

The Seed

God knew exactly every decision Satan and His children would make in eternity past long before he created them. And Satan knew the creation of man was going to be a test. Though the Scriptures do not specifically tell us why God created man, an examination of the historical and prophetic events surrounding creation on through to the end of time into eternity future strongly suggests an answer to that question. And what do these historical and prophetic events suggest was the purpose for the creation of man?

First some background: Satan's rebellion took place some time before the creation of the universe and man according to Job 38:4-7 when God chastised Job for questioning His motives, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ... ⁷ when *the morning stars* sang together and all the *sons of God* shouted for joy?"

The angelic creation (the Sons of God) was there when God created the universe and mankind, and why would they shout for joy? I am thinking they did because originally the heavens and the earth were created for them. Obviously, that is speculation.

Regardless, the rebellion must have taken place before that event, because the picture we get of Satan as the snake in the Garden, tempting the woman in Gen 3:1-14, is clearly Satan in his fallen state. Since there is no mention of the fall happening after creation and no suggestion that Satan was judged for it after, it must be concluded that the judgment of Satan took place before creation. If judged before creation, he must have been sentenced, and in Rev 20:1-4 we see Satan bound and cast into the "bottomless pit" at the beginning of the Millennium for 1,000 years. Then in Rev 20:7-10 we see Satan released to lead yet another rebellion, is defeated and captured, **then** he is cast into the Lake of Fire with "the beast and the false prophet ... and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." If the ultimate execution of Satan's sentence is the Lake of Fire, then why was he not put there after the original rebellion before creation?

Based on these facts and the “behavior” of Satan after creation, including his actions in the Garden through to the end of human history, we are forced to ask the question of why is he free to interact with man? Why was man created? Surely this is not some game God is playing? I am forced to conclude that Satan appealed his original sentence. His charge must have been something along the lines that God is not fair in giving His creation free will and then sentencing him to the Lake of Fire when he used it, and under the right circumstances, others would certainly have chosen as Satan did. In other words, Satan requested an appeal trial, and God, being a fair judge, offered Satan a chance to prove his charge. We are it!

This, of course, is what we might call “academic speculation” based on only a few Scriptures and reasoning a lot of circumstantial evidence found in Scripture. In lack of direct biblical statements to the purpose, I believe it is the only logical explanation for “why are we here?”

Following that logic and applying it to recorded scriptural history and eschatology, God created man and the woman, and Satan tempted the woman to sin and ultimately man went along. Score: Satan 1, God 0. He must have smiled then.

Then God took the first couple out of the Garden and, while doing so, He made a promise to Satan in Gen 3:15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” That was a promise that Satan had not won after all and a threat that there would come a “Seed” of the woman who would administer a fatal head blow to Satan — and that he would ultimately lose the appeal.

To have any chance of winning, the task for Satan then becomes to identify that seed and kill it before It administers that head wound. And that is the underlying theme of much of the OT all the way from Cain and Able to Jesus Christ, including such attacks on the Seed as the creation of a mongrel race of half angel and half humans in Gen 6 and God’s counter by destroying that race with the flood and delivering only Noah and his righteous family, but there is more ...

- Pharaoh’s command to murder all male Hebrew infants. (Ex. 1:15-16)
- *God’s counterattack*: The preservation of Moses. (Ex. 2:1-10)

- Pharaoh's attempted destruction of the Israelites at the Red Sea. (Ex. 14:5-12)
- *God's counterattack*: the destruction of Pharaoh and his forces. (Ex. 14:26-28)

The attack on David's seed.

God's promise to David that Messiah would come through his bloodline presented an opportunity for Satan to focus his attacks on that line. Among those attacks we have:

- Jehoram's murder of his royal brothers. (2 Chron. 21:1-5)
 - *God's counterattack*: Jehoahaz, preserved. (2 Chron. 21:16-17)
- Athaliah's murder of the royal seed. (2 Chron. 22:10)
 - *God's counterattack*: the rescue of Joash. (2 Chron. 22:11-12)
- Hezekiah left childless and near death at the time when the Assyrians threatened war. (Isa. 36:1)
 - *God's counterattack*: Hezekiah's life extended (Isa. 38)
- The attack on the "seed of the woman" (Matt. 1:16) the legal line to the throne of David through Mary. Mary's pregnancy and Joseph's nobility. (Matt. 1:18-19, Deut. 22:14, 20-21, 24:1)
 - *God's counterattack*: divine revelation and instructions to Joseph. (Matt. 1:20-25)
- Herod's command to slay all the infants of Bethlehem. (Matt. 2:16-18)
 - *God's counterattack*: divine revelation and instructions to Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt. (Matt. 2:13)

The attacks on Christ during His Incarnation.

