be on the streets when the government has aid programs with free housing, free meals, and free education, healthcare and entertainment. So why were you on the streets? Because you haven’t been able to interact properly with the world around you. But we’re here to help you, not to harm you, so there’s no reason to be upset or contentious.’

“Spare me the brain-washing. Your idea of tolerance is so twisted you have no idea what the word means. Forcing people into government compounds is not tolerance, it is intolerance. You will not tolerate my faith in Jesus Christ and so you put me into this compound.’

“We do tolerate your faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, we honor your faith. We’re just trying to help you practice your faith in a tolerant manner. We cannot tolerate intolerance. You have held to the insane belief that God is full of hatred for people and only by believing that Jesus was hated in your place can you be loved by God. We are trying to help you see that God is love and Jesus is our example of love and tolerance. God loves everyone and everything: Muslim people, Jewish people, those who practice Hinduism, Buddhism, and any other personal religion a person might have. He is not exclusive, but inclusive. His death was a metaphor of sacrifice for all people to imitate and his alleged resurrection is a symbol of newness and rebirth for all. As the Bible says, “in Him we live and move and have our being.” We are all a spark of the great Divinity...’

“Please sir, I’ve heard this all before. Yes, God loves everyone, but love is a choice and not everyone loves Him. Few in these last days are willing to recognize that without His Grace we would not have any goodness. We all want to take credit for our own goodness, but we have separated ourselves from God’s holy Presence with our selfishness and the rebellion in our hearts. Only through Jesus taking the consequence of this selfishness on Himself can we be restored to God. Even now you can have a love relationship with Him and walk in joy, real joy and love...’

“You claim that we are trying to brainwash you, but you have already been brainwashed by the hypocrites in your archaic religion. Wake up, Elizabeth. Be evolved. The time is new. Be open to new things, not just letters on a page that are dead or teachings of chauvinistic men long gone...’

“They are not just letters on a page, by God’s Spirit they are alive, life-giving, sharper than any two-edged sword...’

“Don’t you understand even the language of a sharp two-edged sword is immersed in a militaristic, war-hungry culture? Let your love relationship with God be bigger than the confines of an ancient culture and learn new things...’

“Our battle has never been against flesh and blood, but against powers, authorities...’

“Enough, silence! I will return again tomorrow when you have had time to consider.’ The officer stood up, took his chair and walked out of the room quickly through the automatic door.

“Elizabeth still sat on the floor, staring forward. She shook her head. Then she prayed again. At the edge of the room a small compartment suddenly opened out of the wall with a glass of water on it. She wanted the water, but knew from its tint that it was drugged. So she lay down to sleep, but as she lay down a mist filled the room. It smelled of chemicals and kept her from sleeping.

“For days no one came to see her and all she could drink was the water given her, which kept her from sleeping. So she continued to pray. The days passed but she could not know how many since she could not sleep, nor see the light of day or dark of night.

“Finally after many days, the automatic door slid open and the tall officer entered the room, chair in hand. Again he set the padded chair down and sat on it, peering down at Elizabeth blankly. ‘You’ve had time to think, Elizabeth, much time...’

“She could hardly keep her eyes focused on him, she had become so dizzy. ‘Why have you kept me awake by force?’

“Haven’t you been sleeping? Has your conscience bothered you so? You finally understand that God is love? You finally understand that yours is not the only way to God, that all loving paths lead back to love? Will you finally let yourself rest in that love and tolerance that you know is true deep down? You are divine, you are an expression of God; you are powerful beyond what you know. You’re afraid to admit how powerful you are. Don’t be afraid anymore.’ He spoke in such a way that one phrase overlapped into the next. She could not get a word in edge-wise and she was too tired to do so.

Thus she kept her head down and stared forward, expressionless.

“All these wars for religion, but they only led to strife, death, oppression, and starvation. There are no poor any longer, we live for well over a hundred years, children can play in the streets, wars have ceased; there is one government, one common language, one economy, one world in harmony. See with new eyes. What more have we waited for? What more did Jesus come to bring but world peace, harmony, and all on equal footing, realizing our potential, a people actualized, the whole of mankind together as one.’

