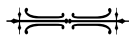


# **Get Behind Me Satan**

## **The Novel**



Mike Yousif



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*Get Behind Me Satan*

Mike Yousif

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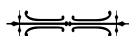
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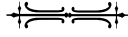
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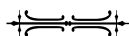
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I dedicate this book to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Special thanks to my loving wife, Sharon,  
who endured with me the intense  
hardship and Spiritual Warfare during the writing of this book.  
And to my son Johnny, who sacrificed time with Daddy in order  
to complete this project.  
He is a gift from God.

## A Slice of Heaven



The next time John opened his eyes, he was in Heaven, the abode of God and His angels, a realm of spirits, and the ‘no time zone’. He looked around and couldn’t see his body for the first time. When he looked around to examine the new environment, he saw what looked like an angel with wings. He looked with curiosity at the angel who seemed friendly and they admired each other for a Heavenly minute. The angel was as curious about John as John was curious about him.

“Hello, John,” said Raphael, the angel.

John was overwhelmed and fell at the angel’s feet out of shock, not to worship him, for he knew if that were Jesus, he would have the nail-scarred hands and feet and wouldn’t have wings.

“Don’t do it!” said Raphael, “I’m a fellow servant with you and your brothers, the prophets, and of all who keep the words of the Bible. Worship God.”

John stood up feeling awkward. By now, he felt like he knew this angel’s voice, but couldn’t quite put his finger on it.

“I’m a ministering spirit that the Lord sent out in the service of God for the assistance of those who are to inherit salvation. My name is Raphael.”

Even though John had no physical body, he found himself able to communicate and said, “I feel like I’ve known you for a long time.”

“I’m an angel of the Lord, your guardian angel. I have encamped around those who fear the LORD and He delivered them,” replied

Raphael. “I’ve been with you since the day you invited Jesus into your life.”

Immediately, John went back into memory lane and remembered that day when he was in his early twenties when a friend invited him to church. It was as if a video recording played back in front of his eyes. It was in that church that he later on met Mary, his future wife, who changed his life. By now, John was starting to get excited for he realized that he made it to the third Heaven, not that he ever doubted it, but it was good to be finally there.

“Do you remember that skiing trip you took a few years after that?” asked Raphael.

“Yes, there was a severe snow storm followed by an avalanche and snow came down towards me at an incredible speed. I couldn’t outrun it; that’s when I tripped and injured my knee and passed out. When I came to, the rescuers told me that when they found me, I was in a six-foot deep hole surrounded by snow on all sides. But they said that there was no snow above my body and the hole I was in, had the shape of what looked like two wings. They said that it was a miracle.”

The angel smiled the whole time John was speaking as if he knew about the details all along. John understood that this angel saved his life that day by blocking the flow of snow over his body.

Raphael replied, “I covered you with my feathers, and under my wings you found refuge; my faithfulness was your shield and defense. A thousand may have fallen at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it wouldn’t have come near you.”

At that, they joined in a Heavenly hug.

“Do you remember the restaurant incident when I took on a physical body to get a message to you?” asked Raphael.

“I knew it,” said John excitedly, “that was so very clear to me, and the clue you gave me helped. That day, I remembered what the Apostle Peter said, ‘Don’t forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.’ Were you really beside me the whole time?” asked John with a smile.

“I wish I could have opened your eyes so many times when you were at a bottom low and scared, so you could see that I was there

right beside you, standing on guard. That was a privilege which the Prophet Elisha bestowed on his servant, for when the servant saw an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city, he asked, 'Oh, my Lord, what shall we do?'

'Don't be afraid', the Prophet Elisha answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' And Elisha prayed, 'O LORD, open the servant's eyes so he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

"I thank the Lord for you," said John.

"Amen. As time went by, you strengthened yourself in the Holy Spirit and I found myself less and less needed. When you got in trouble, I wished you pray and call for backup. God dispatches angels that way, you know. There were times when I could have helped, but I waited for you to pick up the phone and start a prayer, but you didn't. You did much better, however, when it came to prayer than other saints I guarded in the past."

"So this is how it feels to live in the spirit. I mean I can see you and hear you, and obviously, I can think. My physical body is back on earth still?" John asked.

