PROLOGUE

"The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." —2 Timothy 4:4-8

In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

—The Gospel of John 1:1

In the Throne Room of Grace, while the angelic host looks on, Father and Son shared the idea: "Let's now make beings in Our Own image to occupy this creation." In that moment, human beings come into existence, all human beings who would ever live in the flesh.

"Before we animate them," They think out loud, "shall they be more like the angels or more like Us?" Even as they agree that the humans would be more like Them than angels, spirits like the Spirit of God occupy each human.

The humans are not yet animate or complete. "When shall they come to reside with us?" In the space of an eon or a nanosecond, They smile in warm agreement: "When we say so!" Nevertheless, They realize that humans would want come to reside with them immediately, as soon as they understand that the created universe they occupy is not Paradise. Something has to intervene, until the humans are fit to reside with Them.

"Time." They nod. After all, the matter and energy They have set in motion would remain in motion throughout its cycle in Creation, never destroyed, but continuously becoming first matter on the quantum level, and then energy, as quantum, subatomic and atomic particles break their bonds and release the energy holding matter together. These cycles would be measurable constants within the environments that humans could occupy and observe. Time.

But what will make them wait out the time? At once They think of many requirements: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. What will cause humans to exercise these attributes? Three things: a mind which can think, create and have vision; a will which can decide every element of human occupation in the flesh; and emotions, which can provide layers and color and variegation to the quality of their separation from Them.

Every thought, word and deed of every human who would ever live, played out in the Throne Room. "Since We have created Time," the Son says to the Father, "we cannot let them all live together at once. It would be chaos."

"I agree. They will eventually come to know everything necessary to live with Us here. So let Us add them to Creation when We want to, and bring them Home in the stream of Time at Our will."

"Agreed. Adam is first...." The Holy Spirit breathes on the one called Adam and he becomes a living soul.

CHAPTER 1

EARTH – Revelation 13:9 "Whoever has ears, let them hear." NKIV

Paul A. Astruc, one of five world candidates for President of the United Earth for life, made his final campaign speech. Billions of people worldwide, eligible to vote in the upcoming election, listened to and watched video of his speech, entitled "Single-Celled."

"When I refer to 'single-celled' political and social organizations, I mean those who believe that nations and governments, including the government of the Earth, should be all black, all white, all brown, or all one political party or association, or even all one religion.

"We did not create the Earth. Scientists have theories about its coming into being—in fact, the creation of the entire universe—but nobody really knows, because no Earther was there! But seriously, my point is, since we didn't create the diversity of life on Earth, we cannot make a decision that something or someone should not exist here. No tribe, no tongue, no racial group, no political party has acquired the right to exclude anyone from the rights and privileges accorded to human life on this planet.

"Or life in general. We don't get to exterminate dogs, cats, buffalo, whales, or anything that is life on Earth. It is sad and regrettable that some travelers on this third rock from Sol have been completely eliminated. Whales were on their way out in the twenty-first century, when they were saved, first in captivity, then reintroduced to the ocean. Similarly, in the twentieth century, the North American bison, called the buffalo, was saved in the same way. Since those eras, many species have been saved, but many species have been lost for all time.

"We are proud to say that, in the last 150 years, no species have been eradicated. As the most productive form of life on land, humans have managed to save every species that existed, to our knowledge, at the time our campaign to save all life on Earth began.

"There exist among us, still, some humans who believe that we do not owe any other species any respect or protection from extinction. There still exist among us, some humans who believe that we do not owe humans who have different hair, or skin, or native language any protection from extinction or the protection of government! There still exist among us, some humans who believe that there is only one way to God, and any other way or form of worship should be decimated, should be nullified, and made illegal to practice.

"Citizens of Earth, we cannot afford these divisions. We have brought the Earth back from the brink of destruction by changing the way we produce goods, heat our homes, and consume our natural resources. Species no longer disappear forever! The oceans are no longer filled with plastic debris and other trash. Our rivers and streams run clean all over the Earth. Even our deserts now bloom with the flowers of necessary foodstuffs. No human is hungry. No human is naked. No human is homeless. All adult humans have the right to vote and to contribute their gifts to human society, and to the other species of Earth.

"Let us not retreat from the equality we have won with such sacrifice. No aliens from outer space will come to challenge us, or even to save us from ourselves. We have to save us. We have to save the Earth for ourselves and for our posterity, forever!"

This is the speech that got him elected to lifetime Presidency. The day after the election, the Deceiver discussed the election with Paul.

"Great speech," the Deceiver said to Paul. What dreck!' he thought. "You were certain to be elected."

"Because of the speech? Or because you have made it so?" Paul stared the apparition in its eye.

