

Chapter 6

The Two Guardian Cherubs

The Original Guardian Cherub

A guardian cherub of the Bible is a corporate entity with one leader in control as the head of a body. At the beginning of the age of the law our Lord puts together a guardian cherub, called Lucifer, who knows and uses the law to prevent anything unclean (profane) from approaching that which is Holy. This cherub becomes corrupt and rebels against the Lord. In his rebellion he is allowed to form a corporate city, state, and even world entity of which he is the head (end days world Babylon beast system). Two types, among many, that portray this individual in Scripture are *the mast of a boat* (Eze. 27:5) and *a corporate tree* (Eze. 31:3-18).

A short look at this guardian cherub, or boat, is in order here. Beginning in Eze, 27:3 this cherub (world city-state) makes the statement, "I am perfect in beauty." This does sound a bit like the one who is filled with pride, Lucifer. As this city-state is a trading country, parts of this boat are brought from all around the Mediterranean Sea. Symbolism can explain what many of these parts represent. For instance, in verse five all the "timbers" of this boat are made of pine trees from Senir. The word *Senir* or *Shenir* can be interpreted to mean *a coat of mail*. If we cross-correlate this meaning with one given about the same individual, called the Leviathan, in Job 41:13 and 15, I think you can understand. In Job 41:13 a question is asked, "Who can remove his outer coat?" The symbolism of this statement is deep but consider who this is (i.e., Satan) and you might begin to understand that he cannot be brought to repentance. Uncovering what is truly in people is necessary so that they might have eyes to see exactly what they view in the mirror. Verses 15 and 16 explain that his scales fit so very tightly together that he is proud of his coat. Does this cross type agree with *the coat of mail* or *pine trees that are used to sheath the boat*? One more point: the mast of this boat is made of one cedar of Lebanon. This provides the strength to move the entire boat. It is felt that this particular portion of the boat is Lucifer (Satan) himself. (Obviously a book could be written on just the symbolism of this boat, but let's move on.)

This book is about The Two who are a very important part of a great new guardian cherub who serves our Lord, the Christ, forever. Our Lord is building a new guardian cherub today, and every true Christian is part of it. The original guardian Cherub that becomes perverted could be thought of as a head, Satan, with his body being made up of all the unregenerate people of the world. At the end of the last age, those closest to Satan would have been the high priests of Israel and the Levitical support group, most of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. This fallen Guardian Cherub originates from what was originally given by our Lord as good, the law, or if you can accept it, Lucifer (the shining one). The shining one implies one who is given truth. The law in our Lord's hands is a cleansing tool and a source of benefit to those who are chosen for salvation, but in the hands of the perverted guardian cherub (Satan and the Levitical priesthood) it becomes a tool of bondage and death for the unregenerate. A portrait of this fallen cherub and his purpose under the Lord's control is revealed in the book of Job.

I believe much of the book of Job is symbolic of what occurs during Daniel's seventieth week (see chapter seven). Job's testing, or trials by Satan under the authority of our Lord, is strongly suggestive of the washing (testing and refining) of some of the Hebrew portion of the Lord's bride. The leadership portion of this Hebrew group may be one of The Two. This is not to say that the tribulation week cannot be a time of consecration for the entire Two, both the Hebrew and the Gentile portions of the warrior prophetic priesthood (end day's apostles). These Two, who are regarded as one, at that time are willing to die and suffer so others might be cleansed, grow, and mature. The Hebrew portion of The Two learns to walk later, out of necessity, in the hottest portion of our Lord's refining fire.

Job and the Person, Elihu

During Job's first testing we are shown how very important it is to Job that his children, the seven sons and the three daughters, have sacrifices made for their sins. He is very concerned about their cleanness or sanctification before God. This concern is the same as will be exhibited strongly in the end day's warrior prophetic priesthood (apostles). Our High Priest, Jesus, and the Two, who flank Him, are called to reflect this concern in the strongest manner possible at that time.

At the end of Job's second testing (a type for the end of the great tribulation) by Satan, if the type is true, Elihu, the counselor who has been listening to the discourse between Job and his three friends, approaches Job. He is younger than the other three and so has respectfully maintained silence during the entire discourse. It is my belief that he represents the Spirit of Elijah, the Holy Spirit working repentance and redemption. The Lord is using a large group of young wine skins, represented by Elihu, to prepare Job, a possible portion of the leadership of the remnant of Israel called by our Lord, to repent and so receive grace and power.¹²

Some scholars have dismissed Elihu and his counsel as not of the Lord. However in his self-introduction there are a few thoughts he expresses that I believe marks him as speaking the Word of the Lord by the Holy Spirit. At least, he was speaking in the Spirit of Elijah! Consider these statements by Elihu.

In JOB 33:3-4 Elihu makes this statement: *"My words come from my upright heart; My lips utter pure knowledge. The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."* This identifies him as having been cleansed by the Lord and given the Holy Spirit (breath of the Almighty) to deliver the very words of God to Job. Elihu is a chariot that carries the truth of his Lord for the purpose of preparing Job's heart to hear God. That is the eternal purpose of the Spirit of Elijah (the Holy Spirit bringing repentance in the heart of a believer). We know that John the Baptist, who came in the Spirit of Elijah, had the purpose of preparing the way for Christ. Repentance always precedes the granting of salvation and is necessary before power and authority are given.

JOB 33:5 If you can answer me, Set your words in order before me; Take your stand.
JOB 33:6 Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay.

In the above two verses Elihu prepares Job to receive what he has to say by advising him that when he hears Elihu, Job will actually hear the very words of God.

Elihu also displays a very gentle approach by assuring Job that he is a man just like him and that Job has nothing to fear from him (Job 33:6-7). There is one more important point that should be made to add to the proof that Elihu is not in the same category as the three friends who accuse and condemn Job. When the Lord commands Job to pray for those who sinned against the Lord and against Job, Elihu is not included (Job 42:7-8)!

Job is being prepared for a confrontation of tough love. If Job (thought to be, in part, a type for the Messianic Hebrew leadership during Daniel's seventieth week) represents what I believe he does, then a portion of the Messianic Body of Christ is not confronted with their sin until near the end of the tribulation period. For this purpose the Lord uses a portion of the bride, a vanguard, whom He has already caused to walk in the purifying fire, in preparation. Elihu's confrontation of Job (see chapter seven) may occur shortly after Christ breaks the sixth seal of the scroll (deed of sale to the earth and to the bride). The time after the sixth seal is broken is a time of utter darkness (total lack of truth) when no Christian is left able to shine like the stars to confront evil with the light (truth) of the gospel (see chapter 11).

To speak in the Spirit of Elijah is a heart-rending task because the message brings much pain and suffering. However the message serves the purpose of developing a contrite heart in another believer. It is only possible when love grows deep enough in the prophet's heart so that he understands that the change, or cleansing, required by our Lord needs directness in love. It is worth the risk of loss of community by the prophet. He is not a popular individual and many avoid him. He must be able to endure the loneliness associated with his call.