"Yes. When a man is born physically, he is born with a body, soul, and spirit. As the man grows, he has a decision to make. He either continues in the flesh, and worries about what he shall eat, drink, wear, and live in the flesh all his life, only to die twice. Or he has his spirit regenerated to see and hear the Holy Spirit and realize that he is really a spirit trapped inside that physical body. And then he will control the flesh and put it under subjection away from its worldly desires and live forever."

"Wonderful, I'm glad I chose the latter. Tell me a little about the creation and God's story of man's past, present, and future," asked John with excitement.

"Ah, a classical question. We angels were created on the second or third day of creation at the time when God was creating the foundation of the earth and we all worshiped the Lord. He created millions of us; we're God's secret servants, God's army doing His bidding on the earth for the saints. We were very excited to see God

create the universe. God created the rest of the world by day six, and we shouted for joy.”

“The world, so large and complicated with all the fascinating details and spectacular creatures, was created by God in such a short time. Were those six days, literal twenty-four hour days, or thousands of years?” John asked.

“Of, course twenty-four hour days! Elohim created plants on day three; the sun was created the following day, day four. I don’t think that the plants would have survived without the sun for a thousand years. I mean, the Lord could have created everything in six minutes if He wanted to, but God wasn’t in a hurry creating the world. He enjoyed and admired what He created and said ‘It was good’, which is something you guys forgot to do as you rushed through everything you did in life without enjoying it. He also wanted to make a model for man to work six days and rest on the seventh day. Now, on the sixth day, God created Adam and Eve, and that was the most exciting creation since the Lord created them in His image. What an awesome sight that was and we all glorified the Lord. Then the Lord saw everything was good and He rested on day seven,” Raphael explained.

“Why do I have a feeling that things will go downhill from here?”

“Yes, God revealed to us that He was going to create mankind and that the creation of mankind would lead to the eventual purpose of all His creation. We were to share the joy of what He was creating through mankind. Now in our spiritual Heavenly realm we have an organized structure with some of the angels having a higher position. Three of these angels are Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer, who were superior to the rest, in importance, authority, might, beauty, and power.

“Lucifer had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He was the anointed cherub that covers with overshadowing wings. He was upon the holy mountain of God; he walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire like the paved work of gleaming sapphire stone upon which the God of Israel walked on Mount Sinai. He was in Eden, the garden of God; every precious colorful gemstone and dazzling jewels were his covering, and his

settings and his sockets and engravings were wrought in gold; on the day that he was created, they were prepared. He was blameless in his ways from the day he was created until iniquity and guilt were found in him. His heart was proud and lifted up because of his beauty; he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor. He sinned; therefore, God cast him out as a profane thing from the mountain of God and the guardian cherub drove him out from the midst of the stones of fire.”

“What was his problem?” John asked.

“He didn’t think that God’s way was best, but that his own way was better. He actually became deceived into believing that he could rise up against God and take over all reign of the physical and spiritual dominions, making himself God. Lucifer planned and plotted mutiny in Heaven, and began to con and convince other angels with his lies, promising them positions in his kingdom. He surprised two-thirds of us angels, when we learned that he had planned to ascend to God’s throne and rule in God’s stead. What’s more shocking is that a third of the angels believed and sided with him in a rebellion against God, even though they all saw God create everything. Lucifer learned the hard way that he was no match for God Almighty, when God banished him and his followers from Heaven and gave him limited access. I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven, and from that point forward, Lucifer became known as Satan, a significant adversary and an archenemy of God. Michael and Lucifer became forever-mortal enemies.”

“Here is an age old question; why did God allow him to do this?”

“God didn’t choose to make us, the angels and humans, like robots to function as programmed. He could have forced man into automatic worship. However, removing our free will, would also have taken away our capacity to give our love to God freely. Love cannot be forced. Instead, God created us, angels and mankind with the capability of free, individual thought. Lucifer didn’t like what God created and choose not to follow God.”

“What happened next?” John inquired.

