

My World, Or His?

By
Ayon L. Baxter (*Abdiel*)

My World or His?
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Read and Live *Publications*



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For more information, please address to:

Email: ayonbaxter@gmail.com

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About The Author

Ayon Baxter, born in St. Mary, Jamaica W.I. is of humble beginnings. He is the third child and first son for his mother, who also provided him with four sisters and two brothers.

His mother, a devout Christian also of humble beginnings, lived most of her life through economical, social, and spiritual struggles, yet, with unyielding faith, she holds firmly to the hope of glory to come in Christ Jesus; for she looks for a city, which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Her strong Christian convictions, firm discipline, and continual prayers for her children, have greatly affected Ayon, and have eventually influenced his decision to choose to walk the path of righteousness in Jesus Christ.

He too, has had his struggles and fights in this world; observing that this world has little to offer—comparing it to the multitude of unmatched blessings in the outstretched hands of the loving God. As he continues to fight, he now fights the good fight of faith, and encourages others to unite with him, in this army of Jesus Christ, triumphantly winning battles over sin, through faith in the righteousness of Christ.

Acknowledgment

I acknowledge God the Father of all, and Jesus Christ His only begotten Son our Saviour, Lord, and King, as my source of knowledge, wisdom, daily provision, and sustenance. From the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord and knowledge from His written Word, came the inspiration of these pages. I take no credit for what is written, but give Him all the honour and glory, which are rightly due to Him and God our Father.

In providing the resources for this book, God placed some very special people in my path. Some gave of their time and support and others simply gave encouragement in kind, and motivating words spoken at the right time, when it was needed most. To all of you, I hereby express my abundance of sincere gratitude.

There are a few persons, which I feel I must mention for their outstanding contributions. Special thanks to: Joshua Sites (*formerly at West Bow Publishing*) who gave me the kick-start I needed; by your asserting and encouraging approach, I was jolted across the proactive starting line. Also to: Annick Jackman in the Cayman Islands, Donald Clayton in Jamaica W.I., and Marie Clayton in Ohio, USA, an ocean of gratitude for your encouragement and time, and contribution to this work. Your inputs help to make this publication a successful reality.

In summary, God has worked through many channels to put this through; to Him be glory forever. Amen.

To The Reader

This book is written, not entirely about me, or so much about my personal experiences, [although some of it is included], but my intent is to present it as a type of scenario that everyone finds personally and practically true. The primary reason for my referring to myself in the first person role is in order for the reader to get the message without experiencing feelings of being accused, or feelings of being preached at.

Bible references are all taken from the KJV in this book. However, I have replaced the archaic pronouns and verbs with their modern counterparts. For example, thee, thou, and ye are replaced with you, and thine is replaced with your or yours accordingly; singular verbs ending with th or eth are replaced with s and es respectively; plural verbs ending with st and est, have the st and est removed respectively. My reason for doing this is: I wanted to use the KJV as my biblical source, but have continually come across many persons, especially of the younger generations, who did not like, or had problems following and understanding the “thee and thou” of the King James era English. Otherwise, where a reference is modified or emphasis added, it is noted; for example: [*rephrased*] or [*paraphrased*].

Preface

Everyone is talking about their world—their sphere, their space, their domain. It is considered that everyone has the right to have a world of their own. In today's rat race of life filled with psychological pressures, there is a rush to find a niche in which, each one feels uniquely special above the rest. It is as though everyone is stung with the venom of ambition to be a Chief; a King or a Queen, but since everyone seems to be pursuing the same regal goal, then there is hardly any one left to be Indians or royal subjects. This is excepting, of course, the very weak in mind and the outcasts of society who feel exploited by those of the upper worldly echelons.

As a result, this mindset inevitably leads all the would-be kings, queens and chiefs to create a world of their own; a world in which each has control over anything that crosses its border, occupying its space; an ever-expanding world. This is the driving force in our educational, social, political, and religious systems today; and it is entrenched in every fibre of modern societies. There seems to be no place of escape on earth for everyone has to some extent, been infected with this innate desire.

This ideology is nurtured by, and seen in, those who are mentors in our educational institutions. It has even been introduced as early as the cradle begins to rock. It is heard and seen in the music and video industries wherein there are icons that are revered as gods; today, they are even openly called idols. It is careened through the mass media houses by the prominent politicians of super powers and first world countries, and is broadcast internationally on satellite television and radio; subtly conditioning the minds of its viewers and listeners. It is heard from the pulpits of some of the largest and most popular churches, and from the lips of the most influential preachers, and all of the above promise happiness and fulfilment, if you can recreate and take control of your own little expanding world. This should remind us of the false assurances and unfulfilled promises made by the Serpent to Eve that her husband and herself would be wise, and become as gods, if they believed him and took full control of their world.

But, the question may be asked, shouldn't there be something to aspire for in life? What is wrong with having an ambition to become someone in the world? That, you see, is the guileful bait that has been used to hook the nose of everyone of Adam's race who is not craving just to achieve a well ordered life, in which true nobility of character is developed, but chiefly to be his own god controlling his world; a trap set by the greatest enemy of all times. Well, in this book I seek to introduce you to a better world; a world in which true happiness and fulfilment is found; not in your ascension to the highest self-made throne, but in knowing the King that is truly selfless and all giving to His World.

[Chapter 1](#)
Introduction

My World

Everyone seems to have taken a piece of the world at large, and made it into their own world, and, I too have mine.

Let me introduce you to my world. When I speak of my world, I am not speaking about everyone's inalienable right to existence, and the individual space occupied by such existence. The right of each person to be, and the respect due for their privacy is Divinely given, and is not to be equated or be confused with the concept of 'My World'; although, such is the platform from which "My World" is launched.

Imagine a world of my very own, a world in which I can take control of all that matters there. I will not be odd or indifferent to this prospect, so I have delightfully taken my place and my affairs in hand. My world has begun and I will build it up to achieve my highest dreams.

My world is my domain, my controlled space, my circle, my bubble. It is personal and private by default, and I am in control of it; or at least, so I am convinced! Why shouldn't I have a world of my own? After all, I was born a child of this world; a product of its essences, and an integral part of it. Right? In fact, I strongly believe that I was given a part of it to be my very own, an inheritance, and my true heritage. Why should I sit by and allow ignorance or the lack of ambition to disenfranchise me of the opportunity to claim and enhance what is rightly mine?

In the world of worlds, sometimes world circles overlap other circles, a sort of..., "Venn diagram", intersecting the areas, which are of common interest. So it is; my world has also vended many other worlds, intersecting those areas where we share commonalities and interests, forming mutual synergies. Albeit, it is I, who determine whose world I will intersect. Therefore, you see, I am in control, not just of my world, but also in many small ways, many small sections of other worlds.

As my interest and influence spreads, my world expands occupying new frontiers. You know the old saying "No man is an Island," well I say, "No man is a world." After all, the bigger my world is, the greater my kingdom and kingship will be. Therefore, the resulting desire is a need to excel religiously, educationally, politically, financially, and socially. I must have positions and possessions, and people with possessions in positions in my world, in order for me to achieve my worldly ambitions and dreams.

In building my world; depending on my preferred strategy, I may want a family; a wife and children; a career that affords me a good job or, all of the above (and when I say

a good job, I mean one paying well, with a position of upward potentiality). In order to have a strong family and a great job I need a sturdy foundation built on specific things.

For the family, firstly, I think it would be becoming of me to have a pristine religious status. It has long been accepted that a family built on a foundation of high religious standards and values is of solid sterling quality. However, to be considered worthy and of good religious standing these days, I must be able to make continually available, an opulent supply of tithes and offerings, and clearly, to be able to do that, I need a well-paying job. Secondly, to maintain a family I need a job that surpasses the expenses of a home. Therefore, in the matter of priority, the job should be first and then the job should be second.

It seems everything boils down to having a good job, and to have a good job in today's society will require me to have a lucrative career, and a lucrative career will require of me a good education to start.