“This kind of talk went on for several hours as Elizabeth kept her head to the floor. Finally she fell forward in exhaustion. The officer stopped speaking for a moment. Then he asked her quietly. ‘Do you now understand? Just tell me you understand; that’s all. This can all be ended if you simply tell me you understand. I’m sure you will find that you will be able to rest easy with a clear conscience. Your old beliefs are fading away as a dream when one awakes. You’re waking up to understand the things I’m telling you, that they are true. You can rest in them. Just tell me you understand. Say it with your lips and you will find yourself easing into slumber, I assure you.’

“I understand,’ she repeated weakly. The officer smiled. ‘Good then, I’m so glad to hear that you’re coming to your senses.’

“I understand that children play in the streets and wars have ceased and there is one common language, one government.’

“Good, good,’ he said smiling again.

“I understand that some of these children are adopted at an early age by sexual molesters and taught to have sex with them; that these molesters are called peda-sexuals, as if they are born that way, except that now most of them were also adopted and raised in the same way themselves.’

“At this the officer no longer smiled.

“I understand that wars have ceased, but men and women still hate each other in their hearts and they choose to not live near each other or to be terminated because they hate their own lives. One common government that forces people into submission if they do not cooperate...’

“Silence!’ He stood up from his chair and Elizabeth stopped speaking, still lying on the floor. ‘You do not understand! You are stubborn in your dogmas and unwilling to learn. I will return tomorrow.’ And he stormed out of the room, chair in hand. Elizabeth prayed, but soon after the

officer had departed, the room filled with the sound of Orenam's voice. Loudly from the speakers in the ceiling, recordings of Orenam's speeches were played continuously for three days and nights, though for Elizabeth it all ran together under the light of a room and in a cloudy mist of confusion.

"'Nuclear weaponry has been disarmed,' his voice would ring. 'A new age of peace has come and all is well. Evolution has reached its zenith. Old superstitions have faded away. We are one; we are the world, united. Nothing can stand in our way now. The universe is ours to explore. Think of it, friends. Poverty has been eradicated, wars have ceased, a touch of gladness fills our hearts and even the religions of the world now live in peace. When natural disasters come everyone helps restore the affected areas. The schools are full to the brim; there is hope among the nations again, not just some, but all. We have come to the summit of the mountain and now we can enjoy the landscape. Think of it. There is peace and love everywhere!' Great applause roared over the recording. And these kinds of speeches went on for days, one after another, all taken from Orenam's speeches over the decades.

"At the end of the recording Orenam's voice spoke the same phrase over and over again for many hours. 'What is the greatest command of God? To love. And God is love. Whether Muslim or Jew of Christian or any religion, we all worship the same God and we are one with him and one with each other.'

"Finally the sounds ceased and the tall officer reentered soon afterward. Elizabeth was sprawled out on the floor, desperate for sleep, too exhausted to weep and barely functional.

"'Elizabeth, what is the greatest command of God?'

"'To love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength.'

"'Excellent. And the second command?'

"'To love your neighbor as yourself.'

"'Good; and God is love. So simply answer yes or no. Do we all worship the same God and are we all one with Him and each other?'

"'No,' she managed simply.

"The tall officer stood up from his padded chair. 'Elizabeth, you are too stubborn and rebellious for your own good! Maybe some hard work will help you see things more clearly.' Again he stormed out of the room. Suddenly the mist disappeared and Elizabeth immediately fell asleep. She remained sleeping for two days.

“After she woke she found water in the tray having been boiled, but not drugged. As soon as she picked up the glass and drank, a quiet beeper was set off. In minutes a group of policemen entered the room. When she had gulped her last, they took her by the arms and escorted her out of the room.

“She was again taken into a glider, which flew on for some time. She was kept locked up in the back of the vehicle with an escort driving who she could only see the back of. The escort took her to a steel factory that was located many miles and hours away from the educational complex, even away from the most populated areas of the city. Although few places were unpopulated because of the overpopulation of the time, these areas were as close to rural as was still possible.