Within Job 33:8 begins the confrontation, which is to benefit Job and eventually his three friends. During the confrontation we see symbolic clues revealing the purpose of the entire time of testing. The Lord allows Satan, the great end days' refining fire and tester of fine metal, to symbolically shake those placed into his hands. To be shaken is to have impurity revealed and removed. Just remember, Satan works at the discretion of the Lord, even though he hates the Lord and His true church. Satan is given a purpose that eventually benefits those belonging to our Lord: to tempt and test resulting in exposing sin that needs to be truly recognized and repented of.

There is Scripture that states that our Lord marches at the head of His great army (Joel 2:11, 25) at the fifth trumpet. This is a demonic army that has a dual purpose. It helps to refine and consecrate His saints and eventually destroys those who are unregenerate. Our Lord and The Two, because they understand its purpose, endorse and promote the work the enemy unintentionally does for the Lord during that time. God loves us enough to restore us to Himself fully cleansed without spot or wrinkle.

Let's observe a very important purpose for which our Lord uses Satan. In Job 33:19 the mention of chastening with pain on a bed can be transliterated to read like this: When a Christian is no longer growing spiritually (on a bed), Satan is allowed to touch him with suffering to get him up and growing again. The *strong pain in his bones* symbolically hits the nail on the head as to the truth of that sentence. *Bones* throughout Scripture represent *spiritual abilities* or perhaps *strength to stand in the face of temptation*.

Remember when Jesus still hung on the cross and the Sabbath was approaching? All those being crucified had to be taken down. If anyone was still alive, his leg bones were broken to hasten death (John 19:33). Jesus, being already dead, had not one bone

broken (John 19:36). Jesus, spiritually speaking, had no weakness at all; nothing had to be corrected.

We however are another story, as each of us must be shown our weaknesses so we might see our true condition and repent. Most of us live our lives in a sleepy state of self-denial regarding our spiritual weakness. The end days' refining certainly reduces the propensity for the growth of pride in us, because we are constantly shown what we are incapable of in the Lord. Pride does not inhabit this new Guardian Cherub as it did Satan and his two! The Two undergo extensive pride proofing before being anointed to serve with the great power that is to shine through them. They are the recipients of not only the fall rains of this age but also the "Lord's New Oil" that is necessary to rule and reign with Him during the next age.

In Job 33:20 it is revealed that, during the time of chastening, "food" has no attraction at all. Have you ever been in a terrible situation and found you really had no desire to pick up your Bible and "eat your daily bread"? In the times when we most need nutrition from the Word often we have the greatest reluctance to pick it up and eat. If we do pick it up and attempt to eat, the taste often does not seem palatable. Deep truths that hurt during a time of great pain are not appreciated. Job's "friends" present to him a great amount of truth, albeit much of it is incorrectly used and distorted, so he dismisses it. We are told in Scripture to submit to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21). To find a mature Christian to whom to submit is not easy. Many, except a very mature spiritual counselor, like Elihu, may not have a clue as to what is actually occurring in a person's spiritual life, or they might not even have the compassion to help.

Satan is allowed through two great trials, one light (birth pangs) and the second severe (the great tribulation), to reveal to Job all of his spiritual weaknesses (*bones stick out that once were hidden* Job 33:21) so that he might repent and be restored. Please remember that when Job's testing is complete, and Job repents and prays for his friends, he is given double back. Like Job, there is a double portion of the Lord's Spirit promised to some people at the end of this age also. It is given after severe testing (the Time of Jacob's Trouble, or The Great Tribulation) very late in the tribulation period or at its very end. If you desire to walk closely to the Holy One of Israel, then you must understand that you must walk in the hottest portion of the refining fire resulting in a great sanctification. All are not called to this position; only those called to sit on our Lord's right and left in heaven must endure an incredible refining. These are The Two that this book attempts to reveal.

JOB 33:19 "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, And with strong pain in many of his **bones**,

JOB 33:20 So that his life abhors bread, And his soul succulent food.

JOB 33:21 His flesh wastes away from sight, And **his bones stick out which once were not seen.**

After Elihu confronts Job with his sin, the Lord steps in to speak to a Job who is now prepared to hear his voice. During our Lord's discourse with Job, He introduces two great creatures. Within each narrative the purpose and identity of each creature is given in the language of biblical symbolism (Job 40 and 41). Before introducing these two creatures (spiritual heads), our Lord makes some very relevant statements couched in

symbolism at the beginning of Job 38. One of these statements actually points directly to these two creatures.

Reference is made in Job 38:4 to the “earth’s foundation,” and in verse six mention of the Cornerstone arises. The *earth (a mold out of which our Lord forms the church)* in various places in Scripture is that which the Lord draws out of the *sea (those unregenerate belonging to Satan)*. In verse five, our Lord asks Job where he was when the Lord determined the dimensions of the earth (or I would say the design for the perfecting of His bride.) He also asks Job who stretched a measuring line across it, demonstrating that the Lord Himself is the only One qualified to judge each of us. He is the only One who allows us to pass through times of suffering and sorrow so as to perfect exactly His desires for each of us. For a child of God to be measured is to be judged and cleansed. Job goes through a tremendous time of travail and during it he complains to a great degree that it is unfair and unwarranted treatment. The pot is speaking to its maker, “How dare you make me this shape and for this purpose; why must I be placed in such a hot kiln?” (Ro. 9:20-21). One sentence, Job 38:6, when translated, mirrors one of the most fantastic truths found in all of Scripture having to do with the Cornerstone. It is capitalized because the Cornerstone that is laid is Christ crucified! What does this have to do with the morning stars singing together?

There are only two morning stars, an older one called Son of the Morning (Isa. 14:12), Lucifer, who fell, and a new one, Christ, who will replace him (2Pe. 1:19, Rev. 2:28). I submit to you that in Job 38:7 when the morning stars sing together the scenario is described something like this: When Jesus hangs on the tree bearing the sins of the world, He satisfies the Law. Lucifer (Satan, using the perverted tree of the knowledge of good and evil) sings a victory chant over his rival Christ thinking he wins. Our Lord, for the joy set before Him, endures the cross paying the price of redemption that the law demands for our sins. The words to the song of this morning star can hardly be imagined as He lays the “cornerstone” of His Bride. Paying the bridal price for most men is a happy time because a wife brings much joy. The completed Bride of Christ brings her Groom joy forever.

In Job 38:8-11 the Lord speaks of setting fixed limits for the *sea (Satan and all who are his)*. The sentence from the NIV puts it best: “*This far you may come and no farther: here is where your **proud** waves halt!*” In my mind this is in reference to the greatest refining tool of all time, Satan and his own, all of whom are marked with pride. When Satan, who has our Lord’s permission, touches us (even though bad things can happen without his touch) our Lord brings forth the treasure of righteousness for us through repentance followed by restoration! This view of Satan is not the customary one held by most Christians today. They believe he is able to tear up our lives for no good reason while our Lord stands idly by wringing his hands waiting for us to take action. Job 38:12 refers to the time of the end that is a time of great shaking, the time of the tribulation. The *earth (out of which the church is derived)* today is filled with tares and every other abomination. The statement that the earth is gripped by the edges and shaken so as to cause all who are wicked to drop out of it (Job 38:13) fits the type for each of the two major periods of testing in Revelation. This shaking is what allows the bride to receive her white and spotless wedding gown of linen. It also includes the process of bundling the tares (unbelievers) for the great end days’ fire.