“After he rebelled, Satan went from living in a time eternal state to living in the time zone on earth where God slapped him with a watch and a time limit to end up in Hell. Lucifer and his angels

lost their position in Heaven and have been creating havoc on earth ever since then. Satan was the worship leader in Heaven but after he fell, he no longer had his job. There was a vacancy in Heaven, but the rest of us angels still worship God. Satan hates mankind especially you saints who worship God, because you took over his job of worship. Then Satan planned to destroy the earth and unleashed his power on mankind because he so hated God's plan, which was to be fulfilled through man on earth. Therefore, there is cosmic conflict between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness, putting mankind in a balancing act between good and evil with earth as the battleground. So, while the Lord rested on the seventh day, the enemy planted sin in God's created man. Satan planned to destroy the human race by introducing sin to the first couple which caused death and chaos."

"Poor Adam and Eve, what a mess they were getting into."

"Satan has been around Adam and Eve for a while and he figured that he would succeed more with Eve, so he attacked her first because he knew her weakness. So Satan, through the snake, questioned God, contradicted Him, accused Him of having no love towards the couple, and told Eve that she could be like God and she fell for the lie. So when Adam came home, he looked at Eve and realized the predicament she was in. He knew that she blew it, was deceived, and had partaken of the forbidden fruit. Now the world was split in half, the sinner side of Eve and the righteous half of Adam, who hadn't sinned yet. After all, there were only the two of them in the world. So, here is Adam looking at flesh of his flesh, and bone of his bone, offering him the forbidden fruit. He could have turned his back on her, and she'd have been lost forever by herself. Nevertheless, he loved her so much that when she gave him the fruit, displaying selfishness and being already in sin, the still pure-in-heart man took the fruit. He chose to join her in her predicament rather than be without her, 'For there is no better love than when you give yourself and your life for a friend'.

"When Adam sinned, Satan had a victory party, laughed loudly and said, 'You're mine, I own you and your world. I have the deed to the world kingdoms.' But his celebration didn't last long. God slapped a watch on him for six thousand years, and the promise of

someone that will be coming to bruise his head. God also slapped a watch on Adam for nine hundred and sixty years. He went from ‘no time-zone’ to the ‘time-zone’ and the couple lost their position in the Garden. Before the fall, Adam and Eve were clothed with light eternal and had an eternal spirit that was able to respond to God, a privilege that no other creature on earth enjoyed. When they disobeyed God, that spirit died. This created a vacuum in the human spirit, which causes mankind to search for answers beyond his own realm. That’s why Christ came so that whoever believes in Him has that dead spirit ‘born again’,” Raphael explained.

“What a sad story with a good ending!”

“Satan’s kingdom is a sad one. The person I was guarding before I was assigned to you had somewhat of a strong faith and foundation in the Lord. However, he started flirting with sin and eventually got a divorce. I wish I could have shown him how much Adam loved Eve, and made it known to him that the devil was manipulating him into destruction. You know the feeling you get when you fall in love the first time, that’s how much Adam loved his wife every day. However, after Adam died spiritually, he accused his wife saying, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ We were amazed at this transformation and how contagious sin was.”

“What happened next?” asked John, even though he knew the story by heart, but it was more exciting when the angel told it.

“After they sinned, they lost righteousness that day. They used fig leaves to cover themselves, and that represented their own works to cover their sin, which wasn’t sufficient. Then they ran from God and hid. God asked Adam, ‘Where are you, son?’ God knew where Adam was. Then said, ‘Hang in there, son. You can’t come to Me by your works, but I’m coming to you in a rescue mission to show you the way, tell you the truth, and give you life eternal again.’ God used animal skins to cover them up. A sacrifice had to be made and innocent blood had to be shed. No one died in the Garden before, not animals nor plants, the flowers blossomed forever, and there was no suffering there, until that day. The lion and the lamb were sitting next to each other, licking each other with the sun up and bright that day. After the sin, the lamb was so relaxed that it took a nap. When

it woke up, the sun was darkened and the lamb noticed that it was bleeding. It seems that the lion had bitten his neck.”

“The whole creation is suffering,” said John sadly.