Jesus was the subject of numerous attacks both directly by Satan and indirectly through men influenced by Satan. The objective was to prevent the judgment of sin. Satan wanted Jesus, the Seed, to die.

- The satanic temptations in the desert. (Matt. 4:1-10, Luke 4:1-12)
- The attempts to stone Jesus. (John 8:59, 10:30-39)
- The temptation to forego the cross. (John 12:27, Luke 22: 39-44)
- The attempts to kill Jesus before He reached the cross. (Matt. 27:26, 29-30, Mark 14:65, 15:15, 19, Luke 22:63-64)
- The temptation to come down from the cross. (Matt. 27:40-41, 26:53-54)

Satan wanted to kill the Seed and succeeded at the Cross, but what should have been a victory for him turned out to be a "wounding" of the Seed and

a defeat with the judging of sin and the resurrection of the Seed. Satan's attacks then shifted to Israel and the four unconditional covenants.

Attacks from the time of Jesus to the future Kingdom Age.

Since Satan was not able to prevent the Cross and the judgment of sin, he has shifted his attacks to the Jews in general. He is trying to prevent the promised Kingdom from occurring and the fulfillment of the unconditional covenants that God made to Israel. To accomplish this he must destroy the Jewish race, thus his attacks then shifted to finding ways to eliminate Israel completely so that there would be no Jew alive to receive the promised blessings found in the covenants.

Unconditional Covenants:

- Abrahamic Covenant - Gen 12:1-3 - "Great nation"
- Palistinian Covenant - Deut. 30:1-10 - Land grant
- Davidic Covenant - 2 Samuel 7:14-15 - David's seed will reign forever
- New Covenant - Jer. 31:31-33 - Promise of Kingdom Age and righteousness

Satan's objective is to create an atmosphere of mistrust and outright hatred of the Jew by the rest of society (anti-Semitism). He is attempting to drive a wedge between Christians and Jews by creating mistrust of the Christians by Jews and hatred of the Jews by Christians.

Examples:

- Justin Martyr, an early church father, accused the Jews of inciting the Romans to kill Christ.
- Jerome (A.D. 340-419) originator of the Latin Vulgate Bible said, "God hates Jews, and I hate Jews."
- Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople (A.D. 344-407), said, "Jews are the most worthless of men ... It is incumbent upon all Christians to hate Jews."
- Of Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, it is written, "In the year 415 he fell upon the synagogues of the very numerous Jews with an armed force ... he put some to death and drove out the rest..."
- Richard the Lion Hearted expelled the Jews from England in 1199 and confiscated their property.

- Thomas Aquinas wrote, “It would be licit in holding the Jews in perpetual servitude.”
- Let me remind you that these were “Christians”!

During the Crusades:

- At Rouen, all Jews unwilling to submit to baptism were put to death.
- At Worms, Jews were massacred and their property divided.
- At Jerusalem, in 1099, the Great Synagogue was burned with all the Jews of the city inside, and the perpetrators marched around the synagogue chanting Christian hymns.
- In the Middle Ages, Jews were charged with sorcery and blamed for the Black Plague and other unexplained catastrophes.

Following the Crusades:

- The Inquisitions of fifteenth-century Spain and Portugal were the Roman church sponsored attempts to force the Jews to convert or die or leave. This eventually spread to the rest of Europe.
- Martin Luther, the leading Protestant reformer, at first had a deep regard for the Jews, but when they did not flock to his message, he rejected them as “they cannot be saved.”
- During the seventeenth-century Jews were expelled from Prague, Frankfurt, and Vienna as well as numerous towns and villages.
- Pogroms, mass murders, and vandalism in Poland and Russia against the Jews in the eighteenth and nineteenth-century were church sponsored.

The Holocaust of the late 1930’s and 40’s took place in Germany, a so-called Christian nation and home of some of the most outstanding and respected Christian theologians. The so-called Christian nations of the world watched as the Third Reich slaughtered six million Jews, often refusing refuge and safety to Jewish refugees fleeing death.

This Satanic induced atmosphere of mutual hatred and distrust makes it feasible for Satan to accomplish his plan to destroy Israel. If you are in any way involved in anti-Semitism, then you are in opposition to God and in league with Satan.

The worst is yet to come. During the Tribulation, Satan, with the help of willing anti-Semites, will come dangerously close to accomplishing the destruction of Israel.