Satan thought, "Not so stupid after all." "Both. I had to kill an awful lot of people, as humans judge a lot, to make sure that you would win. But the good news is, the poorest, the ugliest, the most devout worshippers of the God weren't able to vote." The Deceiver laughed out loud, throwing his head back in near ecstasy in his remembrance of the carnage.

"Yes, yes, yes. I know all their arguments, Paul." He thought, 'I also know Who Jesus is.

'Hmmmmm,' thought the Deceiver, 'he is not a moron.' "Yes, but I said 'devout' worshippers. These Christians, and excuse me for saying so, Jewish believers, are not committed to the God. They are committed to their religious practices, or their social standing, or some other matter that feeds their flesh and lusts. They are no danger to me or you. They are tepid. And some of them have no personal relationship with the God." Or with His Son.

"Huh," Paul responded thoughtfully. "As a Messianic Jewish person, I would have thought that the reason you can't eradicate Christians and Jews is because the God won't let you until the end of the age." Paul leaned back in his comfortable, tufted leather chair, eyes on the wall opposite him as he finished his statement.

The Deceiver gave forth a humorless chuckle. "Ah, Paul. I get everyone left at the end of the age." It was a bold lie that he told. He disappeared from Paul's view.

Paul smiled smugly. He knew that the "saved" would be with the God. He knew that the Earth would be left full of the scum of the Earth—the tired, the poor, the huddled masses who would never be free under his rule. Just the way he wanted it.

The Oval Office – November 2016

"Well, Mr. President . . ."

"Yes. 'Well." Barack H. Obama, first known African American President of the United States (POTUS), sat comfortably in his executive chair in the Oval Office, enjoying his favorite view. Although his daughters were both teenagers, he still liked to look out at their playground in moments of introspection. "It's almost over. The new POTUS will be sworn in In January. I am history."

"That you are, President Obama!" Everyone chuckled at the double entendre.

"Well, we've worked some on transition. Now we have to get busy in earnest."

"Begging your pardon, sir, if I may interrupt..." He waited for permission to proceed. POTUS nodded, even though he was now scanning a document on his desk. "Have you made a final decision about your candidacy?"

POTUS looked up at one of his senior staff. "You know this is not the appropriate time to discuss campaign matters." He let a relaxed burst of laughter escape. "Nonetheless, let me say that I have been drafted, in a sense. Yes, I think I'm going to stay in the running. But I'm going to reserve the right to reassess my position from time to time during the process. Let's get back to business."

As everyone turned back to their briefing material, Brown nodded internally. A small smile creased his face. He thought back over the last four years.

Shortly before President Obama's re-election to a second term, world leaders approved of his spending the American economy back under control. While the American electorate seemed disgruntled, a large portion of the world was looking at recovery!

How could that be? The American economy had specific benchmarks for recovery that simply could not be met or fixed for lengthy periods of time. It's like having a baby elephant: it takes twenty-three months and no one can make it go any faster! During Obama's first term, unemployment in the US rose to historical—some say hysterical—heights. The Keynesian economist knows that in a recession, the unemployment rate is the last economic indicator to rise significantly, and the last to come back down as recovery takes place. While the unemployment rate was high, the American electorate was unhappy with POTUS, to say the least.

Global economic indicators were all over the scale. Inflation struck some currencies, but some economies fired up. Some economies laid off workers; others hired them. Nevertheless, some smaller countries' economic systems had to be bailed out, or propped up, by other countries whose economic interests were closely related.

HISTORY of the World, Part I – Ecclesiastes 10:19 "A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry; But money answers everything." NKJV

China's economy grew all through the global economic recession that occurred during the early twenty-first century. It slowed a little bit immediately before the American economy entered the recession in 2008, but soon after, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) made it the world's second-largest economy. By 2135 China's became the largest economy, surpassing the GDP of the United States.

The American populace, the ordinary person on the street, just didn't care what was happening elsewhere. They only wanted their own personal statistic to be on the rise, or at least leveled off. Prior to his re-election, it was believed that President Obama was unpopular among the unemployed, those who had stopped looking for work, and those whose homes and cars had been lost. That was a lot of people. During his first term of office, the overriding political issue was whether or not Americans approved of President Obama's solutions.

Some conservatives wanted to let the American economy crash and burn and rebuild. When world leaders got wind of this trend, they were on their "red phones" immediately. They used every channel of influence to overcome this extreme train of thought. They succeeded.

Some liberals wanted to prop up the economy even more than President Bush did with his stimulus spending, and much more than the next POTUS did with his stimulus spending in his first term. The rest of the world only wanted the American economy to recover and did not really care how much US taxpayer money was spent. Nevertheless, many were interested in the extent to which their governments had borrowed money from American banks based in their countries. Such borrowing contributes a great deal to inflated currencies. The failure of an American bank there would create enormous deficits for them and impair import/export relations. The government would then need to raise revenues by raising taxes.