To get a good education I will need the help and influence from other worlds, from the intersecting worlds of parents, relatives, friends, and from the people who form my various social support groups.

Now, I must be careful to tread softly into other people's worlds while I am getting what I need from them to build up my own world. I must learn how to be nice to them; to influence them and to win their friendship; acculturating my world with theirs so that I can accumulate all that is needed to meet the end of my goal. Therefore, I need to study the routes to social excellence and success, employing social, and invariably, when necessary, political activism. I am building, my world!

In expanding and furnishing my world I must be resourceful, applying all my talents into gaining all the necessary tools, materials, and all other resources. I must be thrifty and astute to all opportunities; climbing every rung, I can place my feet upon and exploit.

I must avoid all losses whether they are financial, social, or emotional, with the exception of sacrificing a little now and then so that I may gain more, circumnavigate all liabilities, and circumvent all the logjams of all foes and fools.

Protecting my borders and keeping a keen eye for intruders must be an integral part of my constant preoccupation. I will open the door of my world to those who are interested in becoming a part of my world, so long as they do qualify as stride-ably and viable contributors.

No one will be allowed to violate my space. I must avoid the intersecting of the worlds of people who are non-progressive and/or, what I consider negative, especially those who are likely to scathe and incur emotional and psychological damage via discouragement. Such attitudes and behaviours are only a waste, which hinders progress,

and harms my interests. I am looking out for myself. This is my world and I endeavour to enjoy it. Sounds good? Now I am well set. Welcome to my world.

Building Progress

I recognise that my world had begun, not just recently, but ever since, I became a conscious being. In retrospect, it seems that the programming of my world is innate; something implanted in my genes or my DNA, which unravels as I mature with time and exposure, to the influence of my environment, and its opportunities.

So now, I have achieved some education, and found a fairly decent job and even acquired a family. Now, here I am at this moment in my world; it has taken shape, and I envision more growth and changes as the pieces of my dream fall into place.

Let me share some more of the intricacies of my world. Those who share the intersecting spaces of my world are considered my cordial subjects. Some may not agree that this is so, because they too consider themselves sovereigns. However, when you consider it, it really mills down to a mutual affair, especially when viewed candidly from both perspectives. I am sovereign in my world and they are sovereigns in theirs, but where our circles intersect, we both rule on mutual terms. Being subject to each other, each sovereign reserves the right to differ at will. This in theory is true, but practically, it is in most cases not true. The truth is, although subdued, each person has the natural tendency to crave control; even if it happens to be a part of another person's world.

There are sometimes those who naturally will, from time to time, suddenly decide to make their own rules, contrary to those of my world. Well actually, each individual will make decisions for their own world, but since their world is intersecting mine, it has become a part of mine also, and thereby mine is affected by their decisions. This is when relationships can go wrong and fall apart. This can be very damaging to anyone's world and should be avoided with much effort and at all costs. These situations sometimes end in an impasse; often it seems the relationship is totally irreconcilable. In such cases, I will disconnect from such worlds and seek expansion through the association of others.

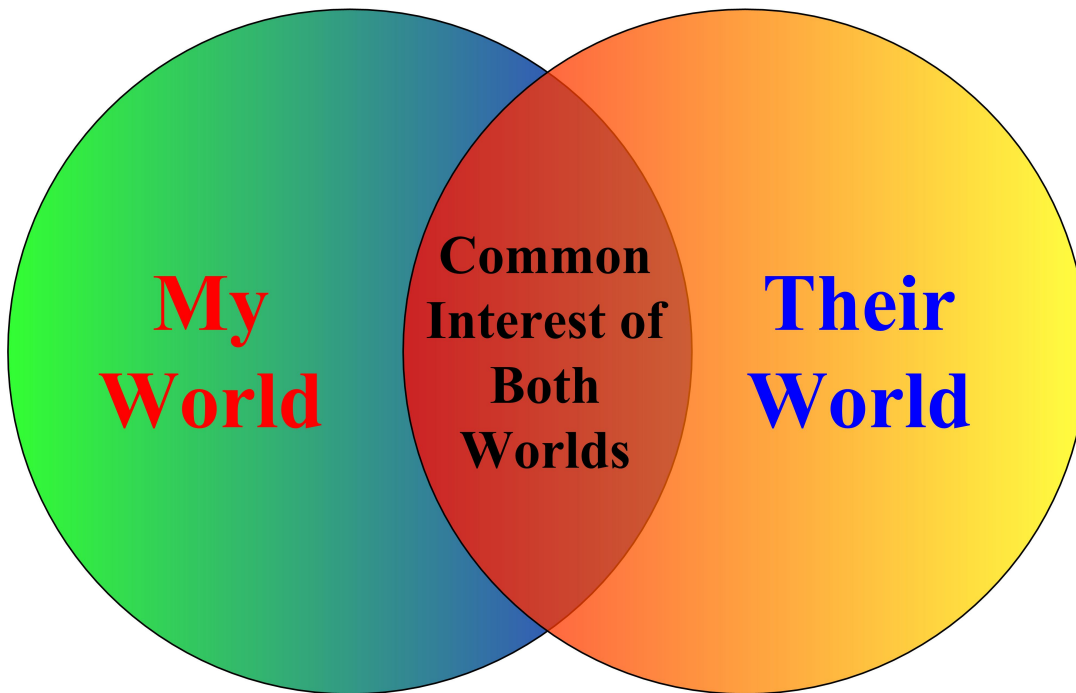


Fig 1

However, over time, with such filtering, I have found that my criteria for acceptance have become denser and my intersections decreased. For now, I have fewer circles intersecting my world, and I have begun to sense an ominous emptiness from being alone—flatly, loneliness. Nevertheless, I find that I am still in a crowd of circles that are touching my borders, and yet I still feel lonely.

It seems the only way to remain intersected by many worlds is compromise. As I have noted above, I am willing to make small sacrifices and compromises when I can foresee eminently favourable gain, but compromise for loss is not acceptable in my world and is folly to the survival of any. I still struggle in deciding which sacrifice is more painful: loneliness or compromise with loss. Regardless, I am resolute in this matter and am convinced that this lessening of intersections will not last too long as I seek better worlds to intersect. This filtering experience is a process of purification that helps to broaden my perspectives as I look at the other worlds.

Regardless of these and other constant challenges, I convince myself that it is nonetheless fun to have a world of my own! It is a world that I have created and regally operated. It represents the total me, an expression of my very existence. A display of what I bring to this life. It is a demonstration of what I would like my life to be and how I touch and affect those I see around me.

The highlights of my world are my thoughts and ideas. This is where everything starts and where the fun begins: in my mind. They are the thoughts and ideas that I

embrace and have accepted. They may not necessarily originate with me, but have become commonplace in my world circles.

I choose what I want to believe and decide who influences my thoughts and ideas, based on my desired taste. The privilege is mine to act when I see fit, and to yield when it benefits.

I give to others so that I can enjoy their reactions, knowing full well, that they may like me, and give back to me socially, emotionally, and otherwise, thus becoming a part of my world. I show kindness so that others may be kind to me and to the dearest subjects of my world: my parents, my wife/girlfriend, my children, my siblings, and my close friends.

I show patience to those in whom I see potential and waste no time with the annoyance of those who are only but worthless baggage. They merely tie up your feet, get in your way to trip, and throw you to the ground from time to time. They are sometimes difficult to avoid but not altogether impossible if you learn how to slip by them.

My desires are the wind in my sail; the driving forces in the direction I am going, and the quest to fulfil my ambitious insatiable lust is an ongoing journey. It seems like the more I get, then the more I want; it is like being athirst while asleep; dreaming of an oasis in the Sahara Desert from which you are drinking and yet you cannot be quenched.

This phenomenon is the catalyst that keeps every world going on and on, and although the journey is tiresome and gets wearisome with time, for me, it is still my world and I must carry on, no matter what. I know that if I give up and quit, it will be the end of my world and me. So on I must go!

