

A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

(Part 2)

Creation

by Gary T. Panell

In the beginning God (Elohim) created (bara') the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1) Many Christians think we can compromise with evolution by maintaining that the Biblical account of creation and evolution are compatible. This kind of thinking denies the simple truth of God's Word, and robs God of His "GLORY" in CREATION! "For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things." (Romans 1:20-23)

To many Christians, in their minds, "evolution," is very much a "fact." No doubt, the reason for this kind of thinking is because from the time we can remember magazines, books, newspapers, television, etc. have all been teaching us that evolution is a fact. Is it then any wonder that nonbelievers, as well as Christians, have become convinced that evolution is true?!

First we must define "evolution" so we know what we are discussing. The dictionary defines evolution as, "A gradual process in which something changes into a different, and usually, more complex or better form." Evolution today has come to mean, not only changes within species, but also a process where a primitive form changes to a more advanced form.

Here are statements, by Christians, about what happened in Genesis one: "One view is that there was an original creation which became corrupted under Satan and was destroyed by God. In this view, the creation referred to in Genesis 1:1 is the original creation and the remaining verses refer to the re-creation or restitution of the earth about six thousand years ago, after it was destroyed. Thus the long time needed to satisfy geology occurs in Genesis 1:2. A second popular theory is that the word "day" in Genesis means age, so that we should read each verse as referring to a period of time, not a twenty-four hour day. Therefore, any age would be suitable for the earth. This theory is sometimes called progressive creationism to refer to a successive creative act of God. Another theory is called the Pictorial Day, in this view; the six days of Genesis refer to six days in which God revealed to the writer God's creative acts. (In other words Genesis chapters one and two are a "figurative" story God used to explain what happened.) Therefore, if we see the record as man's response to a divine truth, we are not bound to the scientific picture of Genesis, but only by the great insights which in their simplicity and beauty rise above all other writings of the period."

These are statements of Christians who have compromised what the Bible teaches about evolution. This professor from Vanderbilt also says, "Countless Christians, including outstanding conservative evangelicals, have concluded that an evolutionary process of some kind is as consistent with a Christian understanding of man and all creation as is instant creation. God created man by bringing forth his physical body through long stages of biological development to the point that it was ready to receive his spirit, evolution is consistent with this also. This interpretation is also a faith statement about life."

I have been in churches where all these theories have been taught. Many Christian seminaries teach these theories about the Bible and creation. I am very thankful that I attended Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland, Oregon where Dr. Henry M. Morris came to speak on creation. Now Multnomah is known as Multnomah Bible College and Biblical Seminary.

Dr. Morris has written many books on the subject of creation, and has founded the Institute for Creation Research; see our resource links for more information. He has always taught that the Bible is speaking of six literal days of creation. He and many other scientists today are sick of the guess work in science when it comes to creation. They are tired of being "brain washed" by our culture that is teaching something, they claim is science, but has no basis in the scientific method. It has got to the point that they are teaching a theory of evolution where beings from other planets seeded the earth with people. Others teach that from a dinosaur egg a bird came, and all sorts of other far fetched theories. This is come about because of the failure of the theory that life evolved from nonliving forms. And that lower forms of life can evolve to higher forms of life, which there is just no proof of this happening.

Doesn't this just sound like the Romans passage that we quoted earlier? "...so they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things." I know this passage is talking about people making idols in the image of man, and animals. But these verses could also apply to those Christians that worship evolution more than they worship God. They know the truth, but they desire to compromise because they think the world has a better answer for the beginning of the world than the Biblical revelation! (I like the British pronunciation of the word evolution, which when they say it, it sounds like "evil-o-ution.") Who do you suppose has darkened the hearts of men?!

The unsaved has no excuse either, for the Bible says in the Psalms, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God..." (Psalm 14:1a) Psalm 19:1:1 teaches, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." People are not going to be able to stand before God one day and say, "I didn't know there was a God, I thought the universe and everything in it was just made by billions of accidents." God will no doubt remind them, that He gave them a brain to think for themselves, and will remind them of the order in the universe they can see with their eyes. He might ask them, "Didn't it take more faith to believe in evolution than it did to believe that I did it?" I sure wouldn't want to be in their boots at that time. Nor would I like to be standing in Christians' boots when they tell God they compromised with evolution because it was popular to do so, at the time they lived. Virtually every Jew and every Christian believed in six literal days of creation, until Darwin came along with his book, *Origin of the Species*.

"Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) and his successors created the idea that there was no such thing as sin or that sin was merely the remnant of animal instinct in man. Evolution as a philosophical doctrine goes back to the time of Aristotle, but Darwin was the first to put it on what seemed to be a scientific basis.

Darwin spent some time in studying medicine and theology before he developed his inclinations to become a naturalist. A voyage around the world on the *Beagle* between 1831 and 1836 convinced him that differences between living animals and fossils, on the main lands and those on the islands that he visited, could only be accounted for by biological evolution. He published his book, *Origin of the Species*, in 1859 after finding that Alfred Wallace had independently arrived at similar conclusions. In his book Darwin argued that the struggle for existence kept the population of the various species constant in spite of the fact that reproduction is geometric and that many more are produced than are essential for the survival of the species. In this struggle some individuals develop characteristics favorable to survival through a process of

adjustment or adaptation to environment. These characteristics are passed on by sexual selection in which the favored males and females mate. Thus only the fittest survive. He thought that such a similarity as that of the body structure between man and animals substantiated his theory, but he forgot that this and other similarities might be evidence of design on the part of the Creator who gave His creatures similar body structures because of the similarity of their environment. Darwin applied his theory to man in *The Descent of Man* (1871) and argued that man was linked with animal life by common ancestral types.

Darwin's idea of continuity between man and animal has been summarized as "descent with change." This view is opposed to the Biblical concept of special creation by God with fixity in the groups thus created. In emphasizing similarities between man and animals Darwin ignored the uniqueness of man's larger brain, his power of speech, his use of the opposable thumb, his memory, conscience and concepts of God and the soul. He admitted that the last three were problems for his theory. No missing link that would conclusively identify man with animals has been discovered; in fact, crossbreeding between many groups is impossible. The use of the Hebrew word *bara* for the act of creation is only used of the heavens and the earth, mammals and man (Genesis 1:1, 21, 27). God is said to have made the different groups reproduce "after his kind."...

Evolution was also used to justify the idea of race superiority because that idea seemed to fit in with Darwin's concept of the survival of the fittest. It has also been used to justify having no absolute foundation or norm for ethics. Good conduct is merely those actions deemed suitable by each generation for the proper conduct of society. The doctrine of evolution has also been used to glorify war as the survival of the fittest.

All of these conclusions have been reached by the application of a biological theory to other fields through an unwarranted use of the argument from analogy."

No, the universe is not one big accident, or a product of evolution, but it is a marvelous creation of God. God created the universe and everything in it, including the dinosaurs and the people, in six literal days. The Bible states very clearly, "In the beginning GOD "created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) It does not say, "In the beginning God oversaw the process of evolution!" This seems so wrong when we actually say it, but this is what millions of "Christians" say they believe.

God makes it abundantly clear what kind of day the first chapter of Genesis is talking about. When He gave the Ten Commandments He says, "Remember the Sabbath day...For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day," Exodus 20:8-11. Would this statement make any sense if God were telling the people through Moses, to rest the seventh day just like God rested after several billion years of doing His work of evolution?

If God created the earth in six literal days, you say, "Then what do we do with the things in nature that appear to be millions if not even billions of years old?" First we need to look at how God created. Were Adam and Eve created as babies or full-grown adults? It is obvious from Scripture that Adam and Eve were created as mature adults, Genesis 2:18-25. God created all of nature in this way. He created the stars with "built-in age."

Ok, we could be getting ahead of ourselves a little here. As you have guessed I really get into this subject. I have also had the most opposition in my ministry to the subject of creation. This opposition has not come so much from the unsaved, but Christian leaders! Satan has a mighty strangle hold on many Christians in this area, and he doesn't want to let go!

Now let's get back to the details of the creation week. The first verse is an introduction to the rest of creation. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) God created everything

we see, and all that we don't see. He had created the angels before this time because, Job says they sang as they saw God creating the earth. God ask Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (This is a reference to the angels.)