Many of the types in Job 38 used by our Lord are symbolic of things He only can do. You may take them literally, as most do, and miss the entire point, or adjust to using the language of types and biblical numerics and really “see” the truths He has hidden to be revealed at the proper time. In Job 38:30 He basically asks Job the question: who is the one who produces the cold that causes the water to turn to become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen? We know Jesus is able to calm the sea during a storm. He also has the ability to walk on water, as if it were ice, since nothing causes His faith to be shaken. In Revelation mention is made of our Lord sitting on a throne gazing down through a sea of glittering crystal and those who have victory over the beast are found standing on this sea of glass (Rev. 4:6, Rev. 15:2). No situation invented by the evil one can pull our Lord down into this refining sea, nor does He have need of being refined.

Only by His choice does our Lord place Himself on the cross to pay for our sins and then He allows the “sea” to overwhelm Him for a short time. Peter asks the Lord to call him to walk on the “waters” and he is called. He is at first successful, then he takes his eyes off our Lord, his faith wavering, and he sinks. The gist of it is this: the Lord is the author and finisher of our faith. As we grow in faith we are gradually able to rise above the roaring waves of the great refining sea. The waves reveal to us our weaknesses and sin. Once brought to maturity and victory, we then can “walk on water” with our Lord as our faith in Him makes the sea as if it has a solid frozen surface. Every wretched situation should be viewed as a positive circumstance for each of us that is allowed by the hands of our loving and faithful God to bring us to a desired end (Jas. 2:5). Included in the completed life is a purpose that glorifies Him and brings great joy to us!

To completely open what the Lord is saying to Job in types prior to the two creatures would take up enough room to fill several chapters. Therefore, I go directly to the first of the two great creatures, which is found beginning in Job 40:15. Both the New King James Version and the New International Version will be used to give a clearer picture of the type being presented.

Behemoth and 888

NKJ JOB 40:15 "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox.

NIV JOB 40:15 "Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox.

This creature and Job are both creations of our Lord's will. Job partially represents the Hebrew warrior prophetic priesthood or apostles of the end days called by the Lord to stand during Daniel's seventieth week. A few of these men and woman belonging to The Two are created during Jesus' time at the beginning of this age of grace, namely the eleven apostles He taught and some others He called later. These, of course, are not physically present during the tribulation period but are in heaven perhaps by Christ's side.

Grass is frequently a type for *the Word of God provided for those clean creatures that belong to him*, the oxen, sheep, camels, etc. Whatever type this behemoth represents, he is thought to like the Word of God and to feed on it.

NKJ JOB 40:16 See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles.

NIV JOB 40:16 What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly!

These areas of strength denote power to carry or pull. Loins sometimes are connected with the substance *iron* symbolic of *justice*. Perhaps this individual has the power to affect justice. Could our Lord harness this individual for a purpose, possibly to plow with and produce a harvest?

NKJ JOB 40:17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

NIV JOB 40:17 His tail sways like a cedar: the sinews of his thighs are close-knit.

Some believe the literal description of this creature refers to a “water-ox” or possibly a hippopotamus.¹⁸ In the NIV it is stated that the tail could possibly be a trunk and, of course, this would lead to the assumption that this creature is an elephant, the largest and most impressive land animal on this planet.²⁹ In any case, that is not what is really important. What is important is what he is able to do. The tail (or preferably trunk) of this creature is compared to a cedar, probably a cedar of Lebanon.

Cedars in Scripture represent *unregenerate people who can be used to refine those who belong to the Lord or who can be marked for salvation*. They can be cut down (leading to repentance) and finished (given salvation) to panel the inside of a temple (refined to the degree that they may be close to our Lord). Cedars are very tall and are often portrayed as arrogant and proud.

If the tail really is a tail, it could be correlated with the tribe of Dan that is allied occasionally with the serpent. Can you imagine this creature lumbering along with this tail, or better yet, trunk, ponderously and powerfully swinging back and forth taking out those who are proud and humbling them? Or perhaps this individual is able to use those who are unregenerate to humble and produce a people having contrite hearts. This would in effect place this creature in charge of the one who tests and tempts! Satan would be this creature’s pawn.

NKJ JOB 40:18 His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron.

NIV JOB 40:18 His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like rods of iron.

When the types in Job 40:18 are explained, the true identity of this creature should become clear to you. *Bones* as stated before are a type representing *the spiritual condition of a man*. With regards to his bones, the Behemoth is shown to be superior spiritually. *Bronze* represents *the ability to judge, or judgment*, and *iron* represents *justice, or the one who delivers it*. Who is our judge and who is qualified to dispense proper justice? What is interesting here is that the iron comes from his side or rib area. Remember when the soldiers come to see if Jesus is dead and one puts a spear into his side? Blood and water flow. Eve is taken from the side of Adam; some call it a rib. We are also taken from the side of Christ. His blood and water that flows is what washes and covers us and leads to eternal life. We are the new Eve and we, the true church, are an agent of justice at the time of the end (Ps 149:8-9). Are you beginning to see? Could this

creature be Jesus? But you say he is made along with us? How can that be as the trinity is eternal?

Very well then, on a very wonderful day a woman named Mary gives birth to a son who contains the Spirit of the Son, one third of the Trinity. Later on, at age thirty He receives the Holy Spirit from the Father, another third of the Trinity. He spends much time in prayer asking the Father for guidance and receives it from the last person of the Trinity. The Son has always existed, but Jesus the god-man (the behemoth or elephant) is created for a timely purpose and for a perfect purpose that is still working redemption for the ones the Father calls until this age reaches its completion.

NKJ JOB 40:19 He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword.

NIV JOB 40:19 He ranks first among the works of God yet his maker can approach him with the sword.

Wouldn't you agree that Jesus Christ the god-man is the finest thing in all creation? He most certainly is number one on my list. When the Father asks him to die for us on the cross ("...his Maker can approach him with the sword.") this creature cringes a bit on the Mount of Olives but eventually he says "*not my will but your will be done*" (Luke 22:42) as the bloody sweat drops from his head. He willingly receives the judgment of the law (one side of the sword) that we might be spared and given grace (the other side of the sword of the Lord.)

NKJ JOB 40:20 Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there.

NIV JOB 40:20 The hills bring him their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby.

Hills and/or mountains, though different types, do fall into the category of *difficult and deceptive times for a Christian, times of trials, testing, and tribulation*. Does not Scripture say that all things lead to the good of those called... (Rom. 8:28)? Every trial that each Christian goes through is used to conform us to Christ's image. He did this for Job and for Peter, and He does it for you. In spite of yourself and those around you, He brings you to a desired end that He ordains ahead of time. This truth of His sovereignty for your life should allow you to enter his rest. Tough times build integrity, character, and allow the fruit of the Spirit to become evident in the lives of true believers. Most of us are dragged kicking and screaming toward that desired end like small children behave as they are led away to receive their vaccination shots. Some Christians go through a life of hell-on-earth to become what our Lord intends them to be. The "greater" the Christian is called to be, the hotter the furnace of affliction must be to bring about the level of pride proofing necessary.