Life in my world is like mountain climbing. During the course of your ascension, each time that you look up and the clouds move to reveal a crest, you think you are sure that you are just a moment away from the peak of your dreams; but as you approach that point, another cloud moves, a new crest is revealed, and the quest starts all over again.

A few years have quickly rolled by and as I look back, the journey ahead that leads to my ultimate goal seems longer and further as each mirage fades into the other. It is credulous to think, or even entertain the notion, that I should quit. It seems to me that only a fool with a depraved and debased mind would quit on his own world. Who would attack and tear down his own castle? A man's castle is his home; a man's world is his place of sanctity. To quit ones world is to have the same demolished.

The Competing World

All the above, although it might seem most luminous of my world, does not hold true. As my perspective of other worlds broadens, and I seek new frontiers, something spectacular has come to view and has caught my attention. There is a bright beam from

another world. It seems to outshine all the other worlds including mine. It is so bright; it has cast shadows on the brightness of my world.

I learnt many things about my life in these few increasingly shortening years. One of the things I have come to learn is that my world has two sides. Yes, in the light of what I am seeing, there is a dark side to my world, and now the darkness on that side gets darker with time, as the lumens increase on the other side from the bright light of that world. Yeah! Some elements in my world are casting great shadows in that greater light; nevertheless, as the night leaves, it makes room for the dawn.

[Chapter 2](#)

The Elements of My World

Every source of light that shines against something opaque has a shadow, the dark side. As you look further away from the source of light towards the shadow, it gets larger and darker with increasing distance.

There is a light shining from another world and it is casting BIG shadows in mine! The longer I look at it, the more blinding the light becomes and the darker the shadows. It is shining on all the elements that make up my world and not just my world but all the other worlds as well! I am being continually embarrassed by the private details in my world that this light is exposing. It is keeping me busy covering up my closet secrets. The interesting thing is that most of this exposure is happening in my mind, in my thoughts, in my conscience, where the nucleus of my world is. Yet I can't say that this is consoling, for on the contrary, it is mental anguish and spiritual misery. In time, this growing discomfort is also manifestly highlighted in my manners.

The elements of my world are cohesive; they are comprised in just one substance. I call it the 3M substance. Oh, it is not like some good adhesive tape or glue you may have seen on Television! No, no! It is about Me, Myself, and Mine. These three summarise the elements that comprise my world. It is all about me—ideas, thoughts, ambition, religion, job, achievements and the sought after good life, etc. It is about myself—social status, how I am perceived, level of influence, attraction, appearance, etc. The subjects and things which are 'mine'—parents, siblings, spouse, children, relatives and friends, house, car, financial assets, etc.

“And why are these shadows?” you may ask. “Aren't these the things that every normal person strives to have and enjoy?” Yes! They are, but only until they get a glimpse of a brighter light, of better things from another world. There is such a world, which is the antitheses to mine; a world of unparalleled light and truth, and untiring joy and happiness, and when both are compared, my world has shadows expanding far behind its elements; dark.

- In my world, I am self-proclaimed king.
 - In that world, there is a King crowned by rightful inheritance.
- In my world, it is about the 3M; Me, Myself, and Mine.
 - In that world, it is about the King's subjects, His people and their welfare.
- In my world I make sacrifices when it suits my interest.
 - In that world, the King is sacrificed to save His subjects.

- In my world, I select those whom I want to come in, with a cost to the entrants.
 - In that world all are invited to come in freely; the King pays the entry fee.

What a world that is! In contrast, my world seems an illusion of joy and happiness; a mirage that fades with each step that I advance towards these. Its joys are short lived like the vanishing mist at sunrise.

The more I see of that light shining from the glorious Star of that world, the more dark shadows I see in mine. As I move towards my outer boundary, from the centre and shadows of my world, momentarily eluding the obscurities to get a better view of that world, things really, get brighter in my mind. I am getting a glimpse of the King of that world, and a strange desire moves within me to be a part of His.

How can I be a part of that world? Can I intersect that world with mine? Hmm! That sounds like a great thought! However, before that can happen, I must definitely take a few steps. First, I must move my world closer to that world, and then I must seek to adapt a part of it, incorporating into my world the elements that I like, or at least with those I can compromise gainfully and live with. I hope the King of that world can find something of interest in my world, something He may like.

Going to Church:

No thought or idea is of any worth unless it is translated into action. Therefore, I now put the plan into action. It seems the way to gain entrance to this world is through the Christian Church. It was through the church that I had gained introductory knowledge of this King and His kingdom. By this knowledge and my new awareness, I now convince myself that I need to return to church life; but not to the one I had experienced before.

I literally grew up in a church. However, I turned away from it at an early age because most of what I learnt about the Great King's Father who is the Almighty God was scary and fearsome. The awful things He would do to you if you did not obey Him or fell out of His favour... I did not grow up with my father. He died when I was at a tender age, but I know of a boy whose parents were devout and dysfunctional Christians. They were his mother and stepfather respectively, and I lived close to them.

"I wonder why they are called *step*-fathers or mothers", the boy often muttered. I think, maybe the answer is because it is customary for them to step on their spouse's children and crush them often. Mind you, I do not believe that all stepparents are cruel to their stepchildren, there are many kind and caring stepparents, but the fairytale of Cinderella is common and true to life, and I speak from the perspective of one such child.

This child suffered much at the hand of his stepfather and he did not find his (step-dad's) religion the least bit attractive. This man was the primary father figure for him and if I had thought for a moment that God the Father was anything like his step-dad then I would really have been doubly scared of him! Fortunately, although I shared those childhood experiences, my paradigm shifted over time, and this allayed my fears and altered my outlook of the Father God. (I will say more on this later)

Therefore, in my quest to be connected to this prized domain, I will search for a church that I believe is the closest representation of the new perspective I now have of this great King, His Father, and His World.

Now I have joined a church. I am baptized and my world is baptized too. I now feel covered, under a sacred garb, actively serving in the fellowship of a mixed religious multitude, as I go about my daily Christian worldly business, praying for strength and wisdom to climb the ladder of success in my world.

Deep down in my heart I know that I am not making great strides in the straight line that leads to my new interest. This new interest is not my prime goal; rather the business of my world is priority. However, the nagging curiosity of this kingdom is preoccupying my mind more and more each day, and I do not find, in my current religious associations, enough answers to satisfy my curious musing.

Instead of keeping this religious social club rendezvous, I continue to search for true fellowship, a fellowship that fosters more adherence and obedience to His biographical principles written in His compound book, the Bible. There are ten primary rules in His book, you know! They are called the Ten Commandments, a.k.a. the Law or Decalogue. Hence, in my heart and mind, I am set to obey them all.

I have endeavoured to sacrifice and make some changes in my world so that I can Venn my circle perfectly with that of this bright world. In any case, this is still my world and I have the privilege to make the decisions and choices of what comes or goes. I am still king in my world, but I want to be a part of this attractively bright new world, by which I could enhance my world.

So here I go, ready to study and understand the ten great fundamental rules of this lustrous King.

Rule #1—"You shall have no other gods before me."

Oops! That is a big challenge! You see, as self-proclaimed king, although I recognise that there is a supreme God, I am really a god of my own world. All this time, my word is final; I like to believe that I have the last say in all the matters of my world. Now, something must be wrong with the way I interpret and understand this. Maybe what He means is that He must be the first God in my life and then, in terms of preference and priority, the other gods may come after Him, but not before Him! In other words, I am

god of my world and He is God of all the “My Worlds”. OK I can live with that. So He will have the last word, seeing that He is the Supreme God, but I will, in a subordinate sense, still be the god of my world; the leader of my own destiny. This one I can now accept in my circle. Nevertheless, I am still king of my world, even in keeping this rule it is I who am doing it.