“God gave Adam the title deed of the earth and dominion over it when He created him. However, that day, sin had dominion over the one who had dominion over the earth and that title deed was lost. Satan was given the title deed to earth; he was the usurper and all the kingdoms of earth belonged to him since then. Adam and Eve were transferred from the Kingdom of God, of Life and Light into the kingdom of Satan, of Death and Darkness. Satan was hoping that Adam and Eve would eat of the tree of life after they sinned and become immortal sinners. But God removed them from the Garden to prevent such a disaster.

“Later, God cursed the earth so that Adam would be busy laboring because it was idleness that caused him to get in trouble in the first place. God also cursed the ground with thorns; ironically, He suffered from thorns, too. When He was crucified, they put a crown of thorns on His head. He said, ‘cursed is the ground for your sake.’ He didn’t want the human race to live in a sinful condition in a perfect world environment. This isn’t the way that God wanted a man to live, but man was marred by sin and scarred by rebellion. You, however, are here today because you have turned over the title deed of your life to the Lord.”

“Thank you, Lord Jesus.”

“After they were kicked out of the garden, the Holy Spirit started working and helping them on earth—”

“Did you miss the Holy Spirit when He left Heaven?”

“My brother, you are still thinking in the three dimensions of earth’s matter, space and time. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. He is here and on earth at the same time, the Comforter, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, and Strengtheners remains with you forever. The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive or take to its heart, because it doesn’t see Him or know and recognize Him, but you knew and recognized Him, for He lived with you constantly and is in you. The Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent in Jesus’ name to represent Him and act on His behalf, taught you all things. Every time the saints gather and pray, especially on Sundays when millions and millions

of Christians gather, they were sharpening the two edged sword of the Holy Spirit which He uses the rest of the week to go to battle to further their cause and restrain the evil forces.

“For the Lord Jesus said, ‘If two of you on earth agree about anything and everything they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in Heaven.’ And, ‘For wherever two or three are gathered and drawn together as My followers in My name, there I AM in the midst of them.’ If you think the world was in trouble when you left it, you have no idea what is going to happen when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way.”

“What about the Lord Jesus? Tell me about the hope of salvation; I can’t wait to hear the good news. Did you miss Him when He came down to earth?” John asked.

“The Lord Jesus we did miss, up here, even though He was gone for a short period of time. However, we could not stay away from Him. When He was born, we delivered the good news to the shepherds. God sent His Son into the physical world with a message that the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Then we told Joseph to move to Egypt when King Herod killed the little children in Bethlehem. Later, we would go down there on the earth, make Him a meal, and minister to Him. Even two of the humans up here, Moses and Elijah, went down there to earth to meet with Him on a mountain where the Lord was transfigured in front of His disciples. One of us encouraged Him in the garden of Gethsemane when He was agonizing the night before His crucifixion. The pressure of the sin of the whole world being distilled upon Him caused Him to sweat blood. If Jesus would have given up in the garden, no one could have been saved. But before that, in the garden, He and His disciples were singing hymns and Jesus was happy because He saw the salvation of mankind through His sacrifice. Adam lost dominion in the Garden next to a tree; Jesus gained it back in the garden of Gethsemane next to an olive tree. He got back the keys to death and Hell from His foe and adversary by virtue of His completed work on the cross.”

John responded by saying, “Thank you, Lord Jesus.”

“On the day of His crucifixion, some of the warrior angels, more than twelve legions of them, that’s eighty four thousand angels, had their hands on their swords ready to draw at the first drop of blood

that gushed out of His body. They looked at God and waited for His signal to go down to earth and slay every last sinner. That meant the wiping out the human race, just like God did in the flood when God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain. Again, when the Jews sinned after God bailed them out of Egypt, He said, 'The spirit shall not strive with man forever.' But Moses interceded and saved them from annihilation. And after annihilating mankind, the angels may have just turned around and finished off Satan and his demonic followers once and for all.

"On the cross, those angels had half their swords drawn out of the sheath and looked at God the Father and the Son waiting for a signal. Moreover, at one moment, we thought that God might give the signal when we heard the Lord Jesus say, 'My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?' But later, we heard the Lord Jesus say from the cross, 'Forgive them their sins; they don't know what they are doing.' At that time, they put their swords back in their sheaths and took their hands off their swords. He loved them as they were killing Him!