That's a deep dark economic pit no government wants to fall into. If they were already in such a pit (many were!), they didn't want to dig any deeper. For them, it didn't matter how much the US government spent on "stimulating" the American economy. The US deficit was good for a significant number of others around the globe.

The bottom line was, no matter how unhappy Americans were, a large segment of the global economy prospered as the US government became deeper in debt! There was muted applause worldwide as POTUS spent the US out of the recession that was created before his first term. The American national debt left many countries whose economic stars had kept rising during the US recession, in an economic position superior to that of the US. This was true notwithstanding the fact the US GDP was still one of the three largest in the world. Yet, it's a simple truth that a debtor is in an inferior position to a creditor. And the US was now a global creditor.

Due in large part to his role this global role reversal, two groups of very effective people met privately to discuss how best to use the current POTUS to better their futures: the group with all the money, and the group with all the power. Some of the people with money are in both groups. Nevertheless, the Money Group did not admit new members often, whereas the members of the Power Coalition changed with deaths (they die early) and the rise of individuals to great global influence.

People with money can wield great power, by virtue of the amount of money they control. Money is power. Power without great gobs of money, however, is fleeting, and often a mere illusion. Power with a foundation of the shifting vicissitudes of elections, governments, and patronage lasts only so long as these foundations are stable. Once the foundation melts away, the power goes with it. Not so when one controls currency.

Soon after it became apparent that any POTUS had become a global personality to be reckoned with, he was admitted to Power. They wined, dined, and awarded him. The Money people in the Power Group would report to the other Money Group members that the past-POTUS was an asset they did not want to ignore. His potential for lining their pockets with more gold was immense.

Both groups wanted him to remain on the world stage, but under their control. Control would be accomplished by bringing him into their group. Each would make him an offer he couldn't refuse. The Money Group didn't mind the idea that the Power Group gave him a position of political influence, so long as his influence would result in their controlling substantial economic influx.

Similarly, the Power Group would acquiesce to a POTUS membership in the Money Group, so long as the finances he controlled contributed to their retention of power.

There were no members of the Power Group who had infiltrated the Money Group. It couldn't be done. The Moneys had the resources to look behind every person on earth. This was especially true of Powers; they had been examined publicly and privately from every angle during their rise to power. Of the two groups, the Moneys had the most global influence, buying and selling even the Powers at will. As a consequence, a POTUS was admitted only to the Power Group during his first term in office, so as to prepare him for the next stage of his development. Money members reported the admission but waited to see what Power proposed to do with the new member.

After any national election, Power began to establish a political position for POTUS to assume. It was at this time that Brown (not the name by which he was known in the twenty-first century) came to be a President's White House staff. Brown had been personally acquainted with, and in the service of various members of both Groups. Brown was well-known as a dependable and effective operative. He was "assigned" to a POTUS before the end of his first term and moved into the President's inner circle.

Yet other peaks and valleys were in store for the world economic picture. Upheavals occurred during the subsequent administration in North America and Asia that impacted the total global economic picture. And the impact wasn't always good.

For example, in association with a version of the coronavirus, a plague-like pattern of infection overtook China, Europe, and North America. There were cases in Africa and significant infection in South America. At the same time, because of the virulence of the virus, economies suffered everywhere.

People couldn't congregate. Workers couldn't work. Companies didn't run. Goods weren't produced and purchased at the same level. Bailouts and subsidies were facts of life on a global scale for many decades to come.

Things were going according to plan. Brown's master is pleased. The rest, as they say, is history.

THE THRONE ROOM – Job 1:6-7 "One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?'" NKJV

"I'm pleased with myself these days, I must admit." The Enemy of the souls of men stood in the Throne Room before the Father and Son, Who sat on the Throne of Grace. He felt smug. He spoke again, "More humans than ever are worshiping themselves, and other gods. I did that, you know. It must really aggravate You." He turned toward the Throne, unable to look Him in the eye.

"I understand," said the Father, "but you haven't answered My last question."

Centers for Disease Control, 2118

Sandy Weir sat at her desk reviewing the latest in mounds of reports from laboratories all over the world. Since her graduation with a degree in organic chemistry and an advanced degree in chemical engineering, she has worked at the Centers for Disease Control as a projects analyst.

This work suited her. She has creative ideas of her own, of course, but she is shy, and she doesn't believe people really like her. Looking over other researchers' shoulders is work that she finds rewarding.

Today, she is looking for some research that was being tweeted frequently on the internet. "Something about telomeres and nanobots," she mutters half-aloud as she scrolls through her emails.