There is an important association in Job 40:20 between a juxtaposition of the hills and the *wild animals playing nearby*. We, it is thought from Scripture, are tame animals of the kingdom who are expected to complete the works laid out for us. Are there wild animals that attempt to belong? How about the wild Prussian Boar? In Scripture these wild pigs are shown to always be gnashing their teeth when cornered. This same term is used to describe the Pharisees and Sadducees. Many of them are definitely tares and are

considered to represent unclean wild animals. Jesus corners them, and they respond appropriately as wild pigs would by gnashing their teeth (Math. 22:13, Luke 13:28). During a Christian's growth process, it is often the tares in the church, or the unregenerate men and women of the world (the great sea), who are used to test and try the child of God. Have you ever had a worldly boss whom you had a difficult time obeying? Yes, during our growth process we need the wild animals that play nearby. We, as baby Christians, may be allowed to play for awhile right after our salvation experience, but soon our Lord gets down to work and uses that mighty cedar tail (trunk) of His to knock us off our arrogant proud feet. The painful surprise of the realization that we are expected to grow up and be like Him is indescribable! He loves a contrite and humble heart, and He is the one who directs its development. Our Lord often allows our life to become a living hell so as to remove our toys, purify us, and instill righteousness.³

NKJ JOB 40:21 He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.

NIV JOB 40:21 Under the lotus plants he lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh.

As we look at the vegetation that surrounds this great partially submerged creature, there appear to be three concentric layers surrounding it. If we were to do a study on the courts of a temple not yet built you would see a similar arrangement. The temple described in Ezekiel 44 and 45 has three courts, or separating walls, and it is my opinion that all of the materials for it have been pretty much obtained making a great building project about to be done. The outer court, in the Hebrew days, is for the women, the middle court for the men, and the inner courtyard for the priests. This literal arrangement is found in others areas of the Bible in many types. I believe it is indicative of three groups of Christians who are called to become what these three courtyards represent, at least for a time. (Incidentally Noah's ark also had three levels.) Some are called to be very near the Lord and undergo a horrific consecration process; others dwell in the middle court having been fashioned for that purpose; those in the outer court have their salvation and little else, but still are happy and fulfilled.

Lotus plants have flowers that are large, brightly colored, and magnificent. They are the central focal point of any water garden. I believe these *Lotus plants* represent the *end days' Apostles*, or *The Two*, who form a central inner hemisphere of protection for their Lord and His Holiness and function to protect, mature, and consecrate the others (profane to some degree) outside their court. *Reeds* denote *young weak Christians* who are easily swayed by the wind. All Christians eventually become transformed by our Lord's work into Lotus plants, willow trees, or reeds (least transformed). Some may remain as reeds (in the outer court) their entire lives. The middle court contains the willows or alders and the inner court has the lotus plants. These three levels correspond to: (1) the inner court containing the priesthood or apostles, (2) the large middle court containing pastor-teachers, praise leaders, and so on, and (3) the outermost court containing the warriors, or as they presently are called in many churches, the laity.

NKJ JOB 40:22 The lotus trees cover him with their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.

NIV JOB 40:22 The lotuses conceal him in their shadow: the poplars (*probably willows or alders*) by the stream surround him.

The words in each translation show that lotuses cover and/or conceal Him. The two great cherubim in Solomon's temple, as well as the two cherubim on top of the Ark of the Covenant, perform this same function and, I believe, are strong cross types representing *The Two*. So perhaps the lotuses represent those consecrated to be at His side in the inner court; the willows may be those consecrated to function in the middle court; finally the reeds may be those chosen to inhabit the outer court.

There are no males or females in heaven as we all will simply be spirits. Gender, in some Scripture, is used by the Lord to denote positions of submission, responsibility, and authority. All believers, technically, are of the feminine gender as far as He is concerned because we are His bride. Those who are called to mature greatly become "male" with respect to those to whom they are called to minister.

NKJ JOB 40:23 Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,

NIV JOB 40:23 When the river rages he is not alarmed: he is secure, though the river should surge against his mouth.

To indeed understand what the river Jordan symbolizes fully in Scripture, I must point you to a study on *Mahanaim*. In short, to be at Mahanaim causes us to die to self (symbolized by *the river Jordan*). It kills the depravity that so easily rises up in each of us. Our Jesus is the picture of a perfect lamb, totally holy, and without sin so there would be nothing in Him that needs destroying. The river Jordan would have absolutely no affect upon Him due to His perfect righteousness.

NKJ JOB 40:24 Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

NIV JOB 40:24 Can anyone capture him by the eyes, or trap him and pierce his nose?

Many Christians today are in captivity through their eyes. Lust, envy, coveting things or experiences, all keep us from knowing our Lord. All cause a distancing between the One who wants us entirely for Himself and the things that have such a strong allure to pull us away from Him. A small person can lead a very large bull by a little ring in the nose. Many children of God like to treat our Lord as a Genie of the Lamp and attempt to procure anything they wish from him, sort of a sugar daddy husband. Babies in Christ are given toys as our Lord lavishes His love on them, but as they grow He guides them, like a good Father, into becoming what is best for them. Spiritual transformation is far more important than the comforts and attractions that the secular world holds out as competition for His attentions. Husband, does your wife use you or does she cherish, protect, and prefer to be in your presence. Wife, I ask you the same question regarding your husband. We, as the bride, should prefer to be as close to our groom as possible rather than valuing only what He can do for us. Many husbands at the end of this age have their noses pierced and are dominated by their wives and children. Watch any recent Walt Disney movie to see role-reversal positions of husbands and wives today as opposed to the biblical roles that each is supposed to fulfill. Since the behemoth is perfectly righteous, there is no snare that can hold him. Only His love for us allowed the cross to hold him for a time.

The above creature with his entourage of three plant types (living walls of differing spiritual maturity), I believe, represents Christ and His bride (the complete Chariot as opposed to just The Two). This type portrays much of what Christ is and does. A little is shown as to the purpose of those surrounding him. A side trip might be in order here to understand the function of at least the lotuses that I choose to associate with The Two.

A close look at the numbers 666 and 888 is in order. Most people think they understand the number 666 and few have heard of the number 888. This takes us into the realm of gamatria where letters of the Hebrew or Greek alphabet are replaced with numbers. The name Jesus Christ in Hebrew is translated into the number 888. Allowing Scripture to identify the numbers 800, 80, and 8, I have come up with the meanings given below (see Table 1).

Eight is associated most often in Scripture with *the unveiling or uncovering of sin (uncleanness) in an individual's life*; for example, a male is circumcised on the eighth day of his life (Gen. 21:4). This recognition of sin by a Christian then must lead to a heartfelt repentance or confession of the uncleanness before our Holy God. Our Lord regards this repentant act as a righteous act. *Eight* is also consistently found linked with *royalty* or *Kings*. In the Scriptures, King David is the eighth son of Jesse. He is also a type for the crucified Christ in many respects. 1 Chr. 24:4 along with other Scriptures points to *eight* as applying to *those who work in the priesthood and those who support the priests*. There is a definite link between the process of consecration (which is cleansing) and those who are "clergy" (2 Chr. 29:17). The number *sixteen*, comprised of the addition of two eights, signifies a *total completion of the process of consecration*. Finally, here is a curious coincidence found regarding Noah and the ark. Consider this Scripture: (1 Pet. 3:20 NIV) "also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water."