"We didn't know exactly what was going on that day, neither did Satan. Nevertheless, we remembered that the Lord said, 'For God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son', also, 'whoever believes in Him would have eternal life.' God, in His infinite love and holy hatred for sin, devised a plan by which sin would be punished and you would be forgiven. Jesus suffered the penalty for all the sin of the world for all of time upon the cross. He was treated upon that cross as you would have been treated if you were punished for your sin. He paid a debt He didn't owe and you couldn't pay."

John said, "Thank you, Lord Jesus. So many atheist people and believers too, ask, 'Why did God allow His only Son to be butchered like that?' They had better thank the Lord Jesus then, for if it weren't for Him interceding that day, none of them would exist."

"Yes. Satan, on the other hand, thought he had fully crushed the savior when Jesus died on the cross. But the truth is all he did was bruise His heel. Satan had no trophy to hang on his wall that day. Jesus didn't stay crushed! On the third day, one of us went down and removed the stone of the tomb. The stone wasn't rolled away to let

Jesus out, but to let others in. He rose from the dead in triumph; He was resurrected, and we were so glad when He came back up here. Christ stroked a fatal blow against Lucifer and his schemes and will ultimately crush Satan in the end. Jesus told Satan that He would see him at Armageddon. Therefore, you see, He died, so your sins would be covered, so that you would be able to come up here today.”

“Well where is He? I want to thank Him personally. I’m absent from my body; shouldn’t I be present with the Lord? This is all great, but I want to see Jesus. I have been waiting to see Him all my life, and I have so many questions for Him,” John’s excitement showed.

“Then why don’t you ask Him yourself?” said the angel as he bowed down and fell on his knees.

A huge light, bright and shiny appeared from behind John, which made him feel warm inside; the warmth was coming from the light. John realized that it was the Lord Jesus Himself. John tried to turn around as fast as possible to see the Lord, but those few seconds felt like eternity. *This is the moment I have been waiting for all of my life*, He thought and then wondered, *Am I really going to be face to face with the Lord Jesus, will my heart take the excitement, what would I say and what would I do?*

At about a quarter of a turn, he wondered whether he should sing or dance out of excitement. At a half turn, the brightness increased and his heart started doing the flips inside and he thought, *maybe I should say hallelujah*.

Finally, they were face to face with the Lord Himself in front of him, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He couldn’t help but fall on his face at Jesus’ feet, and said, “Adoni.” In the presence of God, John thought, *John the Revelator was right; Jesus’ head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace and still have the scars on them; His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. He is dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest.*

Then Jesus said in a resonating voice like the sound of rushing waters, “Johnny,” while placing His right hand on him, “Don’t be afraid. I’m the First and the Last. I’m the Living One; I was dead, and behold I’m alive forever and ever!” Only John’s parents and

Mary, who were closest to him, called him Johnny. This showed how close the Lord was to him, and the kind gesture served as an icebreaker. Then John stood up and looked at Jesus who had a glow and a sweet smile radiating from His face. Before he knew it, Jesus hugged him and put His arms around him. John was now in the arms of royalty, and was thrilled in His presence.

*I'm finally in the arms of the Lord, thought John, the safest place in the universe. I might as well melt like an ice cube, for on the inside I feel like a piece of charcoal burning with fire. Heart, don't fail me now from the excitement. If they would have dipped me in hot oil, burned me at the stake, cut me in half, or thrown me to the lions, it would have been worth this moment.*

"Welcome to life eternal," said Jesus, "You are already in Heaven and your eternity is secure. You have overcome, and the second death will not hurt you at all; the sting of death is no more because I paid your debt in full."

*Of course, you can read my thoughts, thought John, I had forgotten in all the excitement. I might as well die right now and go to Heaven. Whoops, I'm in Heaven.* Then he said, "Thank you, Lord."

"I'm the resurrection and the way, and you shall live forever with Me. I will never blot out your name from the book of life, but will acknowledge your name before My Father and His angels."