So angels are created beings, but they had been created subsequent to the creation of the universe. Interestingly enough they are watching as these scenes unfold. How amazed they must of have been, we do know they started singing! This is the reaction we should have, our reaction should not be, "Oh, it probably just came about by the process of evolution." Our reaction should be like the angels, and as the Psalmist said, "Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains... (Psalm 104) The Psalms contain eight major creation Psalms with significant scientific information: Psalm 8, 19, 29, 33, 90, 91, 104, and 139.

Christians use to worship the God of creation, now many worship the God of evolution. How could we have strayed so far from the truth? Satan has done a real "snow job" on us. I believe that this lie about God using evolution to create is nearly worldwide. What would happen if Christians really believed Colossians 1:12-18. "...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

If you believe in the Jesus of the Bible, you should find no problem with believing in creation just as Genesis states it! To make "wine" at the wedding in Cana Jesus used His power as creator. This is how He did all of his miracles, just like He created the Universe and everything in it. If you believe Jesus did even one miracle, then why is it so hard to believe that He created everything?! Try for just a little time, as you are reading this article, to believe that it really did happen the way the Bible says it did. For a few minutes take the Bible account of creation literally. Forget that you have been taught from an infant that it all came about by chance. Forget for a few minutes those messages you have heard from even Christian leaders that evolution and creation are compatible. Then imagine that it is all true just like Genesis teaches.

Right away, though, questions come to your mind, but you say, "What about dinosaurs, didn't they live and die before Adam and Eve?" To answer this question, I have to point out to you that we have been taught all of our lives that dinosaurs lived millions of years before man. There are several reasons why they say this; one is because we are taught that it takes millions of years for dinosaur bones to fossilize. This simply is not true! In fact, under the right conditions, fossilization can take place in a few years. To give just one example: In Australia, a miner left his hat in a mine that was closed for fifty years. When the miner was able to go back down in the mine, he found his hat, and it had fossilized. Also we are taught that dinosaurs evolved before us, and died off before man came on the scene.

What a lot of people do not know is that there is evidence from the Bible, and science that dinosaurs lived at the same time as man in the past. Look at Job 40:15-24; 41:1-34, in this passage it shows very clearly that some dinosaurs were still living at the same time as man even after the flood. The events of Job took place right after the flood of Genesis. Science also gives evidence that show man and dinosaurs co-existed before the flood. Both human footprints and dinosaur tracks were found fossilized in the Paluxy River bed at Glen Rose, Texas. Pictures on cave walls of drawings of dinosaurs have also been found in several parts of the world.

Those who say they believe the Bible, but believe that dinosaurs died before Adam and Eve sinned, have a contradiction on their hands. Romans 5:12, states that there was no death in the world before Adam..."through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, this death spread to all men..."

This is where the problem is: Man does not want to admit he is a sinner in need of a Savior. God did create us and we are accountable to Him as our Creator! The Bible says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 6:23. Turn from your sin and receive the LORD Jesus as your Savior today, and we will spend eternity together with our Wonderful Creator!

The Book of Song of Solomon is a fitting picture here, of the "love" of man, in this case, Solomon, for his Black wife. It is also a picture of the "love" we should have for Jesus when we get saved, and the fellowship we have in the spirit. It shows His love for His new creation that is born again, because of His giving of His life's blood on the cross to ransom us. It is not wrong to think of the beauty and pleasure in true love, between a "male" husband, and a "female" wife as God intended. At the same time think of the love God wants you to show back to Him in a relationship that goes far beyond the sensual. This is the type of spiritual relationship God wants to have with His redeemed throughout eternity. (I have only chosen a few of the verses to illustrate what it must have been like in the Garden of Eden.)

I believe this section has two meanings, (one) a man and woman in Holy Matrimony like what Adam and Eve had in the Garden of Eden, and Christians that are married have together. Think about how wonderful the fellowship Adam Eve had with each other and God before they sinned. It may have only been a few days or several months at most before they disobeyed, but it was a marvelous time! Hebrews 13:4, says "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (The second meaning is the love of Christ for the church, and the church for Him!) The Jews traditionally have thought of Song of Solomon as a picture of love between the nation and God.