“The glider hatch opened, the escort gestured for her to come out, so she did and followed him towards the steel mill. It was a huge building with smoke stacks that ran through filters to decrease pollution and turn the excess into oxygen and hydrogen. As she entered the mill she saw men and women working tirelessly in the heat of the molten steel. Guards looked on nearby the workers, having mental wave headsets for their own entertainment while they kept watch on the progress of the workers.

“Elizabeth was taught there to work in steel with cauldrons and factory machinery. She was given small, prison-like quarters, rooming with nine other women, sharing an old-fashioned toilet, bunk beds and four walls. The women had to speak to each other in whispers since conversation was discouraged. But she did find that many of them shared similar stories, some Jewish, some Muslim, but most Christian, and some simply unwilling to submit to the new government. A few of them had mild disabilities, but most held in common the conviction that the times were evil and the Messiah would soon return or come, depending on the religious convictions.

“One day Elizabeth noticed a woman speaking openly with the guards. ‘I see it now! We’re all one; we’re all a part of God. I think I may have reached the enlightenment that Orenam has spoken of.’ The guards seemed very pleased. They all smiled and one of them said, ‘It sounds like you’re ready to graduate, my dear. Come with us.’ As they began walking away with her he asked, ‘Are you willing to be tested at an educational facility again?’ ‘Yes,’ she said. ‘I think I’m ready.’ And they escorted her out immediately.

“One of the other women near Elizabeth whispered in her ear, ‘She will be actualized, Liz. They’ll set her free and reinsert her identity chip if she articulates the Orenamian ideals properly. She doesn’t believe it, Liz. She just wants to be done

with the work.’ A guard saw them speaking. ‘Silence, back to work!’ They obeyed.

“Elizabeth looked around after pressing a button on one of her machines with sweat pouring down her forehead and neck. These women were not of the ‘graduating’ type she could see. Often they encouraged each other in whispers and close camaraderie resulted from their secret fellowship. This only served to strengthen their convictions concerning faith and the evil surrounding them.

“In time their guardians noted this and separated them, forcing them all to room with mixed gender quarters. This seemed to the police an effective way of helping them progress along the evolutionary track by decreasing gender distinctions. Yet even here they flourished, since nearly every one of them shared common convictions. Much honor was given between men and women. They separated sleeping space between the two sexes, took turns at the toilet without peering at each other, and remained quite cordial in almost every case. ‘Why don’t you all have sex with each other?’ one of the guards asked. They gave no answer. While this baffled many of the police officers, it did make for orderly living conditions, which made the job of the police even easier. It was also a great witness of the faith, although the guards often could be heard saying, ‘It is due to our Orenamian style of teaching about proper working conditions.’

“In this way the men and women worked for a number of years. In fact it had been thirty years since Orenam was named chancellor of the world union and soon afterward declared his divinity along with the divinity of all mankind. To refuse to acknowledge the great divinity, especially Orenam’s divinity had been disdained in the beginning. Within a decade it became a matter of needing reeducation. In that next decade hard labor conditions developed for those who still refused the change. Now, in the third decade since Orenam’s coming to power there was a new consideration before the world union council. There was less willingness for tolerance toward those who ‘refused to evolve’. After a speech demonstrating that he had kept every promise he had made, unlike so many politicians of the past, Orenam himself suggested that, ‘Tolerance is vital, but we cannot tolerate intolerance. Our feet need to stand ground somewhere. We cannot simply abide any behavior as acceptable. When someone murders they go through rehabilitation, when someone incites hate for others they go through the same process because we have put Jesus’ teachings into practice in our government that hatred and murder are the same and must be dealt with in the same way.

But what should be done with those who refuse rehabilitation? We have considered it merciful to painlessly terminate those with severe disabilities, old age, or mental illness. Isn't this refusal to acknowledge our obvious truths kind of mental illness? Wouldn't it be merciful to do the same for them and for the sake of society as a whole? They have become pariahs of our social structures in the same ways as those who are not evolved mentally or physically. Why would it be different to help them and this present world by mercifully sending them into the next life?