Then Jesus said, "Welcome home, son. Well-done, good and faithful servant, enter the joy of the Lord. I tell you the truth, I prayed for you to be with Me to behold My glory. You were like a tree firmly planted and tended by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also didn't fade or wither; and everything you did prospered and came to maturity today. You are royalty; I will make you a king and a priest. You have put yourself under my authority and now I will put things under your authority. Just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne, you overcame and I give you the right to sit with Me on My throne, and give you authority over the nations."

"Thank you, Lord," said John as he looked at the scars on Jesus' hands and continued, "Lord, I'm sorry that you had to go through the crucifixion for my sins."

“I tell you the truth, if you were the only one down there that needed salvation, I’d still have gone through it for your sake. When I was on the cross, I saw my blood cleanse your sins. And when I was resurrected, I saw this day, when you have been raised with Me to a new life, thus sharing My resurrection from the dead. I take care of all of My sheep. And neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, could have, or will separate you from My love.”

“Thank you, my Lord and God.”

Then they started walking together in Heaven like old friends and Raphael followed. John wanted to learn the mysteries of God and God told John everything.

John said, “I see now, Lord, that this is what was missing in our lives on earth! You made us in Your image so that we can fellowship together. Sin separated us and now we’re united again.”

“That is the truth. Now follow me, son,” said Jesus as He signaled a distinguished angel to sound his trumpet.

“My Lord, I will follow you to the end of the world,” said John.

“I know you will, my son, I know you will.”

Then, John heard the Lord saying to the distinguished angel, “Son, get your horn ready, blow it and call My sons and daughters up here.”

Jesus disappeared as the distinguished angel blew his horn. John thought that the distinguished angel was out of sight and scary at the same time. So he asked Raphael plainly and without offending him, “Who was that angel?”

“That’s Gabriel,” Raphael answered, “Do you hear that trumpet? The last person to accept the Lord Jesus, just did, the fullness of the Gentile is complete and the blessed hope that the church has been waiting for, is coming to earth.”

“Where is my body then?”

“It’s in the grave right now, and you’re going to unite with it very soon. When the trumpet finishes shouting, your body will kick open the grave and move upwards towards Heaven. Then you’ll reunite with it and meet Jesus in the clouds—” Raphael answered.

“How is my dead body going to be raised and get up here?”

“The Holy Spirit on earth takes care of that. He’s like what you call a GPS, Global Positioning System that will guide your body up here. Then those saints who are alive will come up here in the Rapture and meet with you and the Lord in the air. Get ready to have your mind blown away by your new and upgraded body.”

“How do you know that?” John asked.

“I’ve seen Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, remember. And let me tell you, they were a piece of art, having the image of God.”

“What was I then, chopped liver?” asked John smiling.

“Indeed you were, if you show someone who has never seen a liver, a chopped liver and say there is a liver, they’d believe it to be liver when it is only a mess of a liver. You were never in the image of God, brother; you’ve never seen a man the way he was intended to be, not in the kingdom of Satan where sin had dominion over you. When God created Adam in His likeness with mind, will, and emotion he was invisible. But to function in a universe of matter and move through time in space, He gave him a body. You, however, were born in the image of fallen Adam, a faint echo of the image of God, tarnished and distorted. But the new resurrected body you’re getting will be in the image of God. Then, and only then, you’ll understand what being in the image of God means.”

“So, then the invisible Son of God’s image was put in a physical body and was called Jesus. Thank you heavenly Father for the Lord Jesus,” replied John, then asked the angel, “Who is coming up here, out of earth?”

“The church age dead saints with their resurrected bodies, and the church age living saints with their transformed bodies. For the Lord said, ‘This is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and He will raise him up at the last day.’”

“So, we were right then about the pre-tribulation rapture of the church?”

“Of course, the Lord Jesus loves His bride and she loves Him. Why should He subject the Christians to His wrath? The church is betrothed to Him with deep commitment and has a date with deity

for a wedding in the sky. She is engaged to Jesus in a love story, and was selected by Jesus. He left glory and came down to earth to select the bride so that later on He could take the bride to His Father's house. The church was made ready for the wedding. The next seven-year period is God dealing with His people, the Jews. The four hundred and ninety year Jewish prophetic clock of God given to the prophet Daniel, stopped at the Cross. Then the church age started for the last two thousand years, and today the church is taken out of the way and the prophetic clock started ticking again for the Day of the Lord."

