

Puzzle Pieces of the Last Days

The Big Story

1. Two dimensions: Heaven and Earth
2. Two families: Heavenly / Earthly
3. Two approaches: Rationalism / Supernatural
4. Two worldviews: Modern / Biblical
5. Two attributes: Faith and Love
 - a. Foundations of God's own nature
 - b. Freewill essential for faith and love
6. Two helpful names for exploring last days and the powerful deceptions that are coming. Much is available from these two men that is insightful concerning the days in which we live and the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ.
 - a. Michael Heiser: Christian
 - i. The Unseen Realm
 - ii. Supernatural
 - iii. YouTube
 - b. Jacques Vallee: Secular Scientist
 - i. Messengers of Deception
 - ii. Passport to Magonia

Lost in the Fall / Restored in Christ

1. Undying Body / Immortality

Hebrews 7:15-17 (CSB) *And this becomes clearer if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ who did not become a priest based on a legal regulation about physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it has been testified: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

- a. Death is an intruder
- b. Immortality is not a reward to be earned; it was the default (it can be lost...see Psalm 82)

Psalms 82:6-7 (CSB) I said, "You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. ⁷ However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler."

- c. Immortality is restored through Jesus Christ

Romans 6:23 (CSB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2. The Unfailing Word

By eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, something changed in our relationship with God's voice and word. We became **arbiters** of the Word instead of **servants** of the Word.

Psalms 91:11-12 (CSB) *For he will give his angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways. ¹² They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

Matthew 4:6-7 (CSB) *"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." ⁷ Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God."*

Psalms 34:6-7 (CSB) This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him from all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them.

a. The relationship of faith and love that God desires is built upon the solid rock of His Word. *We are meant to be **lovers** not **theologians**.*

b. Faith is not produced from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil... Faith is built upon trust. Faith is not established in our ability to balance, to solve the equations life. Faith grows organically from the fruit of the Tree of Life...a life of intimacy and love. Faith is believing obedience.

Matthew 5:17-18 (CSB) *Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.*

Psalms 19:7-8 (CSB) *The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.*

Matthew 7:24-25 (CSB) *Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.*

3. The Body of Shining Life

Matthew 17:1-2 (CSB) *After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. ² He was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun; his clothes became as white as the light.*

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 (CSB) *But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?" ³⁶ You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow — you are not sowing the body that will be, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he wants, and to each of the seeds its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same flesh; there is one flesh for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones. ⁴¹ There is a*

splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; in fact, one star differs from another star in splendor. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; ⁴³ sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; ⁴⁴ sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

4. Longevity of Life

a. First the loss of immortality and now the very trajectory of life changes. Genesis 5 actually plots it: Adam 930, Methuselah 969. Then the flood and the numbers begin to fall like a discharging battery. Shem 600, Abraham 175, Moses 120, David 70. The Scripture is drawing a decline chart across 40 generations. The slow bleed-out of longevity of life. 80 years is not the human lifespan; it is what is left of it.

b. A big change occurs after the Genesis 6 debacle.

Genesis 6:3 (CSB) *And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years."*

c. But we do see this restored even to non-resurrected humans as we pass through the 1,000 years of the millennium.

Isaiah 65:17-25 (CSB) *For I will create new heavens and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.*¹⁸ *Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight.* ¹⁹ *I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her.* ²⁰ *In her, a nursing infant will no longer live only a few days, or an old man not live out his days. Indeed, the one who dies at a hundred years old will be mourned as a young man, and the one who misses a hundred years will be considered cursed.* ²¹ *People will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.* ²² *They will not build and others live in them; they will not plant and others eat. For my people's lives will be like the lifetime of a tree. My chosen ones will fully enjoy the work of their hands. ...* ²⁵ *The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like cattle, but the serpent's food will be dust! They will not do what is evil or destroy on my entire holy mountain," says the LORD.*

5. Restoration with an organic and spiritual connection with nature

Genesis 2:15-20 (CSB) The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden **to work it and watch over it.** ... ¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and **brought each to the man to see what he would call it.** And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ **The man gave names** to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal;

Revelation 5:9-10 (CSB) And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and **they will reign on the earth.** (**We were supposed to do this starting with Adam)

Romans 8:18-23 (CSB) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the **creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed.** ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of him who subjected it — in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. ²³ Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits — we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Revelation 22:1-5 (CSB) Then he showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the city's main street. The **tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month.** The **leaves of the tree are for healing the nations,** ³ and there will **no longer be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ **They will see his face,** and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God **will give them light,** and they will reign forever and ever.

What We Lost in the Fall and What We are Fighting to Regain

Revelation 2:7 (ESV) To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:10-11 (ESV) *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.* ¹¹ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.*

Revelation 2:16-17 (ESV) *Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.* ¹⁷ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.*

Revelation 2:26 (ESV) The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ *and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.* ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Revelation 3:1-5 (ESV) *I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.* ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ *Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.* ⁴ *Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.* ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

Revelation 3:10-13 (ESV) *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.* ¹¹ *I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.* ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Revelation 3:17-21 (ESV) *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.* ¹⁹ *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.* ²⁰ *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.* ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Opening the Door

1. While many things have been lost, the Lord has not left us as orphans.

John 14:15-21 (CSB) *If you love me, you will keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him."*

Matthew 28:18-20 (CSB) *Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Revelation 3:20 - 4:2 (CSB) *See! I stand at **the door** and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ "To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." ... **4:1** After this I looked, and there in heaven was **an open door**. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it.*

2. If we will open the door to our hearts, he will open the door to his heaven.

What Remains? He Did Not Leave Us As Orphans

Ephesians 1:14 (CSB) *The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession...*

1. The Holy Spirit, his **presence**

John 14:16-17 (CSB) *...the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.*

2. His **power**

Acts 1:8 (CSB) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

3. His **gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (CSB) *A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: ⁸ to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.*

4. His **communication**

John 14:26 (CSB) *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything...*

5. His **inner strength**

Ephesians 3:16 (CSB) *I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit...*

6. His **unifying energy**

Ephesians 4:3 (CSB) *making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

A Pantheon of gods?

1 Corinthians 8:1-6 *Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as **indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"**— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

Isaiah 45:18 *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and **there is no other.**"*

- a. "No other God besides me."
- b. This is not a statement of deniability: "There are no other gods."
- c. It is a statement of comparability: "There are no other gods like me."

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is **God of gods** and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God,

Psalms 89:5-7 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the **assembly of the holy ones**! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? **Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD**, 7 a God greatly to be feared in the **council of the holy ones**, and awesome above all who are around him?

1. "Sons of god" is used many times throughout the Bible, yet of "**Jesus**" in John 3:16 it says he is the **"only begotten Son of God."**

- d. "**Monogenes**" translated "only begotten." The Greek word "monogeneses" is better translated "**unique.**" Jesus is the "unique" son of God. He is clearly different than the rest of the sons of God.

- e. But Jesus himself claims to be one of the sons of God who make up the Divine Council. He is "unique" among the sons of God, being one of the Trinity, yet he sits on the Divine Council ruling and reigning with the Father. In fact his uniqueness qualifies him to sit at the **right hand of God the Father**. That is the place of highest authority.

Psalms 82:1-6 *God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked...." 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;*

New Testament Summary Passages Always Unite Heaven and Earth

Ephesians 1:9-10 *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

Ephesians 1:19-23 *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 3:8-10 *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 3:14-15 *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,*

Ephesians 6:10-12 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand*

against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Colossians 1:16-20 *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

Notes on the Bad Guys from the New Testament

1 Timothy 4:1-2

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

Ephesians 6:12

1 Corinthians 8:1-6