Telomeres and nanobots. An odd combination. A telomere is a chromosome aglet. It encases the end of a chromosome, protecting the end from deterioration or recombination. Telomeres resemble the aglets on the ends of shoelaces that keep the shoelaces from fraying. Telomeres on DNA strands do a little more though. If cells divided without telomeres, they would lose the DNA sequences at the ends of their chromosomes and the necessary information they contain. After each cell division, new telomeres are added to the original DNA strand and the new one.

Researchers are interested in telomeres because they get shorter and thinner with each cell division. Finally the cell loses so much material that it can no longer replicate accurately and completely. Cell deterioration, death, or cancer can ensue. For decades, scientists have been looking at the possibility of preserving the length of telomeres after cell division as a way of extending the life of cells and human life.

There are drugs, of course. One of the best things that chemists do is come up with drugs that solve problems like this. In the 1990s the substance was telomerase. It's an amino acid complex that actually helps reconstitute telomeres to their original length and strength after replication. The only problem is, it's toxic to an organism. That is to say, when introduced to a human being, the bad impact of the side effects outweighed the therapeutic benefits.

Until now. Chemical engineers have found a way to introduce telomerase on a subcellular level, using nano-technology. Instead of introducing the chemical agent into the bloodstream, the nanobots carry a payload of a telomerase derivative and introduce the substance during replication at the site of replication—the cell nucleus. This method minimizes side effects to almost zero.

"Almost" because every chemical reaction leaves other chemicals behind, and they have to be disposed of. So the engineers decided to simultaneously deliver nanobots to "clean up" the residue. Instead of dumping these toxins into the bloodstream, these maintenance bots deliver the chemicals safely to the liver in amounts that will not harm the organ, so that the residue can be processed and delivered to the kidneys and then the bladder.

"What an elegant solution." She realized that the key to success was in nanobot technology. Suddenly she thought "Didn't I read about research into nanobot diagnosis?" She minimized the window in which she was reviewing the report and again scanned her emails. Finding nothing right away, she put "diagnostic nanobots" into her search engine. Only one report popped up! She opened the document, scanned, and printed both reports.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2118

"You sent the report."

"I sent the report."

"No. We agreed that it needed some edits," Chris Pollack, biomedical engineer, raised his voice.

"Well," Chuck Lewis, mechanical engineer responded, cleared his throat, and continued, "well, I, that is, we, we, us, we decided that the edits, the things you wanted to, you know, they weren't . . ."

Celia Willis, the chemical engineer interrupted Chuck, "... necessary. No edits were necessary. We sent the report because it was finished. As you know," she said smoothly to her team mates, "we reported our experiments in detail, attached computer spreadsheets and analyses, charts, and video. We agreed on the format. We ran the spell check and grammar check. What was left to do?"

She looked at them all. "Chris, I know that you are a little obsessive about making these things perfect." She glanced at Chuck with a little smile, "but it was perfect. We sent it!"

Obsessive, indeed! Chris wanted more experimentation, even though each and every one of the last twelve setups had worked perfectly! The nanobots the team designed were programmed to look for and diagnose three different conditions: cancer, arteriosclerosis, and dementia with Lewy bodies. The bots sent a report only if a condition was found. On a trial-and-error basis, the engineers discovered the amount of time it took the bots to completely scan the entire human body for signs of disease. Another line or two of programming made the bots send a "no report" report.

Nano-cameras were installed to get video feedback as well. All in all, a complete wireless report was sent to a computer from each bot in a zipped file. Software was created to interpret the reports and generate files that could be unzipped and read by humans. A little more programming, and a bot could send the computer a complete blood analysis without ever having any blood drawn!

Chris's belligerent attitude softened. He gave in immediately. These engineers would go down in history for their contribution to medical diagnostic science.

THE THRONE ROOM – Job 2:1 "On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also." NKJV

The Accuser of the brethren looked off into the distance and spoke without looking toward the Throne. "These humans, they think they 'discover' technology and technological advancements." He snorted rudely.

"I gave them My creativity and vision," said the Father. "And My vision," said the Son.

The whisper of "inspiration" echoed through the Room as the Holy Spirit expressed agreement with the Father and the Son.

Suddenly angry, the Accuser turned toward the Throne with a jerk. "Yes, but I also tell them things! And they listen to me too. What about airplanes? What about telephones? What about currency? What about government?"

The Father smiled indulgently. "You know that the birds We created gave them the idea for human flight. Similarly, the other ideas came from their creativity, their vision, their inspiration. But government is clearly a rebellious idea that you lied to them about."

"That's all simply not the point. The point I was *making* is that they haven't really created or discovered anything that hasn't been given to them in one way or another. By You, by me. Especially by me. And another thing . . ."

The Accuser continued to accuse humans for another long while. It was either a minute or a millennium. The Father looked over at the Son, the Son smiled at the Father, and the Holy Spirit hovered with infinite patience.