In this Scripture, *eight* is thought to mark *salvation*. It is made possible by an act of repentance brought on by very effective preaching or a revealing of what is right and what is wrong. Water baptism is an expression of being washed by water or the word. We die that Christ might live within us. The water of the Word (truth) does wash us. Eventually, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the purging fire that we are allowed to walk in, we work out our salvation and are truly saved (redeemed) by the end of our life. That is when we should celebrate!

Eighty can be looked at two ways. One is pointing to our Savior and the other on the one who engenders praise. In Psalm 80 an individual by the name of Asaph, whose name means "the one who gathers the congregation,"¹⁹ seems to point to Christ. In verse seventeen the "son of man" is pointed out as the one whom God has raised up. Asaph in other Scriptures seems to be the head musician who leads others in worship. The old Guardian Cherub (Lucifer) was also originally created to lead worship. The new Guardian Cherub (Christ) most certainly brings us to worship. There is also an association with "the justice that brings us peace." This refers to the justice that should have been ours being transferred to Christ. What He did on the cross does give us peace. Most of us know that Moses is a type for the law; he is shown at age 80 when he is used as an agent for the purpose of the Lord's judgment on Pharaoh and the release (as a savior) of the Lords' people from bondage (Exo. 7:7 NIV). When Christ, the central 8 in

888 or the number 80, is shown to Satan (the law), it is like a deed that proves ownership of that believer. Satan may not just hand over the individual without a struggle, but, nevertheless, the believer now belongs totally to his/her Lord and cannot be taken out of the hand of Jesus by anyone!

Finally, one of the best illustrations for the middle 8, or the number 80, is found in 2 Sam. 19:32 NIV. "*Now Barzillai (of iron)¹⁸ was a very old man, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.*" King David loses everything he has, due to his sin years before with Bathsheeba, and is in exile at Mahanaim (a place where he is forced to see the devastation wrought by his sin). Barzillai, a name that means *of iron* (justice), is said to have provided for David. Let me point out a similarity in all of our lives as Christians. When I am allowed to go to Mahanaim and regard the effects of my sin on all of those around me, past, present, and future, do I not hang my head in repentance and draw the covering of the blood of Christ tightly around me? Isn't this gift that is given to me able to refute all the allegations of the enemy as long as I am penitent? I can only point to the act that was done by Christ upon the cross (80) that always satisfies the justice (iron) called for by the law of a perfect and Holy God. I cannot put it better than this Scripture does: LU. 16:7 "*Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'*" How often do you hold up this cashier's check that is given to you as payment for your sin, that is the blood of Christ? You do not win this lottery by chance but you are actually called by the Lord to receive it. This consideration should bring you to deep worship, praise, and repentance.

Eight hundred is more difficult to comprehend because there are few instances of it being used in Scripture. Consequently, I can only submit to you a bit to clarify this one. In Ezekiel's temple (Ezek. 49) there are eight steps to climb up to get into the next court. These are thought to represent *the act of repentance when shown sin*. Next there is a distance of two cubits to walk through the wall jambs. *Two* represents *grace being given* and *twenty* points to *the intercessory prayers of others through Christ that allows mercy to be given*. Finally the next eight (*eight hundred*) may point to *grace being given for transformation and restoration leading to a greater freedom in Christ*. There is a connection between Adam's having children and the number *eight hundred* in GE. 5:4 and Gen. 5:19. Perhaps it refers to us as the free children of Christ, sons of God, being consecrated, restored, and set free. Another Scripture that may shed some light on this rare number is 2 SA. 23:8: "*These are the names of the mighty men whom David had as allies: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.*" Here the number is associated with the deaths of those of the enemy camp by one that is a close friend of David (a strong type for Christ crucified). Those who are His closest friends, inner circle, stand on each side of Him and are thought to represent in part the true end days' warrior priesthood or the Apostles (The Two).

As I watch the lives of old friends in Christ change, call them spiritual siblings, I notice one very important thing. During the process of changing into the image of Christ, the individuals must die to self. The old sinful selfish nature dies very slowly and very hard. Those who arrive at this point, particularly the true leadership in Christ, are to help others achieve the same end. This is an incredibly difficult job and none are up to the task except those prepared for it. True leaders promote death of self and growth toward

each Christian’s calling, understanding that mistakes must be made for growth to occur. For those called to inhabit the inner court of the bride, surprisingly the words found in one of the James Bond movies seems to apply to them, “the world is not enough,” but only the will of their Lord and His closeness to them is important.

Often it is found in Scripture that multiples of the ordinal number by ten refer back to complementing the ordinal number’s meaning. The ordinal number 8 points to *showing sin to an individual so as to facilitate repentance* (an owning of the sin by the sinner). One with this gift associated with solving the problem linked to eight would be an evangelist. The ministry of an evangelist is partially to convict a sinner of his sin and then to point to what his Savior did for him on the cross (eighty). In other words the solution for the problem identified with (8), that of repented sin, is a covering of the blood of Christ (80). The evangelistic ministry would be of prime importance to The Two.

The number *eight hundred* points to those *individuals who have used the means 80, or our Savior’s blood, to promote restoration or a release from bondage (a setting free of the captives)*. Take a moment, a long moment, to ponder the beauty of this arrangement. Is gamatria of God? You decide.

So then, in review, the number 888 is the gamatria of the Hebrew name of Jesus Christ (see Table 1.). The central eight, or 80, identifies Jesus and what He did on the cross for us. The eight to the right of the middle eight points to the fact that He allows the law to show us sin while His Spirit (the Spirit of Elijah), through an evangelist perhaps, turns us to accept what He did on the cross, which is grace. The number *eight hundred* may well stand for *the covering of blood He gives us*, or rather the grace given us to “work out our salvation in fear and trembling” directed by those who are closest to Him being filled with His Spirit. This is grace given to help set sinners free from sin.

Law and grace at the beginning of this age stand separately one on each side of him. I believe at the end of this age, law and grace is integrated into each of the two great cherubs that flank Him. The Two, called by the Father to stand at the right and left sides of the Son, are agents of His justice. They are His limbs, His agents of iron (justice) and bronze (judgment), and they are fashioned by Him to be totally submissive to Him. The two eights that flank Him in the number 888 may well represent “The Two” who are so very protective of Him and who also minister His love sacrificially to His sheep as grace.

Table 1. Meaning of 888

800	80	8
Helps set captives free by conforming to Christ. Restoration by dying to self	Paid the price for sin Justice done and the law satisfied Salvation process initiated Savior	Sin exposed by the Law and owned by a child of God Repentance

We are becoming a new Garden of Eden where there will be one great tree. It will be a corporate tree of life knowing good and evil.

Leviathan and 666

The second creature described by our Lord in the book of Job is the leviathan that is portrayed as the absolute ruler of the great sea. You probably already guess whom this creature represents, but let's allow the language of scriptural types to identify him and what he does. Due to the Lord's long description of this creature being thirty-four verses, I use only certain basic key verses to reveal this creature's identity and function. Verses 1-10 reveal that we cannot in any way control or manipulate this individual. He belongs to the Lord and only the Lord can control him.