Rule #2—“You shall not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

Well! That is not such a problem. I really don’t have time to make images of things and bow down to them anyway. Why should I do such a silly thing? I am god of my own world! Why should I worship something that I have made with my own hands? Oh but wait a minute. Whoa! Did it say I should not make anything in the likeness of things in heaven? Hmm! He, God, and the King of that world are in heaven! Aren’t they? Therefore if I am self proclaimed king and god, then I am making an image, not just of something, but of the greatest in heaven; God himself. I tell you what; I honestly do not know how to get around this one, so I’d better just leave those two out of my circle. Let me see if there is any other of the eight, which I can intersect.

Rule #3—“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.”

If this simply means to call His name casually and carelessly, or to use it as a swear word, then I could try to give up that habit; or at least, I will work hard on it. That is what it seems to mean on the surface. But could it be that it means something deeper? Let me do a little digging and dissecting. “...take the name”, what other meaning could that possibly have? When you take an in-depth look at it, it surely takes on a different perspective.

Many years ago, I used to work in a machine shop. It was the first week on the job; I did not have much money so I had to find ways of getting cheap lunches for the entire week. By the following week, I knew I would be paid, and things would have gotten better.

Well, it was lunchtime, and I went across the street to a little grocery shop and bought the smallest loaf of bread that they had, along with a slice of cheese and a box of flavoured drink.

I ate a half of that little bread quietly by myself. It was really a small loaf of bread, so I could have easily eaten the entire loaf had I so desired, but I saved the other half for

later and it was a good thing that I did. My carte du jour caught the attention of one of my playfully mischievous co-workers. He broadcasted to the entire staff, that I had eaten a whole half of a bread; and they all had a good time laughing in a sort of mocking amazement at how I could possibly have eaten the entire “half-a-bread” all at one meal. Well that co-worker named me “half-a-bread” that day, but the name sounded long and awkward. So in order to make it easier, I suggested that they just call me “Bread”.

Yes, I took the name “Bread”, accepted it as my name and answered to it when I was called. It is needless to say, my acceptance and response in itself caused the fun and excitement to wear off quite quickly, so the name did not really stick. So reader, please don’t waste any time getting any bright appellative idea!

To take a name, is to be called by that name, to accept its attributes as yours, and to answer to it. I took the name “Bread” because I had eaten a half of a loaf of bread. There is a story about me in that name. Even though it was an exaggerated story, I still accepted it. So how could I take His name in vain? The Encarta Dictionary defines vain as follows:

1. Excessively proud, especially of personal appearance
2. Failing to have or unlikely to have the intended or desired result
3. Devoid of substance or meaning

Pick your choice they all fit! From what I understand, even from the view of my little world, the name of God is His attributes—character, and personality. If I take His name then I am declaring that I am like Him in my attributes—character, and personality. Therefore, if I am excessively proud of that, proclaiming to have all these attributes of God, being king in my world, and yet fall short of producing the real evidence, then I have failed to have the intended or desired results and am devoid of His substance and the meaning of His name. I have taken His name in vain.

Therefore, in my judgment it would be wise to bypass this one also, for there is no way I could keep this one especially if I am to remain ruler of my own world.

Rule #4—“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labour, and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God: in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Just one out of seven! That should not be too much to sacrifice. After all, the benefits could be great and rewarding. You know my rule, ‘I will sacrifice a little to get

more'. This will give me a break from work, a chance to spend more time with the family and the opportunity to socialize with church people of similar worlds.

But now thinking about it, I may have to get a new job that does not require me to work on Sabbaths, or bypass any opportunity that would require me to do so. I know I may have to adjust my career somewhat. If that works out then I can accept this one in my world circle. Otherwise, I would be faced with the dilemma of giving up a big part of my world, or bypassing this one too.

As I have stated before, my job is a solid corner stone in the foundation of my world; it is a sustaining part of my world. It pays the bills, buys and maintains the cars, pays the rent or mortgage, provides food and clothing and education for the entire family; it contributes greatly to 3M (*me, myself and mine*). It makes me independent and that is the hallmark of any monarch. This may have to wait if I don't have a Sabbath-off job.

Rule #5—"Honour your father and your mother: that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God gives you."

How hard is this one? I honour my parents; I make them a big part of my world. Now that is honour! I share some of my substance with them, help them when they are in need, and show them the respect due to them. They are proud of my achievements, proud of me, treat me royally, and are happy to be part of my world.

The question that carries to my mind though is—am I honouring them, or am I expecting and accepting of their honour? I am king in my world. If they are an integral part of my world, then really, as king, they should logically be honouring me too. If I honour them by submitting to the governance of their world, then I will be their subjects or maybe servants. They ruled in my world all the days of my childhood, now that I am an adult, now it is my time to rule my own world, and I will have none of that! If honouring them means requiting to them their due, showing them love and respect, then I can accept that; otherwise this will be a definite no.

Rule #6—"You shall not kill."

That is concise! I have never killed anyone in my entire life. So this one, I am sure, will work. In fact, I don't think anyone has the right to kill another unless such a one is a threat to the lives of others. However, I read where the King of the bright world said in Mathew 5:21, 22, that if I am angry with my brother (*fellow human*) without a cause then I am in danger of the same judgment as the one who kills his brother. So then, when I am so excessively angry until I hate any person, then I am in danger of the same judgment as though I had taken his life. I don't take it lightly when people mess around with me especially when they cross my line.

In my world, I am supreme. I don't know what I will not do to get rid of such people, what lengths I may go to keep my world intact and unscathed by people who do

not have respect for my rights or my space, or me. Just thinking about such people makes me **angry!** So I am not sure how this rule will fit into my world.

Rule #7—"You shall not commit adultery."

Adultery is commonly understood as having sexual relations with another's spouse. Right? Well, I think I could get by having just one woman for my own and be satisfied. She will be the right-hand in my world. However, is that all that adultery means? I wish I were finding it that simple but it does not seem so. For the King of the bright new world also said in Mathew 5:27, 28 "You have heard that it was said by them of old time, 'You shall not commit adultery': but I say unto you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." Does He really mean that when I daydream a little about those sexy women I see walking on the streets uptown, I am guilty of adultery? Oh, come on! That is just something that is inbuilt in every man and conversely every woman. Surely, He knows how hard it is to turn my head the other way and not look long enough for the dream to start! That is like telling a fish not to swim! The heart is willing to go along with this one, but the flesh is indeed weak.

Rule #8—"You shall not steal."

Oh stealing is so unethical and unfair. I should not have any issue with this one. What is mine is mine and what is theirs is theirs. By the way, is this talking about goods, money, food personal items or what? I hope it does not include someone's ideas, or praise, or his construed identity, or time or space. In such a case, if I heard my co-worker with an idea and I ran to the boss with it before he could, then I would have stolen his idea. If the boss mistakenly gave me an accolade instead of the person, whose efforts made it all possible, and I did not make it known and or even remained silent, then I had stolen his praise, integrity, and what is considered his identity. If I used the employers' time to idle or do my personal affairs when there is work to be done, then I would have stolen his/her/their time. If, by false pretence, I took that promotion that was rightly due to the other person, then I had stolen that one's space and right to be there.

Some of these I would be guilty of and I am not sure if I could drop them all at once either, or even one by one if I tried.

Rule #9—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."

Well this one seems plain. I will just keep my mouth shut if I am asked, and not say what my neighbour did not do. Most people use this command to mean that you should not tell lies at all. But what if it is just a little white lie, just to get out of trouble? This does not necessarily mean I am being a false witness does it? I am not witnessing against anybody! Or am I? If the person to whom I told that lie found out it were indeed a lie, would he or she be happy about it? I don't think so! If it brings hurt or unhappiness,

then that lie is against him or her. I am thinking! What if he lives on the other side of town; then he is not my neighbour. Well I just did a little research on the word neighbour and I must truthfully say that a neighbour is anyone who comes to be close to me, whether he dwells there one second or one hundred years. As long, as that person is in talking distance of me, he is my neighbour. This supersedes geographical limitations, especially today. It means, if I am speaking to someone on the phone, he or she is my neighbour.