Matthew 24:21-22 for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened

Almost all the elect are destroyed! God's counterattack will be the deliverance of the Jews at the Second Advent (Joel 2:20, 3:16, Zech. 14:2-9, 11) and destruction of their enemies (Zech. 9:14-15, 14:12-14, Rev. 19:21) and the incarceration of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3)

This is a Spiritual War that has been going on since the beginning of human history. Few people fully realize its intensity until they see it spelled out this way. Connect the dots, and it gets downright spooky. And we are right in the middle of it.

The Tribulation

From God's perspective the Tribulation is Israel's final judgment for rejecting the offered King and Kingdom as well as a judgment on a fallen and God-hating world.

From Satan's perspective, it is his last chance to destroy Israel.

Rev 12:17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

The "woman" is Israel, and "her offspring" are Jews, in particular those Jews who are believers, as it will only be those who will receive the promises of the covenants. If he can destroy the Jews, Satan can win his appeal trial along with his freedom with the repeal of his sentence to the Lake of Fire.

A quick review of the characteristics and events of the Tribulation:

- The true church is removed prior to the start of the Tribulation (Rapture)
- The nominal church (“Christian” in name only) WILL go through the Tribulation and even play a major role aligned with Antichrist.
- Antichrist attempts to set up a one-world government.
- The Jews will be singled out for destruction.
- It is a time of judgment when God judges Israel and the unbelieving world.
- The false religious systems of the world are finally revealed for what they truly are, Satanic inspired.
- It finally proves that the only way of life is one in a personal relationship with Christ and that we NEED Him.
- It lasts for seven years.
- It is a time where God’s wrath is poured out on the unbelieving world. Some view the first half as “relatively normal” while the second half is the “wrathful” part, but scriptural evidence suggests the whole period is “wrathful”.
- There is a major event at the midpoint where antichrist sets up a statue to himself in the new Temple in Jerusalem and demands worship.
- It ends with a great war and the triumphant return of Christ.

The Second Advent

Matthew 24:21-22 for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Just when things look the bleakest ... just when it looks like Satan is about to win and crush the last few remaining elect Jews in Jerusalem, we have this ...

Rev 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his

head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

And Christ returns with the raptured and Bema evaluated and rewarded Church, His “... armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.” The “elect” are saved from certain annihilation by the satanic army, which was “slain by the sword that came from the mouth of Him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.” The beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of Fire forever. But what about the leader, Satan?

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Note that Satan is NOT thrown into the Lake of Fire but “into the pit,” and it is shut and sealed, “so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended.”

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The Resurrections

Resurrection of Christ was the beginning of the resurrection program as first fruits among many.

1 Cor 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, **after that those who are Christ’s at His coming,**

Followed by the resurrection of Church Age saints at the rapture

1 Thes. 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17* Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Resurrection of the tribulational period saints and martyrs ...

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God,

and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Together with the resurrection of OT saints ...

Dan 12:1-2 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.”

"At that time," which refers back to this "time of distress," the OT saints will be raised. Note that it says "**many** of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake" ("**many**" **but not all**). "Some to everlasting life. Some to damnation." Nothing here implies this is one event. It is actually two events. The "Some to everlasting life" resurrection occurs at the Second advent and is part of the "First Resurrection," while "Some to damnation" will be resurrected 1,000 years later at the end of the Millennium and are part of the "Second Resurrection".

Isa 26:19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

The resurrected tribulational martyrs and OT saints enter the Millennium on the same basis as the Raptured Church Age saints. They are in their resurrection bodies.

Final resurrection of the unsaved dead (Rev 20:5, 11-14) occurs at the end of the Millennium.

Rev. 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.

With this group are the "some to damnation" of Daniel 12:2.

The first four resurrections, Christ, the Church, tribulational saints, and OT saints, were included under the title "Resurrection to Life" — also called the First Resurrection. All are saved saints.

The "Resurrection to Damnation" is captured under the term "Second Resurrection" and includes ONLY the lost. They are resurrected to judgment called the "Great White Throne Judgment" or the "Last Judgment," and sometimes the "Judgment of the Wicked Dead". Thus, ONLY unbelievers will be judged at the Last Judgment.

Back to the Second Advent ... At this point of the Second Advent, we have two resurrections, both part of the "First Resurrection".

- The tribulational martyrs
- And the OT saints

Church Age saints have already been resurrected at the Rapture some seven years or more prior and were in Heaven during the Tribulation.

Regathering of Israel

Before Israel can be judged she must first be gathered from among the nations, having been disbursed since AD 70.

Matt 24:30-31 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.³¹* And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Isa 24:12 And it will come about in that day, that the LORD will start *His* threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel.

Jer 12:15 “And it will come about that after I have uprooted them, I will again have compassion on them; and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance and each one to his land.