Many verses from the book of Job (41:13,15,16,17,23,26) speak of this creature's covering. It is impenetrable and cannot be removed. Job, during his encounter with the Lord, is still sitting in an ash heap with his blackened peeling skin being very evident. Satan says, "skin for skin" (Job 2:4) and associates the saying with Job being made willing to curse God. All through much of the book of Job we hear of Job's skin being made to appear unclean. I view this as Satan being allowed by our Lord to reveal existing uncleanness (sin-rebellion) still in Job until the confession of his sin brings Job new skin (covering of grace) like that of a child. His skin (covering) can be removed, and it certainly is, to allow his bones (his true spiritual condition) to stick out or be revealed! The leviathan's covering, JOB 41:15 "*His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal;*" apparently is unable to be worked with in the least, that is, he is incapable of being shown his sin. He therefore would be incapable of repentance of any kind without the Lord's help. Apparently this individual is not shown any grace because his scales are sealed shut.

Below there is a Scripture where the Lord is speaking of the time of the end when each nation that is ruled by the leviathan is destroyed; in this case he is speaking to Pharaoh king of Egypt. I hope you recognize that those who belong to the leviathan are found sticking to his scales. As he has a coat that is so prideful because it is sealed shut, so then do all of those belonging to him and are as he is. This points to the fact that each of us, who are given the unconditional grace of having our sin shown to us so that we can repent of it, should walk in continuous praise of our Savior.

EZE 29:4 But I will put hooks in your jaws, and cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales; I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, and all the fish in your rivers will stick to your scales.

A closer look at Job 41:18-22 might best reveal some of the leviathan's abilities. While we are looking at these verses, please consider how our Lord uses this creature to "bundle the tares" and to "refine the saints," particularly during the time of the tribulation period.

NKJV JOB 41:18 His sneezings flash forth light, and **his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.**

NIV Job 41:18 His sneezing throws out flashes of light; **his eyes are like the rays of dawn.**

Occasional short bursts of Light (truth mixed with lies) are emitted from him. Light in Scripture is equivalent to truth. This individual doesn't consistently use truth. What is very important in these Scriptures is the fact that his eyes seem to emit an orange-red light. There is the blood of Christ in Scripture that covers and protects but it is not the color of this individual's eyes. These eyes have more the color of Esau, Jacob's brother, the man who sold his birthright for a bowl of red stew. Out of these eyes pour a color indicative of rebellion. There are two individuals associated with "the morning" in Scripture: one is Christ and the other is Lucifer who becomes Satan, the fallen serpent, the great red-eyed dragon. Further Scriptures continue to identify him as such. *Red* often denotes *those who are rebellious* whereas *scarlet* points to *the blood of Christ and redemption*.

JOB 41:19 Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out.

From his mouth come partial truths that burn on contact with skin. Have you ever had someone you knew speak truth to you about yourself in a way that burned and hurt you so you wanted to run away and hide? This individual tempts with what looks like truth (light), but then when you give in to touching what he holds out to you, he plunges in the sword of the law and accuses and condemns you for your choice. You are fortunate if it takes a short time before you no longer desire to reach for it. Some, however, have to go around the mountain many times before they hate their weakness enough to stop. Perhaps the effect of these "burning lights" is to create in a believer that which is described in the verse from JOB 30:30, *My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever*.

JOB 41:20 Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

Smoke always conceals, and this individual uses it to deceive and to induce fear indicating a lack of trust (faith) in God. Remember how Peter acts when he is placed in the hands of this fearsome creature? He loses all of his faith in himself (Mr. 14:72)!

Rushes (reeds) quite often are symbolic of *those who are very weak in their faith* and can be used by this creature, especially in the church. Those who gossip, cause division, rebel against godly authority, all of these babies in the Lord can keep the church boiling and can spread confusion unless confronted quickly by the leadership.

JOB 41:21 His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth.

The breath of our Lord brings life and power; the breath of this individual promotes fire that can kill and maim. Fire in our Lord's hands promotes life and is a refining (cleansing) fire for those called to be His. Our Lord uses this creature as a fire that reduces to ashes those God has not called to be His. This particular position greatly disturbs many in the church today. The majority of Christians poorly understand our Lord's sovereignty. As shown in the Scriptures, at the end of the last age our Lord condemns rampant misuse of the law by Satan through the Hebrew priesthood of that day. At the end of this age, instead of the misuse of the law, we see a great misuse of grace. Call it the "sloppy agape" of this age or "tolerance." It is perverted grace.

Rampant sin is being allowed to continue in much of the church in the name of grace given by the blood of Christ. The blood does cover us so we may work out our salvation with fear and trembling, while we leave our sin behind and assume the traits of Christ. However, His sacrifice on the cross is not to allow us to continue in rampant sin. He is a Holy God and he makes a way for us to become like Him; it cannot and should not be used as a license to continue in rebellion!

JOB 41:22 Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him.

Stubbornness, as an attribute of the will, marks the neck in Scripture. To be stiff-necked is to be in rebellion as to what the Lord calls you to do. I am very glad that no matter how stiff-necked the leviathan is, our Lord is able to achieve with him to accomplish just what He wants with us. The creature is used to convince us to leave our stiff-necked ways behind. This rogue is the one who is used to humble us and destroy our pride. Simply look at Job's altered state of existence and the many laments that issue from his mouth after this creature is allowed to touch him. You surely can see the extent of sorrow and humility developed within this "great man" of God.

Does this sound like our enemy Satan? There is still much more Scripture to be opened to prove this point. Verse 27, below, is a key verse that might help you accept my conclusion. Before we look at it, I would ask you to return to one Scripture that is used in revealing the identity of the Behemoth, whom I believe to be Christ, Job 40:18 (*His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron*). After rereading it, look at this next verse's description of the Leviathan.

JOB 41:27 He regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood.

If *iron* symbolizes *justice* and is associated with the sides or flanks of Christ and perhaps His Two, and if *bronze* means *judgment* and is associated with the very bones (spiritual identity) of Christ, then the leviathan hates Christ as well as those who are close to him! Does this fit the type? I do not pretend to understand all Scripture but I do mine it diligently for what truth the Lord may have placed in it. It is so easy to critique another's work but if you would tear this down, let your corrections shed more truth on the subject to benefit others and their faith.

JOB 41:31 He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.
JOB 41:32 He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair.

This master at using the law to accuse and condemn is enabled to cause the great ocean of unregenerate people (unsaved of the nations) to produce giant waves that froth up white foam (sin) and produce fear. At the end of this age, before Christ comes back, this happens to a great degree. It causes those who belong to our Lord to really look into the mirror at their spiritual condition and repent. Let me remind you that our Lord is still speaking to Job and is describing this creature that only He can control for his own purposes.