As I muse some more on this rule, another thought hits me. If I become a part of this King's world, then for me to say something that is not true to anyone is bearing a false witness against, and misrepresenting, Him. It is like breaking the third rule by taking His name in vain. In His book, it is written of Him that He cannot lie, for He is the truth. Misrepresenting Him is bearing false witness of Him, which is against Him.

Remember now that I am trying to make Him my neighbour by intersecting His World. Therefore, if I break even one of those rules, I misrepresent Him, which is in effect, living a lie about being a part of His World. What I cannot understand is how some of the people I interact with at several different churches, are still in their worlds and yet claim to be in His. They seem indifferent to some of His rules and yet they claim to be His followers. They promote their own worlds, congratulate and encourage me in building up mine. How do they do it? I am finding it a challenge to be intersected with His World, but they appear not to. Are they for real? I am wondering are they in denial, or are they just plain hypocrites? Nevertheless, there are those whose countenances and manners reflect the light from His Kingdom, so there is hope.

You know, it hardly makes any sense for me to go on any further. It seems so far, that failing to obey any of these rules, makes you automatically fail on another. I just remember reading in the book of James chapter two and verse ten, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." That is what is evident here. However, since I am at the last one, it won't do any harm examining it also.

Rule #10—"You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is your neighbour's."

"Umm" I really wouldn't want to take my neighbour's house or his... Well unless he would sell me at a rock bottom price instead of letting the bank take it back. Also that sleek and beautiful wife who seems so lonely and distressed, if I were single I would sure take her on if he should ever divorce her. Moreover, he has some real earnest and devoted employees; I wish I could entice them to come and work for me, and then I could start my own business. After all, it is a free market. I am just being ambitious and looking out

for myself; I have an ambitious eye for good things when I see them; can't kill me for that!

Oh well! Now I feel so bad just listening to myself thinking these thoughts. To want somebody's property is just completely unfair. I should see about getting my own and not lust after my neighbour's. I should help the poor guy with his mortgage and take the stress off his lovely wife. But then, that may or may not, have a diminishing impact on my world. It could deplete my monetary asset and expose me to risk, or on the other hand, it could show everyone that I am really a nice guy; show them, the good man that I am. This requires more thinking to see which one fares best in everyone's interest.

The word covet is not always a bad word in itself. It has two meanings. The first meaning is to want somebody's property. The second is to yearn to have something. To yearn to have something can be bad as it applies to the first meaning, but can be good if I want to achieve something good. Not something good because my neighbour has it, but because I recognized that it is good and worthy of my pursuit. The Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians encouraged his readers to covet some good things. "Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. "But covet earnestly the best gifts ...Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy..." (*1 Cor 12:31; 14:39*).

However, I cannot say I have not been guilty of coveting my neighbours', and there is no telling if I would be successful in attempting to obey this rule either. In any case, I know it is impossible for me to obey all of the others at any given time, and that makes me a complete offender of the entire ten.

Now I am beginning to feel somewhat frustrated. I am coveting the joy and benefits of the newly discovered bright world, which is good, and I want to be connected to it so much! My desires for sharing some of the space of that King, is growing every moment. His world is so different from mine, different in an intriguing way. It seems, to be able to cross His border over into His World, requires me to be in-sync and in harmony with the pulse of His World, which are found in these ten rules. Yet my 3M principles cannot synchronise with these rules. The core tune of my 3M world is off beat and discordant to every one of them.

Then therefore, it is the core element of my world, the biggest element, which is holding me hostage in my world. There lies my problem.

Chapter 3

The Core Element of My World

The core element of my 3M world is not endemic to my world. It is the core element of all the other self-actuated worlds. It is the backbone and pillar of support of all these worlds. If you remove this pillar from any self-made world, I will show you a world that is crumbling down. The stronger that element is, the stronger the world, and who would not want their world to be strong? In fact, it is everyone's goal to be the strongest and have the strongest world possible. No one really wants his world to be weak and thereby, lay bare the opportunity for anything or anyone to breach and expunge it. Survival, nay prosperity, is the name of the show. Ironically, the stronger this core element gets, the greater is my struggle and the weaker is my strength in gaining freedom to access the new world with the bright King.

The core element of my world and your world (if you still have one) of which I speak, is the "I". It is the EGO; commonly known as Mr. or Miss Self. Without "self" these worlds simply do not exist. All the elements of our worlds are extensions that are supported by this centre pillar, self. Self-love, self-pity, self-will, self-confidence, and self-preservation are all nuances of the same self. In the world of self, in my world, if I don't love my self then I am self-defeated. (*I will say more about loving yourself later on.*)

You see the point is, if you do not love and take care of yourself, you are not your number one; if you think you are your number one, yet you do not love and take care of that number one, then who will love and have any regard for you.

It follows that if you do not have pity on your-self, then you will never even have initially loved self in the first place. Who then will have pity on you? However, if you really do, then you will do something about your condition and gain the self-powered will to find confidence in yourself. Isn't this good counsel? Isn't this what we are taught in our societies today, to believe in ourselves? Self-hate is destructive to our world of self.

If I don't master all these nuances of self, then I cannot master anything in my world and my centre pillar is weak; my world is about to crumble. Therefore, by all means, I must do all that is necessary to ensure that self be protected and be preserved.

There is no way I can run my world as I have, without self, being the centre. Do not forget that this is my world and it is all about the 3M; Me, Myself and Mine of which I am comprised and I am the centre thereof.

A Prisoner in My World

Now here is the real challenge! How can I have my world and share a part of the desired prized bright new world? There is developing in me a struggle to be in a section

of that new world while I remain in control of my world. I have tried to obey the ten rules of that new world while I remain the centre of my world but as you can see it is impossible to obey them while I remain here. The rules of that world spell death and destruction to my world. All His principles and the elements of His World are in direct opposition to those of mine. The only commonality I see is my interest in both. Yet for heaven's sake, I don't know why I still go on trying to obey them. Ever since I have studied them, I have this inner desire to do them. With much discipline sometimes, it seems I am successful at one or two of them. Nevertheless, such victories are but fake, and are short lived; like the end of a movie scene when you hear the director shout, "CUT!" And life goes on as it did before. I can't have my cake and eat it, can I? No, not even a part of it! I can never, ever obtain a part of the new world while I keep the old.

As I carefully observe this big and beautiful world, I notice something strange but interesting about it; that is, there are no other worlds intersecting it. It stands alone. There is no Venn diagram arrangement with this world. Its principal elements are the antithesis of mine and all the other self-worlds. At this stage, the sad truth is that it is evident that I cannot be a part of His World while I remain in mine.

My passion for this new world grows as I learn more and more in the time spent looking at the King, while reading His inspired words. The more I see the happiness and peace in those who bathe in the light of His bright countenance, the more I feel the awful void and longing in my heart to experience what they have, and what He has promised to give to those who come to Him. There is a great yearning inside of me that is unexplainable; it is a desire to experience the offerings of this King. I truly covet that world, although it is needless to mention that I have one of my own; and should I covet yet another?

The struggle grows more intense. As I view the King and the elements of that world, a part of me wants that new habitation and experience, and yet a part holds dearly to my own world. In time, I now realize that I am indeed a prisoner of my very own world. For here I am, longing to escape and be there, and yet I am trapped by the innate desires for my very own.

Before I discovered this new world, mine seemed perfect; I found no fault with it. But now while I am conscious of its presence, the new world shines on all that is mine, and as I stare at its beams, more ghastly shadows appear and they only get darker with time.

Sharp beams of light now shine through onto my significantly lessening world. In a reflective mood, I have begun to dissect this 3M compound and I find these elements prominently standing tall in my world.

