1). Re 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Ge 3:1 ¶ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?

Just so that we don’t miss it we can see from the Revelation that the one we know as the Devil and Satan is ‘that serpent of old’, a phrase that literally means ‘the original serpent’ – the serpent we find in Chapter 3 of Genesis in the Garden at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

a). And as we see him present in the Garden at this particular tree we must be careful to remember the context into which he enters.

b). We will remember from our previous weeks of study that all that was created and made was done so through the Christ and for the Christ and has one focus – rulership.

c). At the beginning of the Book of Hebrews we read - Heb 1:1 ¶ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

God has appointed His Son as ‘heir of all things’ and we see again that through the Son ‘He made the worlds’ – literally ‘the ages’. Not only then are we dealing with the Son’s creation of the material world but the endless ages, past, present and future as well. All ages have been set in place by the Son and for the Son, the One who is ‘heir of all things’, with rulership as the focus.

d). And note particularly the use of the word ‘heir’ – to be an heir speaks of inheritance, something that is promised, but, yet to be received – something
that belongs to, but is not presently in the possession of the one to whom it is promised.

c). So why would the Son who created and made all things for Himself need to be seen as an heir? Why are all things not just His right now?

d). Well, in one sense they are His even now, but remember that God’s eternal purpose, which encompasses all of this, is accomplished in a very specific way - Eph 3:11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

‘Accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord’ – accomplished in the incarnate Christ, the Seed of the Woman, the One born of a virgin, who came in the form of a man.

e). Christ is and always will be the Son of God, but with respect to rulership over the earth in the 7th Day, He will rule as the Son of Man as well.

f). And we will remember from the last lesson, that as the Son of Man, the last Adam, He must have a Wife, a helper comparable to Him, as this is the way that God has sovereignly established the matter - Ge 2:18 ¶ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him..............21 ¶ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And so, once again, the creation of Man on the 6th day in Genesis Chapter 1 must be seen within this overall context. Not only do the Man and the Woman in the opening Chapters of Genesis form a type, a picture, of Christ and His Wife, but also were literally the means by which the Christ would become the only begotten Son, coming out of the nation that God already ‘foreknew’.

g). And because it would also be from the progeny of the Man and the Woman that those who will comprise the Wife for the Son will come, God clearly and prophetically declares the end from the beginning - Ge 1:26 ¶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion........
h). Here then is the context into which 'that serpent of old' makes his appearance – the creation of a Man and a Woman in the image and likeness of God, as husband and wife together as one flesh and God’s declaration concerning them and rulership. And, because of this, Satan’s intent was to deceive the Woman so as to bring about the fall of Man – so that they should not have dominion - Ge 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 ¶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Having entered into sin the Man and the Woman were then in a ruined condition, estranged from God and separated from His purpose. Rulership in the short term for them was now no longer possible and they were removed from the Garden, the place from which they were to rule together.

i). But, don’t forget ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’ and God’s redemptive process pictured through the 6 days of work seen in Genesis Chapter 1 - Ge 3:21 ¶ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Even though Adam and Eve were spiritually redeemed through God’s sovereign act of redemption they still possessed a corrupted soul and had lost their covering of glory – without which rulership is not possible, either then or now. But remember - 2Co 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

j). So, what happened about rulership? Was it just held in abeyance? Well, here is where we must be very careful because there is much wrong teaching concerning Satan with respect to this.

2). To put all this together correctly let’s fast forward to another encounter with Satan, this time between him and the Son of Man. But first, let’s set the context - Mt 3:13 ¶ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him,
"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

a). We will remember that the Lord’s baptism provides a prophetic picture of His death, burial and resurrection and it is following that which pictures His resurrection on the 3rd day that the heavens are opened, the Holy Spirit alights upon Him and the declaration is made that this One is God’s beloved Son – the Son that God has chosen to rule over the heavens and the earth.

b). This declaration can be seen to parallel the declaration made in Genesis Chapter 1 following the Man being formed from the dust of the ground that came from beneath the waters, ‘let them have dominion’.

c). And just as God’s declaration of intent in Genesis was followed by an encounter with ‘that serpent of old’, so was God’s declaration of intent following the Lord’s baptism, this time with the One of whom Adam is a type.

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d). Let’s look at a part of this encounter from the Gospel of Luke – Lu 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Notice what Satan says in v6, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.” And significantly, in the Lord’s response He doesn’t challenge Satan’s statement, but rather stays entirely within the confines of the scriptures.

e). Now, let’s add to this what we also find in - Joh 14:30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."
Do we see how the Lord Himself refers to Satan? ‘The ruler of this world [age]’.

f). The word translated ‘ruler’ in this verse is the same word translated, ‘of old’ in our opening verse from the Revelation, meaning the first, the original – and so we could literally translate this phrase as, ‘the original, the first ruler of this age is coming….’.

g). So, here is something to think about – If Satan is the first, the original ruler of this age, which would encompass the whole history of the earth thus far, then what about Adam and the Woman? Did they ever in fact rule as God had intended?

h). Well, clearly on the evidence of the Lord’s words in John, the answer must be no. Satan is the first, the original ruler and that had not changed.

i). Also, keep in mind that in the Garden we see the serpent who, by comparing scripture with scripture, is shown to be the Devil and Satan; names given to this angel following his rebellion. And so, it is a fallen Satan, the fallen original ruler who is seen in the Garden confronting those who were created to take his place.