As John followed the angel to receive his resurrected body, he bumped into Adam and Eve.

"Speak of the federal heads of the human race," said Raphael, "we were just talking about you guys."

John marveled at the couple and said, "It is an honor to meet you here. I'm sorry for your loss in the garden."

"My loss was your gain in Jesus Christ, brother," replied Adam.

"How do you mean?" asked John with respect and awe.

"It's true that when I sinned in the Garden, I traded power and authority for spiritual weakness, for I no longer had the power to do what I ought to. I traded Godliness for ungodliness, for I was no longer in the image of God. I traded absolute perfection for sinfulness. I traded approval for wrath, which leads to condemnation and Hell, and traded peace for warfare. But you, my brother, you gained much more. When I was innocent and sinned, my sin was added to my account. You, however, were justified and reconciled after you sinned, and even better, not only were you forgiven; your sin was never imputed to your account. I walked with God in the Garden and you had the Holy Spirit within you—He came to your heart and gave you life regeneration. While I found life after my redemption came, you had it more abundantly. And finally, I had an earthly kingdom, and now we have a Heavenly Kingdom. So you see! He gave you much, much more than whatever you lost in me."

"When were you guys redeemed, and how did you get here?" asked John.

Adam answered, "After we died, our souls went into a place called Paradise. Then one time, while we were waiting there, the

Lord Jesus appeared and told us that He was the one, the Messiah we were waiting for, who crushed the head of the old serpent. He took us out of that place and brought us here to Heaven, and now we're going to go and get our resurrected bodies."

"It must have been awkward when Eve offered you the fruit; tough decision!"

"When I saw her that day, I looked in her eyes and I felt something different about her. Her eyes talked and said 'look, I ate the fruit and nothing happened'. I knew that something had happened on her inside though because she wasn't the same. Then she offered me the fruit in one hand while she was twirling her hair and covering her breast with her hair, in a new way, with the other hand. She had never done that before. I didn't have lust in my heart yet, and didn't know anything about flirting. Little did I know that the daughter of God just a little while ago, had now turned into the daughter of the devil. Her eyes spoke again and said, 'I ate the fruit, and I feel out of the ordinary, maybe the snake was right. Why don't you try, too?' Satan instructed Eve to get the fruit close to my mouth. So I took the fruit and looked at it, when I thought I heard a voice from the tree say, 'shove it in your mouth, you insignificant fool, don't ruin my plans.' I took a bite, and the same voice came from the tree again saying, 'checkmate, it is started.'"

"Satan perverted my perception of God's character," said Eve. "He persuaded me that God was keeping back a good thing from me. He made me think that God didn't love me as I thought. He stirred up a desire to sin in me because God's word no longer meant love, but law. We were kicked out of the Garden and life became really hard for us. We faced misery and death especially when we learned that our first-born child took the life of his brother Abel because of religion. Cain tried to impress God by offering the works of his hands. His worship to God was by his own strength and it was rejected. Abel, however, brought an offering, by God's grace, of the best first born of his flock, and was accepted. We realized the seriousness of sin and warned our other children about the devil. From that time on, we looked forward to the Messiah who would 'finish it' as we were told by Enoch our grandson."

At that time, John noticed two old men wearing robes, so he asked Raphael, “How come these two men already have bodies, and why are they old?”

“These two are the prophets Moses and Elijah and they are getting ready to go down to earth on a mission as the two witnesses, as soon as the Antichrist signs the seven year treaty.”

“Heaven’s super highway is busy these days,” said John. “Some people are coming up and some people are going down. And who is that angel escorting them? Whoa!”

“That is the Archangel Michael; a mighty angel who does the Lord’s bidding, and obeys His word. I report to him, and he takes his instructions from the Lord.”

John couldn’t help himself anymore and said, “Wow, that is some magnificent angel! No wonder when these guys appeared to humans they always said, ‘have no fear’.”

“We’d better get going now,” said Raphael, “the trumpet has stopped blowing. The resurrection of saints is going to take place now, followed by the evacuation of believers.”

“Wow...wow...wow,” said John as he and Raphael went into a new dimension.