- Idolatry

- Dishonour—disobedience
- Untruthfulness
- Hate-Murder
- Dishonesty
- Adultery
- Covetousness

I did not know that I was so idolatrous, dishonouring, untruthful, hateful, dishonest, adulterous, and covetous, until the light of that glorious world illumined the Decalogue and I read it and saw my condemned condition. Before that, my conscience did not bother me that much. When I did not find it convenient to obey, I could easily hush the little voice by finding justifiable reasons for my actions. I could reason away, in logical terms, the cons and find enough pros to justify my actions or lack thereof. The sight of this lustrous King has now changed all this.

Before the renascent light from His World shone on me, my world was “the life”. Now it spells death and gloom. I know for sure that I am not the only one who has gone through this, because the Apostle Paul, who wrote on behalf of this King, previously had a world of his own, and at some point had reached this same dilemma. This is what he wrote: “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.” (*Rom 7:9*). I did not know that I was such a transgressor of the Almighty God until with an open and candid mind, I read and analysed HIS Ten Commandments verse-by-verse; line-by-line; word-by-word! Yet I cannot seem to find any help by any effort of mine to obey it. Rather, it in itself, has only added to my frustration emphasizing my bondage and ill fate! I am really in trouble here and where can I find help: who can help me? Again, in seeking an answer I turn to the Apostle Paul, who describes my condition as if he was writing about my life: “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.” (*Rom 7:18, 19*)

My Search for Freedom

It is urgent that I carefully search for answers to this problem. Where did it start? How and why did I come to inherit this world? Who first started this “create my own world” practice? Maybe in searching I could find the answers that will lead me to freedom and a path to the new desire of my heart.

I started my search by going through the oldest compilation of books I could get my hand on easily. That is The Bible; the book that tells the whole story of this King and His Kingdom, from start to finish. Today you can get a free software version of the Bible

such as E-Sword, or others from various sources on the internet. This makes it easy to search and study as you can even read it from a smart phone or tablet making it very portable. This has helped me in my search and research, and reading it through several times.

In reading this book of books, there are numerous things to discover. One of them is that this New World Kingdom has been established for about two thousand years now, and was foretold by the prophets of old, for many thousands of years before. Nevertheless, why was there a need for a new world and a new Kingdom? Did this King at some time lose His Kingdom and world? What went wrong? Where did the elements of my world come from? How did I acquire them? Why did I not inherit the elements of that good and glorious world? Is it possible for me to acquire them and be a part of His kingdom, and how? These are the questions I must search and find the answers for.

“Note –While in my world, throughout the years, as I search through the pages of this poly-book I asked many questions. As I summarize the answers I have found over a period time, I will from this point onward, rhetorically reiterate these questions as I move along, so as to emphasize the highlights of my findings.”*

In the Beginning

I started at the beginning, the genesis. The book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, gives the account of the creation of this earth. In summary, God by the power of His word spoke the earth and its substances, the sun, the moon and the stars, into existence. Then on the 6th day, after He had formed the beast and birds out of the ground, and finished creating everything else, He made the first man out of clay and then breathed life into his nostrils. Then He took a rib out of the man, whom He named Adam and made a woman, (who Adam later called Eve), and gave her to him to be his wife. According to this history, God said that everything He made was good and when He had finished the last act of creation; making man, He said, it was very good. Therefore, everything was perfect and all was happy and well; so good it was, that on the following day God rested from all His creative work and made the day a memorial, thus the marking of the seven-days weekly time cycle. So what happened between then and now?

During the creation, God had planted a garden in the east of the land, which was called Eden, and He made it flourish with fruit trees that were good for food, with the exception of one tree.

In the centre of the garden, there was the tree of life, which must have been the most potent and most desired of all the trees. There was also in the midst of the garden a tree called the tree of good and evil.

Good and evil! That sounds like an oxymoron! How can it be good and yet be evil? Well let me correct myself here; after having read it again more carefully, I realised that it was called the tree of the ‘knowledge’ of good and evil!

Well that sounds a little more feasible but still warrants some explanation. Well let me continue to summarize what I have read and understood from the rest of the story.

God told Adam, and his wife Eve, that they could eat of all of the trees of the garden, including the tree of life, except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For, if they did then, they would die the same day. Well I am reasoning to myself that that is not so hard to live by.

Everything is perfect in that setting, now what could possibly go wrong? They had the tree of life that they could feed on and there are no ten “you shall not” rules to live by; just this simple one; stay away from that tree!

As the story unveils in Genesis chapter three, they did not obey this single “you shall not”. Yes, they did disobey, but not so easily. Someone beguiled and tricked them into doing it. Someone conned them. In fact, it was Adam’s wife that got tricked, and then he just fell in with her. (This was the first time a man “**fell**” in love).

Well that must be the very first con artist, I think. But, there was just one man on earth and that was Adam. So it could not have been a man! You might not believe this, but reading on I realize it really was not a man at all; no, it was a serpent. So that’s where the idea of calling a trickster “a serpent” came from! I thought the monkey was trickier than the serpent, but I was wrong. It wasn’t the monkey that got us but the serpent! Now what kind of serpent was that, that could trick a woman while in her perfect mind? It could not have been an ordinary snake!

Besides cursing the snake and promising to crush his head by the woman’s seed, there is nothing else mentioned in the book of Genesis as far as I can remember. Hence, I used my computer and Bible software to search for the word serpent and strangely enough, I found my answer in the very last book of the Bible, Revelation. In Revelation 12:9, the apostle, and prophet, John, tells us that the devil, called Satan, was that old serpent that deceived the whole world. Also again in chapter twenty and verse two it is identified again as that old serpent the devil and Satan. Therefore, he must have possessed a serpent while he deceived Eve. Now he is really a snake to have thought of that! She must have been surprised to hear a serpent speak and maybe thought that the fruit of the forbidden tree gave it such abilities. Otherwise she would have been quite silly standing there arguing with a snake.

Now, I want to ask this very important question. Was there something different about the fruits that that tree produced that infected Eve and Adam with sin? Do you really think there was? No! It was not any ingredients in the fruit. It was the act of choosing to disbelieve and disobey God, in order to get what the serpent advertised, if they ate the fruit. It was unbelief in what God said and trusting what they saw. It was the desire to fulfil the lust of the eye, the lust of the appetite, and the lust to become wise gods. It was the desire to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and independent rather than remaining totally God-dependent.

I learnt many important lessons from this historical account of which I will list two.

1. Be content with the **good** things you already have.
 - This does not fit too well in our worlds. It contradicts the tenets of everybody's world, which first started with Eve's world. Everyone wants more in their world. Had Eve been content with all the very good things God had provided for her, I would not be here writing about me being trapped in my own world today. On the other hand, no one in his or her self-developed world can truly be content, for there is ***no*** good there.
2. Do not assume that what the eyes perceive is always true or real.
 - In my world, "seeing is believing", and what is not seen is hardly believable. Yet many of the things seen in my world are not true and some are even unreal. Eve gained trust in what she saw over and above what God told her, and what she thought she saw, was not even real.

The rest of the Eden story is our history. Adam was to be the ruler ordained by God to rule over this earth. The earth was his territory but he lost it to Satan in the fall. Adam fell and all mankind who are extensions of him are born fallen, for we were in his loins when he fell.¹ The Apostle Paul wrote, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (*Rom 5:12*). We all inherited something in our nature called sin, which leads to disobedience and an unfulfilled and unhappy life, and tenders to death. Adam and Eve's death sentence was stayed and they were given probation because God promised that the woman's seed would come and take Adam's place, which is also our place. He would become the new Adam for us. Through His sacrifice and victory over death and sin, He

¹ In addition to Romans 5:12 and other biblical references, a strong premise for this statement is based on the following: "And as I may so say, Levi also, who receives tithes, paid tithes in Abraham, for he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him." (*Heb 7:9, 10*). Although we were in Adam when he sinned, sin is not imputed to us until we transgress the Law. However, because the nature of sin is in all, it inevitably leads all to transgression.

would regain possession of Earth, and life, for all humanity. *I will say more about this special seed later on.*

The First My World

As I move along with my search, the first thing to do, is to find an answer to the question, “who started this ‘create my own world’”? It is evidently not God. It is clear that we got it from the old serpent the devil and Satan through Adam. So from where did he get it?