“There was some resistance to this and much debate ensued, but in the end Orenam's words won the day. After some months of consideration and planning the idea was presented to the police force and implementation began. Yet it was not made known to the public as of yet. Hospital rooms were prepared and added to steel and coal mills, plants, and factories throughout the world. Once construction was complete and medical personnel added the first rounds of workers were terminated.

“Five men and women from Elizabeth's quarters were chosen for 'medical attention' since they had had a cough, sore throat, or some small ailment. Days and weeks passed, but they never returned to work. Indeed they were no more, but the workers did not yet know this, thinking that maybe they had been transferred.

“Yet within a month of these things taking place news spread in the outside world through the mental waves concerning what had happened. Someone in the medical department leaked the information to the news department and its alternative editorial directors, who were hired to keep diversity in the news stories when the one world government formed. They reported: 'Hundreds of factory workers terminated for mental illnesses.

“Details spread through the underground press like a wild-fire. There was an uproar among the public and Orenam appeared on the air waves in order to explain these actions. 'Tolerance is vital, yet we cannot tolerate intolerance. And this kind of unwillingness to receive basic help is surely a sign of mental illness of the worst kind.' He began this way and spoke much the same thing he had spoken to the world union, except with more emphasis. Then he added, 'The claims are exaggerated by the underground press. We have taken great pains to ensure that those workers were, in fact, already very sick physically and mentally, and so thought it best to help them to the next life and relieve their pain in this one.'

“Suddenly, however, there was much criticism from the Jewish community, although Orenam’s place of residence and temple were both in Jerusalem. Many Jewish writers who had once accepted Orenam’s messianic identity, now severely questioned this idea. Within weeks many began to reject his authority outright. This created a snowball effect until most of the Jewish community joined protests in the streets and surrounded Orenam’s temple and home. It was as if the blindfolds were taken off of the eyes of the entire Jewish community. Soon the former government of Israel secretly convened and unanimously agreed to claim independence from Orenam’s government. They sent him immediate word of their decision and warned him and his party to depart from Jerusalem or face a militant revolution.

“How can we abide this new development in a supposed messianic leader? How is this any different from the reign of Hitler in Germany, which rose up slowly and stealthily in its time? Now those who do not agree with these particular ideals of what has been called tolerance are being systematically killed in what sounds dangerously like the death camps of old, which some say never existed, but we have reminded ourselves to “never forget”,’ a certain Jewish editor presented to the air waves.

“Quickly Orenam and his associates exited the country in his personal jet. The Pope offered refuge for him at the Vatican, since they were already dear friends and partners toward the agenda of ‘world peace’. The Jewish police ransacked the temple and reinstated the worship of Yahweh alone in every place of worship in Israel. Israeli citizens reported to local government departments to have their identity waves reprogrammed for Israeli citizenship exclusively. Within months the parliament and prime ministry were reinstated, the police and military restored to independence, the economy and religious practice transformed. Rabbis: Messianic, Reformed, Conservative and Orthodox had always expressed discomfort with the idea of being part of the ‘great divinity’ but couldn’t deny the clear benefits of Orenam’s leadership up to that time. It seemed blasphemous, but Orenam always reminded them that so had Y’shua seemed blasphemous in his days. But now the blasphemy was clear to almost all of them. Some Rabbis, especially Reformed, expressed disagreement with the forced exit of Orenam’s government. Some even exited with his party, but most remained.

“Rescue operations took place secretly; special forces were sent to the labor factories in various countries. One of the covert missions targeted Elizabeth’s factory.

“In the spring, when another group of workers was called out for ‘medical attention’, Elizabeth was among them. She had a slight pain in her left leg. This was reported to the nursing staff and two days later she was called to the office for transportation to the hospital. ‘It’s really just a slight pain,’ she insisted. ‘There’s no need to send me to hospital.’ But the nurses ignored her.