Jer 24:6 ... and I will bring them again to this land....

This same theme is repeated in Isa. 27:12; 43:5-7; Ezek. 20:42; Hosea 12:9; Joel 3:1; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 4:6; Zeph. 3:20; Zech. 10:10. God is going to recall ALL of Israel from among the nations. The "Nations" are all the Gentile nations. Whatever survivors are left at the end of the Tribulation will be called back to Israel. But understand that Israel back in the land today is NOT the fulfillment of the re-gathering of Israel. All have not yet been brought back to Israel nor have they been judged. The re-gathering of Israel will take place when God calls them at the Second Advent.

The Judgment of Israel

Israel will also be judged and this judgment evidently takes place right outside Israel.

Ez. 20:34-38 “And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; **35** and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face. **36** “As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD. **37** “And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; **38 and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me;** I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

In the time of Moses, unbelieving and disobedient Israel was not allowed to enter the land. They were judged in the wilderness and condemned to 40 years of wandering until that faithless generation died out. That is a picture of what happens at the Second Advent.

38 and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me

The word “purge” in the Hebrew means to examine and select. It implies a cleansing. All Israel is not Israel. Re-gathered Israel will be judged outside the land and ONLY regenerate Israel (faithful Israel) will be allowed to enter the land and experience the blessings of the promised Kingdom. This is the spiritual seed within the physical seed. Only the spiritual seed enters the Kingdom.

The Judging of the Nations

The Gentile nations will be judged at this time, also.

Mat 25:31 ... he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mat 25:41 Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Mat 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

There will be a judgment at the Second Advent to determine who among the Gentiles will and will not enter the Kingdom. Jesus will gather all the nations (Mat 25:31) and separate them as separating the sheep from the goats. This term “nations” is a reference to Gentiles. The sheep will enter the Kingdom (Mat 25:34), and the goats go to eternal punishment (Mat 25:46). Who qualifies as “sheep”? The answer is found in verses 35-40.

Mat 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord,

when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’
40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Note the term “brothers” in verse 40. This is a reference to the Jews and probably should be viewed two ways: as the racial brothers of Jesus and also the spiritual brothers through the new birth. These are not simply Jews but are born again Jews. In view of the distress in the Tribulation period, it is clear that any believing Jew will have a difficult time surviving. The forces of the world dictator will be doing everything possible to exterminate all Jews (cf. Rev. 12:17). A Gentile going out of his way to assist a Jew in the Tribulation will mean that Gentile has become a believer in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation. By such a stand and action, a believing Gentile will put his life in jeopardy. His works will not save him; but his works will reveal that he is redeemed.

An Interlude?

After the Second Advent there is evidently an interlude of unknown length as suggested by passages in Ezekiel 38 and 39, which say it takes seven years to burn all the weapons of war, and seven months to bury the dead. The land must be cleansed before the Kingdom, plus there must be time for the re-gathering and judgments. Does all that take seven years as suggested or more?

Summary

Soon after the Second Advent and before the Millennium or Kingdom Age actually begins God has established the following conditions:

- Tribulational martyrs and Old Testament believers have been resurrected and given their glorified resurrection bodies just like Christ has and the Raptured Church has.
- Tribulational **unbelievers**, OT **unbelievers**, and Church Age **unbelievers** have **not** yet been resurrected. That will happen at the end of the Millennium to face the Great White Throne Judgment.
- Israel has been re-gathered and judged and granted its national redemption — many, many Jews have turned to Christ as Messiah.

- Jesus as judge has separated the believers from the unbelievers
- The believers who survived the Tribulation will enter the Kingdom in their physical bodies with sin natures alive and active.
- The nations have been judged. The Gentiles remaining alive after the Tribulation are judged and Jesus separates His sheep from Satan's goats. The sheep enter the Kingdom in their physical bodies with sin natures. The Goats do not.
- All OT and NT **unbelievers** and Tribulational **unbelievers** are still in hell.
- All Tribulational **unbelieving** survivor Jews are cast into hell.
- All Tribulational **unbelieving** survivor Gentiles are cast into hell.
- Both of those will be resurrected at the end of the Millennium to face final judgment at the White Throne.

We are about to step into the Kingdom Age, and all we have alive on earth are only born again Jews and Gentiles that survived the Tribulation. Only saved Jews and Gentiles will enter the Kingdom/Millennium. They will be in their physical bodies and will still have a sin nature. **Also present are resurrected Church Age saints, OT and Tribulational saints, and Jesus Christ the King.** Much of the curse that was placed on the earth at the fall of Adam is about to be lifted, and the Millennium or Kingdom Age is about to begin.