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

(1:2)The Shulamite (Black wife of Solomon or the Church):

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is better than wine. Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, your name is ointment poured forth...I am dark, but lovely...My spikenard sends forth its fragrance. A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, that lies all night between my breasts. My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms..."

The Beloved (Solomon or Christ):

Behold, you are fair my love! Behold you are fair! You have dove's eyes...

The Shulamite woman or Church:

Behold, you are handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant! Also our bed is green...

(2:4)The Shulamite or Church to others:

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am lovesick. His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the does of the field, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases...

The Shulamite or Church:

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag...The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely...

The Shulamite or Church:

My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies...

The Shulamite or Church to Her Beloved:

Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether...

(3:6)The Shulamite or Church:

Who is this coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense...

(4)The Beloved or Christ:

Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins...Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower...Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies...Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense. You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you. Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, from the top of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards. You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace. How fair is your love, my sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices! Your lips, O my spouse, drip as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue; and the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits, fragrant henna with spikenard, spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices; A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

The Shulamite or Church:

Awake, O north wind, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits...

(5:1)The Beloved or Christ:

I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk...

The Shulamite or Church:

My beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand. His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, and black as a raven. His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set. His cheeks are like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory inlaid with sapphires. His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet, yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters...

(6:2)The Shulamite or Church:

My beloved has gone to his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed his flock in the gardens, and to gather lilies. I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies...

The Beloved or Christ:

Turn your eyes away from me, for they have overcome me. Your hair is like a flock of goats going down from Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep which have come up from the washing; every one bears twins...like a piece of pomegranate are your temples behind your veil...My dove my perfect one, is the only one...Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun...

The Shulamite or Church:

I went down to the garden of nuts to see the verdure of the valley, to see whether the vine had budded and the pomegranates had bloomed...

(7:1)The Beloved or Christ:

How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince's daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a skillful workman. Your navel is a rounded goblet; it lacks no blended beverage. Your waist is a heap of wheat set about with lilies. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. Your neck is like an ivory tower, your eyes like the pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus. Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, and the hair of your head is like purple; a king is held captive by your tresses. How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights! This stature of yours is like a palm tree, and your breasts like its clusters. I said, 'I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches.' Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, and the roof of your mouth like the best wine...

The Shulamite or Church:

I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field...let us get up

early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love. The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved...

(8:3)The Shulamite or the Church to others:

His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me...do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases...

The Shulamite or Church to Her Beloved or Christ:

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm...I am a wall, and my breasts like towers; then I became in his eyes as one who found peace...Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices. (Parts of Song of Solomon in the Bible) "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.'" Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

This has been the story of love between the Creator, and His creation that loves Him, not because they have to, but because they have fallen in love with Him. His creation wants to spend eternity together as Husband and wife. "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7)

Every truly romantic story that ends in marriage is a picture of God and the Church! Most of what we see on television today is only "lust," and not true love. When everything material was taken away from him Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21) "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." (Job 13:15a) This is real love and commitment!

Then when God allowed for his health to be taken away he said, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" (Job 2:10) Here is a commitment seldom seen in our day. Half the Christian marriages break up today, and end in divorce. I too, know how close, except for the grace of God, my marriage has come to breaking up. God wants us to stay together. He shows He is upset with divorce and why in Malachi 2:14-16. "Yet you say, "For what reason?" (Are you upset with us?) Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," (how often have you heard of the violence that has resulted from a divorce either in the couple or the children's lives.) Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

You say what does this have to do with the Christian World View? It has everything to do with it. God created us to worship Him and have our families worship Him as well. We can not do this if we do not love each other like Christ loved the Church. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5:25-28)

When we get saved, we are one with each other and with Christ. Jesus prayed before He died on the cross and rose again, and He was praying for us, here is what He was praying:

"I do not pray for these alone (the twelve disciples of His), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have know You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them and I in them." (John 17:20-26)

Then Jesus is looking forward to the time we will be with Him in Paradise so He can walk with us like He walked and talked to Adam and Eve in the garden before they sinned. "Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years, and Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him." Genesis 5:21-24

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'" (Revelation 21:3)

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