In the second half of this Scripture the sea is compared to a pot of ointment. Ointment is put on a skin blemish or infection for healing. Since the old Hebrews

regarded discolored skin as something unclean (Le. 13:2), ointment is used for cleansing. Ointment heals, and our Lord uses this loathsome creature for just that purpose --- not that the creature heals but that he reveals to the Christian the need for healing. Any experience with him is a real eye opener for a believer! Does not a great fish (a situation contrived by demons) swallow up Jonah? I do not care whether it is an actual fish or not (that discussion is divisive), but the situation is used to change Jonah's mind. The last part of verse 32 points out that there is white hair on the surface of the deep; this is a comparison to the white foam mentioned earlier in the same verse. White hair in Scripture marks a serious skin lesion, like leprosy, and it is cause for separation of the unclean from the clean (Le. 13:3). In the case of Jonah the stiff-necked quality that had characterized him was in part changed as he finally obeyed the Lord's command to go and preach in Nineveh (Jonah 3:2-3).

Finally in examining Job 41:34, we find, "*He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride.*" You should take note of a word, in this Scripture, that cinches the identity of this great dragon. *Pride* is frequently linked to Satan and all those who belong to him. The desire to be high or above even the Lord Most High is a distinguishing mark of Satan. This created creature is used by our Lord to bring the prideful (high things) down and transform the fish of the sea (unregenerate people). When caught in the net, that is the gospel of Christ, the *fish* are transformed into the meek, humble, and obedient *lambs* that our Lord desires. If a man deep in sin is placed into the hands of this dragon, would you deem it necessary to remove the man before the work is done? Removing a man out of the refining fire prematurely leaves the refining work undone. A mature Christian stands back and watches with much prayer before "rescuing" a person from a refining situation. Elihu, Job's counselor, does just that as he stands back and watches until an appropriate time (Job 32:1-2). There are Scriptures given by Paul that imply that mature Christians are able to turn other stiff-necked Christians over to the one who refines, for the good purpose of saving the spirit (1 Co. 5:5).

In Psalm 89:25 Our Lord states that He will set the hand of David (Christ on the cross) over the sea, meaning that Christ is given authority to use the sea and the leviathan to perfect His people as well as bundle the tares for the pit. In Rev. 21:1 we are shown that after the end of the millennial age, there is no longer any sea. This is not to be taken literally but symbolically. The great sea and the leviathan are used for punishment and for the development of righteousness in the saints. When the saints are perfected, there is no more need for this "pot of ointment."

Much is made over the number of the beast, or 666. Many attempt to use it to discern just who the antichrist will be. It probably is more important to know what these numbers actually stand for and how our sovereign Lord uses them for our benefit. The purpose or function of the totality of 666 (see Table 2) is necessary to show here. First, the number *six* is quite often in Scripture associated with *time*, often measured in days. It may well, in part, point to *a period of time that the Lord has chosen to effect redemption for a chosen group of people (fallen spirits) from sin or iniquity*. One Scripture uses *six* to mark the cities of refuge for those who kill someone (Num. 35:6 NIV). At the beginning of this particular age (the sixth day) Christ goes to the cross to create for us a refuge, which is His blood, or covering that might cover our sin. *Six* is also often connected with food, particularly *bread*. The Word itself is what washes us when we

read it. Remember the manna fed in the wilderness? They gathered it for six days. On the sixth day, double was collected.

A double portion in Scripture is often connected with receiving a double portion of His Spirit. Those people who are called to receive this double portion would certainly need to be consecrated to a great degree. I believe we are presently living at the end of the sixth “day” and it is only a short time until the hottest fire is kindled that in effect produces a generation of the Lord’s greatest saints. I maintain that *The Two* walk in the midst of the hottest of the fire to prepare those who will receive that double portion. *Six* also stands for *a gift* and that gift is what a believer is allowed to recognize, in the mirror: his iniquity as being sin.

The number *sixty* is associated with the tribe of Dan that takes matters into their own hands to “take the land.” Seeking and depending on the Lord is not their desire and a counterfeit religion or righteousness seems to satisfy them (Judge 18:11-17). Dan is also associated with the punishment resulting from judgment and the serpent (GE 49:16-17). At the end of verse seventeen, *A viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider shall fall backward*, has an interpretation going like this: for those in their pride who depend on their own strength (horses), Dan (the serpent using the law) is allowed to tempt and test to show them how weak they are. We also see the word judgment associated with Dan’s birth (Gen 30:6). Remember that he is conceived due to Rachael’s conniving to get a child through Bilhah for herself. She refuses to wait upon the Lord and the birth of the child Dan is the result of this sin. Taking things into our own hands always results in iniquity as it demonstrates a lack of faith in our Lord. Not waiting for the Lord’s timing in a matter demonstrates rebellion against Him.

NU 7:88 And all the oxen for the sacrifice of peace offerings were twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, and the lambs in their first year sixty. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.

In this Scripture we have the numbers 24 in the same chapter as three sixties. *Twenty-four* in part represents *a total completion of the priesthood*, or *The Two*, who surround the throne in Revelation. These have a double portion of Him as compared to the number *twelve* that marks much of the rest of the bride. The priesthood is always expected to be like Christ in accepting that their lives are forfeit in the service of the Lord. The use of the number *sixty* here denotes *the expected losses of people indwelt by Satan used to produce righteousness in the fire of affliction* (see Table 2). *Three* denotes *the will of the Trinity for the testing of the three major groups called by the Lord*. Those who perform the testing with the wrong motives, even though the refining is successful, are destroyed. Remember, Judas Iscariot is chosen for the task he is to play, that of a work of betrayal. Satan freely enters into him as an instrument initiating the judgment on Christ that is due all of us. For this action Judas is sent forever to the fires of hell. Those of us who are betrayed must view it as a most severe test, but its greatest eternal consequences fall on the betrayer, not the betrayed.

Many other Scriptures identify the number *sixty* with *Satan, his attributes and his purposes*. He accuses, condemns, and kills using the law. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly he receives authority from our Lord to reveal to the children of God their

iniquity within certain very fixed limits. The number 66 has a remarkable connection with iniquity. Note the next Scripture:

GE 46:26 All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. **Into the furnace of affliction** to be refined and held in bondage until such time as the uncleanness (iniquity) would be revealed to them.

Although it seems redundant to repeat these thoughts, I again introduce this Scripture so that you might dwell on it. DA 9:24 states, "*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.*" There is a commonality involved in this passage of Scripture with the number 666. Lev 12:5 NIV states, "*If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must **wait** sixty-six days to be **purified** from her bleeding.* There is an issue of blood that makes the woman unclean. *Sixty-six* here is a *time of waiting for her iniquity to be purified*. A person cannot repent unless they are made aware of their sin! When we are claimed by Christ, do we instantly cease to sin? Doesn't the Lord allow the evil one (marked with 60) to tempt us over and over to keep us committing sin (marked by 6) for the purpose of revealing to us our weaknesses? In part, pain and suffering derived from wrong choices are powerful motivators, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn us to our Lord. After salvation the Holy Spirit allows more temptation to come so that we understand our need for His strength as we recognize our weakness. It shows us our utter need for Him and is instrumental in removing the terrible sin of self-reliance (pride). I believe only through His Spirit can we ever stand. The terrible refining procedure insures that pride does not develop in the new Guardian Cherub that he is fashioning at the end of this age. (I could also bring in the sixty-six books of our Bible and their purpose, could I not?)