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 14 and versed 12 to 14 we see the King of Babylon prophetically being personified as one called Lucifer². The word Lucifer appears once in the English versions of the Bible (KJV and others), and it is generally accepted that it refers to Satan the chief of devils. In fact, the original Hebrew word, for which the word Lucifer was used to substitute, is *heylel*. It is derived from the Hebrew primary root word *halal* that means to shine clamorously, and boast, among others. The king of Babylon has great boastful plans for his world, but he is really just enacting the goals and aspirations of another, who is Satan the old serpent.

Isaiah 14:12 *How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

13 *For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

14 *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

So, it was he who started this “create your own world; be your own god” thing! It originated with him. And is it any wonder, he pushed the same idea into the mind of Eve, expanding his world into the human race; making lying promises that they would be wise and be as gods. Listen to the dialogue in Genesis 3:1–5:

Gen 3:1. *Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, has God said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

2 *And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

² The word Lucifer is formed from the derivative of two Latin words; *lux*, which means light, and *ferre*, which means to carry or to bear, from which we also get ferry and fare. It is said, the word had been borrowed from the Latin Vulgate by the King James translators to represent Satan, the boastfully and clamorously shining fallen angel referred to as *heylel* in the original Hebrew text.

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, you shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, you shall not surely die:

5 For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Eve was convinced by this serpent possessed of the devil that, disobeying God and eating the fruit would make her wise and be a god. Continuing in verse 6, we read:

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Now take note how they immediately discovered their folly. Instead of being wise, and finding themselves in an aura of splendour and glory, they both found themselves naked and ashamed, and guilt laden.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Did someone rip their clothes off? Why are they suddenly naked? Evidently, they both lost and gained something in that very instance. They lost the covering God had given them, and they gained the consciousness of nakedness and guilt.

The forked tongued lying serpent Satan continues to deceive and entrap people even to this day. But how and why did this begin in him? My search now leads me to the 28th chapter of the book of Ezekiel, verses 12–19.

Ezekiel 28:12. *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus³, and say unto him, thus says the Lord GOD; ‘You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.*

13. You have been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created.

14. You are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so: you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

³ The king of Tyrus, an opposing enemy of God, was representing Satan at that time. This king was possessed of the devil Satan, and like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, he carried out his will in words and action. Hence, this prophecy is opened, addressing Satan as the king of Tyrus.

15. *You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you.*

16. *By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*

17. *Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness: I will cast you to the ground; I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you.*

18. *You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you.*

19. *All they that know you among the people shall be astonished at you: you shall be a terror, and never shall you be any more.'*

Before Satan, sinned, only the Divine knew in theory what evil was. I said in theory because God is good and He alone is good. (See Psa 135:3; 145:9, Luke 18:19). However, God knows all things, so He knows what good is and He knows what evil is without being evil. Only good was known throughout the universe. But when Satan, who was made perfect in all his ways, was found with iniquity within, sinned, and became the devil, he then knew what evil was. Thus we could safely assert that the only beings who had the knowledge of good and evil were God, His Son, and Satan, (along with the angels who eventually followed him along his evil pathway).

It was not needful for any of God's creatures to know what evil was, because they could not truly know it unless they experienced it directly. In fact, it was evidently detrimental for us to know it. To experience evil indirectly or second-handed is not the same as knowing it directly, but rather, an experience of its consequences. There is a big difference between experiencing the consequences of evil and knowing evil. Satan was the first creature to know evil.

What made iniquity to arise in the heart of Satan? I can now see the answer emerging from the last part of the last verse of the reference I gave, from the book of Isaiah. Chapter 14:14—"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Does he want to love like the Most High? Does he want to be good like the Most High? Does he want to be merciful and kind like the Most High? Does he want to be selfless and giving as the Most High? No! He only wants the position, power, and worship that belong to the Most High. He wants to exalt his throne above the Most High! He wants to put the Most High down and take His place. He has his own 3M agenda.

Notice, that in those two short verses alone he has used the “I” word seven (7) perfect times. Self is the core element of his world, as it is of yours and mine and all the other carnal, self-developed worlds. Our worlds are really, just models of his world!

The Beginning of ‘My World’ On Earth

The seed of self was found in Satan’s heart and as he nourished it, it found fertile ground in which to grow and ‘My World’ was born. He passed it unto Adam and Adam passed it on to humanity, thus we all inherited it!

Soon after this world of self began, the effects of sin were to be seen. God told Adam (which literally means human), that, “Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you return unto the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are, and unto dust shall you return.” (*Gen 3:17*)

Nevertheless, this was not the worst thing that happened. Shortly thereafter, Adam and Eve had two sons; the first one was called Cain and the younger was called Abel. Abel exercised faith in the promise of the Seed (*See Gen 3:15 and Rev 12:2, 5*), but Cain wanted to develop his own world. God promised that a man-child born of a woman would die as a sacrifice to redeem humanity. Abel believed this, but his brother wanted his own world.

The story has been told, that Abel in expression of his faith offered a sacrifice of blood to God⁴, and God showed respect to Abel. However, Cain on the other hand offered the produce of the ground: an offering that had no significant bearing on the Kingdom of God, which was promised through the death of the seed. When he saw that God accepted his brother’s offering, and did not accept his, he became angry. Now what do you think made him angry? It would have been easy to ask his brother for a lamb and offered that. But he coveted the response his brother got from God, which indicated that God was not accepting of his world. His brother’s life was out-of-sync with his world also, and that made him angry.

Then, to make matters worse, God corrected him and told him that if he did the right thing he would be accepted. If he did not do the right thing then sin was right at his door and the desire of sin was in him, yet he should rule over it. He could not deal with

⁴ “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks.” (*Heb 11:4*)

all of that, and at the first opportunity, he murdered his brother. This was the first murder in the history of humanity.

This was the first person who started to build his own world after the fall of Adam and Eve, and what a way to start it off, not with the blood of a lamb, but with hate, the blood of his brother. Since then, men who were considered great because they expanded their world beyond the ordinary have hallmarked the history of this Earth.

There were many from that time until the coming of the flood, who were not recorded in detail in the books of the Bible. I say this because it is mentioned in Genesis 6:4–6, it reads as follows, “There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” Oh how sad God must have really been!

If you continue to read on, you will read about how God had to destroy all of humanity, except Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. The record shows that ‘Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD’, but some of his offspring did not.

Noah was obedient to God. He was a prophet who preached and warned the then world that God would have sent a flood to destroy all who continued in their wickedness. No doubt at that time as now, everyone besides Noah and his family had their personal mega world. The proliferation of those mega self-worlds brought no good results. The resulting consequences required God to take drastic action to curtail the evil and end the outburst of wickedness. Noah, through grace, found himself in God’s world and as a result, God saw fit to save him and his family.

Not long after the passing of the antediluvian world, another renowned man called Nimrod expanded his world and came to pre-eminence. He was the great-grandson of Noah. He was so fearful of God destroying the earth and his world with another flood that he began to build a tower of safety so high that it was reaching into the heavens. Here is a classic example of one of the attributes of all self-worlds; unbelief; not trusting anybody, not even, what God says. God told Noah that he would not destroy the world again with a flood and therefore he set the rainbow in the clouds as a reminder of His promise. (*Gen 9:9–14*) And you would think with all of that, someone so soon after the promise was made, would be in such a fear that he planned and engineered a tower of safety, just in case. I am sure if he had been there in that flood, he would have thought twice about his venture. He designed it to be so tall and strong, he thought it would be a safeguard in the event of another flood. His thoughts and the ideas of those that followed

him were so awful that God had to come down and stop it. He certainly had reasons to be afraid of God, for he had assumed the place of God on earth. It is recorded in the Book of Genesis that he was the mighty hunter in preference to God. (*Gen 10:9*)

Babel was the name of the tower, which he started, because God had confused the language of the builders. The word Babel today means confusion. This confusion led to disorganization and brought the building to a halt.