“They put all of those who were chosen into gliders the next day. On the way there her glider seemed to be malfunctioning and the driver let out a yell. Laser fire cut into the driver and the glider slammed down on the polluted garbage dump they had just been flying over. Two men and a strong woman appeared and pulled her out through the top hatch. They instructed her quickly, ‘Don’t be afraid. We’re here to rescue you. Come with us.’ She did so and they placed her in a sleek black jet-like vehicle. Rapidly they took off and were in route to Tel Aviv.

“‘Who are you and where are you taking me?’ she asked, her eye brows furrowed. ‘We are Israeli soldiers, undercover, and we’re taking you to Tel Aviv for safety,’ the strong woman answered. ‘But Orenam is in Jerusalem,’ Elizabeth said, ‘What is happening?’ ‘No,’ the woman assured, ‘not anymore. Much has happened in the last few weeks.’ And she explained everything to Elizabeth on the way there.

“There were many like operations with many factory laborers being taken to Israel who had been on their way to hospital. When news of this reached Orenam he sent out defensive forces with all transports and now a war would be soon on the way.

“From this point forward things grew worse among the general populace with increased immorality, corruption among police officers, massive numbers of laborers being sent to be terminated in hospitals, virtual violence in entertainment became totally real as people’s appetites for such things became more and more demanding, suicides were at an all-time high, prostitution, drug use, and crime rings came out in the open, since most of it had been legalized anyway. Orenam had boasted that crime was nearly extinct, but this occurred directly in relationship to the legalization of more and more former offenses.

“Thus when Orenam pointed out the strike assaults of the Israeli army to the world union, it was not difficult for him to call on America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the entire Middle East to declare war against them. Education had been so dumbed down that when Orenam declared it the war to end all wars, almost no one except some university professors knew

that this phrase had already been used in vain before in world history.

“All the continents of the world surrounded Israel. Within days, what had been the police force of the world was now a vast military power gathering for battle around that little nation. Israel would be no match for them. In the sea naval ships gathered, approaching the borders of Israel ominously. From Lebanon to Egypt high technology armaments, missile launchers, tanks and robotic soldiers surrounded Israel’s borders. Indeed all nuclear weapons had been terminated by that time; otherwise, they would have surely been used at this juncture. But every other available force was at the disposal of the world military now.

And what was once called the Holy Land was now a refuge for all those who held an Orthodox faith, especially Jews and Christians, but even some Muslims and also those with mental illnesses, disabilities, the aged, and the sick. Israel’s little domain was packed with people who had fled there or been rescued in the past years preceding this unprecedented attack.

“Nearly every one of them had come to faith in the Son of I AM as the coming Messiah instead of Orenam. Some were unsure, but remained nonetheless. Then an earthquake struck Israel and Orenam called it ‘God’s Judgment’. The general populace of Israel fled to the mountains. But just as Orenam’s armies were about to proceed with the onslaught, meteorites began falling from the sky. The temperature became extremely hot and great explosions could be heard in the sky. Some in Orenam’s army fell dead from fear. And the rest of the story is known. The Son of Man, the Son of I AM, would come on the very clouds of heaven with angels and saints at his side and annihilate Orenam’s army as well as the demons around him in order to bring judgment. He would transform the saints immediately where they stood and they would meet him in the skies of heaven. Then they would all come back down to earth so that I Am would make His dwelling among men and women on earth, the new Heaven and new Earth. Heaven and earth melded together finally, that all things could be restored. And that not in union with I AM’s Son and Spirit would not be in union with Him in the coming age either. They would be separated from the Author of Life and cast away forever, yet they had been meant for royalty and so this Contradiction will burn them like forever unquenched. The more potential for royalty the more horrible the burning. Son of Morning’s fire will burn with more pain than anyone else, for he knew better, more than any other created being.”

“Then will Son of I AM reign on earth for a thousand years?”

“Yes, He already reigns and will reign. But in the New Heaven and New Earth there will be no end to His reign.”

“So, who is right, the a-millennial or pre-millennial view?”

“Maybe both. All will see. But now there is little else to say and we must eat and drink and sleep. Until the end, my friend and teacher, until the end, we must be faithful and ready.”

“Until the end,” the teacher finally agreed, having listened to the student to his satisfaction.