When Moses begins leading the people out of the land of Egypt, Pharaoh sends six hundred of his best chariots after them (Exo. 14:7). *Six hundred* here marks the top enforcers of Pharaoh's realm. These individuals are sent to subjugate (take captive) the Lord's people who have just been released from bondage. The number *six hundred* seems to indicate those *leaders of the enemy who hold others in bondage to sin/iniquity* (see Table 2). They utilize unclean pleasure and insure that significant pain and sorrow follow the acquiescence to the temptations offered. The pain and suffering act as great convincers that sin is something, which is to be despised. A strong desire for freedom from the captivity of sin then develops within those who belong to the Lord as well as engendering compassion later for those entrapped in sin. At the end of this age, the bride of Christ, who is horrendously harassed by the beast system marked with 666, is used to exact justice and destroy the very system that is used to perfect her.

A young Christian is in much the same boat. He accepts what Christ does for him and is forgiven for his sins. The enemy is allowed to continue to test and tempt the new individual in a process like that of tempering fine steel for a blade. This occurs over and over and slowly, as the new Christian is shown his weakness, he repents and turns to his Lord where he is given strength to overcome.

There is a connection to the number 600 with “justice due the wicked” in 1 Samuel 17:7. Note that the man holds a spear with an iron point weighing six hundred shekels. *Iron* connotes *justice* and this individual marks those men who are able to bring the Lord’s punishment, an act of justice that brings spiritual death, upon iniquity particularly among those not belonging to our Lord. Those men also are permitted to touch a believer, who continues in his sin, and eventually bring confession and repentance in that believer. The confession is a righteous act in the Lord’s sight so these evil men are actually used to bring about the Lord’s purpose in a believer.

1KI 10:14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was **six hundred and sixty-six** talents of gold,

2CH 9:13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was **six hundred and sixty-six** talents of gold,

Solomon (a type for the risen Christ ruling and reigning) is able to derive gold (righteousness) using the old 666 cherub. Our Jesus, during the tribulation week, also derives significant *gold*, or *righteousness*, for his church out of the great end day’s fire. This fire is produced under the Lord’s control for the purpose of washing those who are His so that He might empower his bride. Actually in most of the first six days of Daniel’s seventieth week the Lord uses the beast system to test and refine the bride. It is a time of great purging. The same system also bundles the tares (brings iniquity to the maximum level) for burning (Matt. 24:30NKJ). This does not sit well with those who believe the church is taken out before Daniel’s seventieth week begins. What they do not understand is that the refining fire is needed for a degree of consecration necessary for the Lord to give the bride a significant portion of His Spirit to rule and reign with Him during the millennial age. Although the refining fire of the enemy falls with considerable force on the bride, the Lord’s wrath does not fall on the bride. It does fall all around her and finally is vented through her.

In Revelation 15:2 a fascinating picture is given at the end of the time of purification of the bride. We are shown a sea mixed with fire. The sea is the domain of Satan and it consists of all the unregenerate peoples of the world. It being mixed with fire shows that judgment has finally come to those who hate the Lord and His people. The time frame when this begins probably is just after the seventh trumpet sounds when the six bowls of our Lord’s vengeance are being poured out. This is after the so-called rapture and before Christ’s second coming. Standing beside this burning glassy sea are saints who are victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. To be victorious over that number means to become absolutely free of all that the number implies. Believe me when I say that it will only be because of our Lord’s grace that the freedom comes. Out of the refining fire of 666 comes 888 and much more (transformation to the image of Christ).

Table 2. Meaning of 666

- 6 The time necessary for iniquity to be purged by giving sinners the gift of recognizing, hating, and repenting of their sin.

- 60 The one who is full of pride and directs the enslavement of others. The accuser or tester of fine metals. The one who is used to express the wrath, punishment, or refining that results from God's judgment. This individual and all who belong to him are sacrificed after the process of refining (preparing) others for the Kingdom of God is completed. The Lord uses him to tempt us and then shows us the gift of the mirror revealing to us our iniquity and weakness.
- 66 Marks those who must enter a place or situation for a time period so that their iniquity might be revealed to them thereby enabling them to repent and be cleansed for the purpose of being set free to serve Christ.
- 600 Those individuals who refuse to accept what the Lord has done for them. Those who choose bondage and want to keep others in bondage also. These are used as instruments by our Lord to punish and exact justice for iniquity. These are allowed to enslave for a while. For a believer these teach us to truly hate what sin is and the effects it has on people. Compassion for others, in similar straits, is derived from feeling consequences, much pain, and suffering, of being under the dominion of 600. Remember those who are forgiven much, love much (Luke 7:47).

Let's take a final look at the "two guardian cherubs" (see Table 3) with some of their attributes identified with numbers. Note that each head (the central number of each group) has two who flank and support him. In the case of Satan, the three sixes add up to eighteen. This number is very significant because it marks the two who serve his interests – that of bondage. This book is primarily about the other two, those who belong to Christ. The three eights add up to twenty-four, a number that designates the "Royal Chariot" of which this book is all about. These have the function of setting free in Christ. Let's take care we do not get them confused, as there are two sets of two!

In Retrospect

Let's go back to the title of this chapter "The Two guardian Cherubs," (one in opposition to the other, yet the one in rebellion utilized by our Lord). Do you not now see that our God has subjugated the 666 system (fallen cherub) to refine and perfect the bride of our Lord and Savior Jesus (888 system, new guardian cherub)? Jesus uses Satan and all who belong to him for the purpose of refining us. It doesn't feel good and we certainly would rather not be placed in his hands, but if our Lord feels it is best for us to experience correction through this individual, then it is for our good. There comes out of it a benefit that the saints and Jesus enjoy for all eternity. Does this help you to stand strong in your faith whenever something horrible happens to you? Are you over time able to "walk on water" and not allow the refining fire (great sea and the leviathan) to trouble you? Our Lord desires total trusting on your part that whatever comes into your lives he allows to benefit you. Our enemy does not have that in mind but consider his frustration that whatever he does to us, in hate, always turns out for our good. Is it easy to walk in this truth? Again you be the judge.

Two Guardian Cherubs – A Comparison

Table 3. Comparison of Two Trees

<u>Father God Is Sovereign Over Both</u>								
<i>Tree of Good and Evil</i> Rebellious Lucifer - Satan Law				<i>Tree of Life</i> Obedient Christ Law with Grace				
18	=	6	6	6	8	8	8 = 24	
Marks the two who hold in bondage using the law		Those people used to bind and cause great pain, Convincers	The one who tempts and deceives to accuse	To tempt toward iniquity Sin revealed to the believer	Those who restore or set free	The one who took our place to cleanse us	to bring repentance by revealing uncleanness	Marks the two who set us free using Christ

In the next chapter we look at the purpose and technique our Lord uses to place a blend of law and grace into the new guardian cherub and His Two. It is not just a “fixing up” of the original two to fit our Lord’s new guidelines. It seems that He starts with a clean slate for this work at the beginning of every age. Because our Lord desires an intimate relationship with this new being that He is creating, He has to sweep away any vestige of the old legalistic system of the law and replace it with a righteousness that grows through the strength of the Holy Spirit. What remains is a balance of law and grace as in Christ. The one whom Christ loves for all eternity must be just like Him.