I am not sure of the sequence of etymological development of the word Babel: whether the word acquired an additional meaning after God confused the language or, if the tower got its name from the meaning of the word after the incident. I am more leaning to the latter as I shall indicate in a little while. In any case, it bears clearly, the history of the outcome of this unbelieving leader and world builder.

Then there was Tamuz, who was supposedly the son of Nimrod. He was indeed the son of his widowed wife, Semiramis. He was conceived and born to her after the death of Nimrod, which she claimed was the incarnation of Nimrod himself. It is believed, that it was Tamuz and his mother, who later became his wife, which built Babylon with its hanging gardens: one of the Seven Wonders of the World. What Semiramis and her husband Nimrod failed to accomplish in the making of Babel, she and her son-husband reattempted in the making of Babylon. They embarked on making an empire in the face of God: against everything about God and His kingdom. The ideology of creating a world in place of God's world, as inspired by its originator Satan, is seen not only in the spelling and meaning of the words, but from the intents and practices of Babel to the great Babylon.

The unintelligent sounds that babies make before they learn to speak is called babbling, and how interesting it is that they left off from building Babel, because everyone was babbling to each other, and then went on to build Baby-lon. I found that quite interesting and funny. If the word meant confusion before the incident of the tower, then it is reasonable to think they would not have named their next project with anything associated or sounding like the first. However, with all the confusion that went on with the language, anything is possible. Therefore, it could be that the word adapted its meaning after the tower incident. The record in Genesis (8:9) indicated that the tower got its name because the LORD confounded the language of all the earth. Nevertheless, the evil principles on which the Tower of Babel was built, were the same on which Babylon was built; an expanded self-centred world with its own religion and king, usurping the place of God and His King.

This book would be too large if I were to mention all the self-world building renowned men of old. Nevertheless, I have found there are certain outstanding ones I could not pass over. History has recorded that some time after God frustrated Nimrod's

plan of Babel, his wife and her son-husband continued to build in its place the city called Babylon. In Babylon, many hundreds of years thereafter, there arose a great king, who thought that his kingdom would rule the entire world forever.

One night, two years after he became king, with this pressing ambitious thought on his mind, he went to sleep, but could not rest properly because he had dreams that troubled his spirit and made him restless. From the record in the book of Daniel, it seems he had the same dream many times during the course of one night or for several nights. Note that the records said he had dreams. *“Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. (Dan 2:1).* The reoccurrence of this dream, impressed upon his mind that it was of significant importance.

The story continues to tell how he requested of his wise men an interpretation of this dream without giving any detail of it whatsoever, and how the noble man called Daniel in whom the Spirit of God dwelled, told him his dream in entirety and gave him the interpretation.

The interesting thing about this dream is that in its interpretation, God revealed to Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the three great kingdoms of the world that were to follow his Kingdom. God gave Nebuchadnezzar the shock of his life. His World was not going to be forever, but to be succeeded and be overthrown by several worlds inferior to his. Yet, none of these worlds would last forever.

In his dream, he saw a great statue made of several metals and of clay. At the top was the most precious metal made of gold, and it descended analogously in quality down to the feet of iron and clay. There was the head of gold, the arm and breast of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron and the feet and toes of a mixture of iron and clay. Each succeeding kingdom would overthrow the previous and would be inferior with each descent. Then he saw a stone cut out of a mountain without hands, which struck the image at the feet and, destroyed it.

The stone grew and became an enormous mountain so great that it filled the entire earth. God told Daniel that the stone that became this great mountain represented the King and Kingdom of God, on earth, which will last forever.

You can just imagine how this dreamer of self-world felt when the thought that his kingdom and world would not last for too long, and would not be the world that would encapsulate the whole earth, hit him squarely. He resisted this idea so much that not long after he had had this dream, he built a huge statue in the Plain of Dura. One that looked exactly like the one he saw in his dreams, only this one was made entirely of gold! In other words, he was in denial, and did not want his world to end.

Then he appointed a day and an hour when he called all the rulers, wise men, and magistrates in his kingdom to come to the inauguration of his statue of gold and to bow down and worship it.

The story continues to tell of three Hebrew young men, friends of Daniel, who refused to bow to his statue of gold. They believed in the only true God the creator, and worshiped only Him. They purposed in their hearts to obey God even in the face of death, and when the signal was sounded to bow down and worship this image, they literally, stood up for God.

Nebuchadnezzar had much respect and regard for these three young men. They were close companions and associates of Daniel. He thought that if he gave them another chance, they, might have changed their minds and complied, but they responded to his offer saying, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto you, O king that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image, which you have set up. (*See Daniel Chapter 3*)

After that was well said, Nebuchadnezzar decided to put them to the test. The signal was sounded again, and again they stood their grounds for the LORD. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king kept his promise and ordered them thrown into the then overheated furnace, which killed the soldiers who carried them. However, not even the hairs of the three Hebrews were singed. God came and protected them and they eventually walked out of the fire unscathed. This was surely a blow to the aspirations of the king, who thought that he could defy the providence of the Almighty God.

This prophecy decrypted from this dream of Nebuchadnezzar, is one of the irrefutable fulfilled predictions in the history of earth. Secular history bears records that the Meads and the Persians overthrew Babylon, and then they themselves were overthrown by Greece, which eventually was defeated from within, by Rome. Then the Roman Empire collapsed and became part weak and part strong even unto today. In case you are not sure where we are in the timing of this prophecy, we are in the time of the feet and toes, of the part iron and part clay.

Each of the men of those kingdoms had their own self-world in mind. From Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to Darius and Cyrus of the Meads and the Persians respectively, from Alexander the Great of Greece, to Augustus the first Roman Principate and Empire, unto Constantine XI, have all splurged power in their own worlds. They sought for power and control from the beginning to the end, expanding their worlds into great kingdoms. It stands reasonably clear, that if the prophecy has been fulfilled accurately right down to Rome the legs of iron and successively into iron and clay, then

rationally thinking, you would have to agree with me that the remaining portion is inevitable and must soon be fulfilled. God has been building up His Kingdom and will soon destroy all the worlds or kingdoms of self on the earth. I would rather not be in mine when this is happening, lest I also be destroyed along with it.

Satan wanted to be a creator, but he could not create anything in the universe because God had already created all things including him. So he sought to create a kind of philosophical world, where he could take control of everything that enters its domain. First, it developed in his mind and the centre of his emotion, and then, he began to expand it to intersect the subsets of other beings who were part of Gods kingdom.

He was successful with a third of the angels in heaven, but he could not expand the borders of his kingdom any further among the angels, because the other two thirds of those who remained stood firm in their faith and trust in God. Therefore, he turned his attention to man who could procreate. So, through the medium of a serpent, he artfully intersected the subset of Adam who was made in the image of God, pulling him out of the circle of God's world. Having done so, Adam's nature that was now sculptured and shaped by this corrupt nature, was passed on with the procreation of all of humanity.

Now, he has a race of beings created so close to God Himself, in His very image, who could pass on the nature of his seed to their offspring; quickly expanding his world and kingdom. So, each person is born with the natural tendency to develop this inherited world, which is really a part or subset of the devil's world.

Satan started this revolution of self-world. He is the invisible agent that inspires and motivates the great men of this world today as he has in the past. The core element of all these worlds is the fertile seed, self, which he has sown in the hearts of all men through Adam. It became a big tree and bore many fruits. By the fruits begotten of a tree, it shall be known. The Great King said, "You shall know them by their fruits." It is clear by now, which fruit the tree in his heart had first yielded.

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