3). But, what about following the Lord’s resurrection though? Did rulership change hands at this point?

a). If we go back to the Lord’s baptism we will remember that it is following that picturing His resurrection that God declares the Christ to be the Son to rule the heavens and the earth – so didn’t He take Satan’s place following His resurrection?

b). Again, as with Adam and the Woman, our answer must be, ‘No’.

c). That the Christ, the Son of Man, is the One proven worthy to replace Satan is absolutely certain, He is the One who is ‘heir of all things’, but note what the Lord Himself says about His Kingdom rule - Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world [age]. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

The Lord tells Pilate that His Kingdom is not of this age, and as this age has not yet come to an end Christ’s Kingdom cannot yet be established. And if Christ’s Kingdom is not yet established then He is not yet ruling.

d). Also, remember that in order to rule Christ must have a Wife, who is to be one flesh with Him, in the image and likeness of God, and no human being can yet be seen this way, as the search for the Bride by the Holy Spirit in
the antitype of Genesis Chapter 24 is not yet completed, the events of the Judgment Seat have not happened and the events of Revelation Chapter 19 have not yet taken place - Re 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "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."

 e). This of itself is more than sufficient to show that Satan, the original ruler, continues in that capacity, but we can also add to this that recorded in the NT epistles. Paul talks about Christians in - 2Co 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded,

Paul uses the description, ‘the god of this age’, which is a parallel phrase to ‘the ruler of this age’ seen in John.

 f). We also see in - 1Jo 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

 g). And in case we might still be in any doubt we can go to the Book of Ephesians - Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Paul is addressing Christians concerning the spiritual warfare and he makes clear that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against ‘principalities’ – the translation of a word we have already seen in connection with, ‘that serpent of old’ and ‘the ruler of this world’ – it is a word meaning the first, the original with respect to rulership.

 Against ‘powers’ – the translation of a word that talks of delegated authority, derived from a word meaning lawful, all with respect to rulership.

 And against the ‘rulers of the darkness of this age’ – the word ‘rulers’ being the translation of a word meaning ‘world rulers’ – those who rule the world within the darkness of this age, an age in which the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

 h). To put all of this together we can see a cohort of original rulers, fallen angels, who continue to rule from the heavens over the earth during an age that is characterized by spiritual darkness.
i). This is how things presently exist and will continue to exist until the age to come when Christ will establish His Kingdom.

j). So, the question that remains for us to answer then, is, 'How original are the original rulers?' Is rulership something Satan and his angels have stolen through the events in the Garden or was this authority given to them by God to begin with, before the creation of Man?

k). As always this is not a question subject to debate, we just need to compare scripture with scripture.

4). And to set the stage, so to speak, let's go again to the beginning of scripture.

Ge 1:1 ¶ In beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form [Heb. Tohu], and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.

As we look at this first ½ verses we should ask the question, 'Did God create the earth in a formless and void condition? Did He create it ‘tohu'. And again, if we go to the scriptures we can find our answer - Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain [Heb. Tohu], Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

The beginning of v18 tells us that the Lord is the One who created the heavens and who formed the earth and made it and established it – and this is exactly what we see in Genesis 1:1. It is a description of the very same event. But note what God says through Isaiah next – He did not create it in vain, God did not create it ‘tohu', without form, rather He created it to be inhabited.

a). And so, if God did not create the earth ‘tohu', without form, then something took place to cause it to become the way we see it described in Genesis 1:2a.

b). And to find out what happened we can go again to the scriptures – Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You
were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

Now, we might think that we are looking at a description of an earthly ruler, ‘the king of Tyre’ and indeed there was such a person, but look in v15, from the day you were created – the earthly king of Tyre was procreated, not created.

c). Adam was created, but this is clearly not Adam – just look at the description of Eden presented in v13. This is not where Adam found himself.

d). But, angels are created beings and we see in v14 – ‘you were the anointed cherub who covers’, literally, ‘you were the messianic angel who covers’ – with the word ‘covers’ meaning to protect, to hedge around, to rule over, through the sense of taking care of. And so, we realize that the earthly king of Tyre is used as an epithet for Satan.

e). And the iniquity that was found in him is described in – Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened 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 also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

And if we go back to Ezekiel we can add more detail still - Eze 28:16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading;

f). Note particularly the beginning of v18 – Satan’s sanctuaries, the sacred places entrusted to him to cover, the earth and the heavens, were defiled, were desecrated. - Or we could say became formless [tohu] and void – no longer inhabitable, which is just what we see in Genesis 1:2.

5). If we go to the Book of Job we can gain more insight into these ‘original rulers’ – Job 1:6 ¶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present
themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Job 2:1 ¶ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

In these verses we see an ongoing congregation of the sons of God - angels because of creation are seen as sons, in the same way that Adam, because of creation is a son of God. And these particular angels are meeting together on ‘the mount of the congregation’, presumably to report to the Lord on activity within their particular province.

a). And we will note where Satan has come from – ‘going to and fro on the earth’, that province over which he has been given rulership and over which he still rules.

b). Let’s remember this from - Heb 2:5 ¶ For He has not put the world [age] to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

The age to come, Christ’s Kingdom, will not be in subjection to angels, but the present age is. We have already seen this through the Lord’s encounter with Satan in the wilderness and we can see it confirmed in - Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

c). And also with respect to those who will become Christ’s Wife – Heb 2:6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.

Our Lord was made for a little while lower than the angels and we have all been made for a little while lower than the angels because it is Satan and his fallen angels who continue to rule from the heavens over the earth, but only
until the end of this age when they will be overthrown. And in anticipation of the certainty of this the Lord is already seen as crowned with glory and honor and those who will be His Wife are also seen as crowned with glory and honor and set over the works of God’s hands – the earth. But, that seen here has not yet been brought to pass within time because the process of redemption pictured through the 6 days of work in Genesis Chapter 1 has not yet been completed – its outcome though is absolutely sure.

Power Point – Slides 6-8

We will continue with this next time – if the Lord is willing.