

The Bible: Behind the Scenes

by
Ilze Henderson

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Dedication

To my loving parents, thank you very much for your undying support and belief in me. Your positive attitude and passion for life is contagious and something that inspires me to be the best I can be. I salute you.

Acknowledgements

To the Lord, my loving Creator and Friend, all the praise and glory be unto you! Thank you for unveiling your warm devoted heart to me and giving me this opportunity to present your love to the world.

To my parents, I would like to thank you for all your time that you dedicated to proof read my manuscript, as well as for your valuable input. I truly appreciate it.

Comments about the book:

“Wow! This is a wonderful, thought-provoking, and heart-warming story. This is a true love story to the core. As a Christian, I truly appreciate and love how the author took biblical principles and spiritual laws, and turned them into a story that even those who have never read the Bible can learn from, understand, and enjoy. This book was a blessing to me, and I know that it will be a blessing to others as well. Everyone loves a good love story, and this one has all of the attributes of the greatest love story of all time. It tugs at your heart strings, gives you hope, reveals the ultimate of betrayals, and has a happy ending. This was a great read, and I thoroughly enjoyed every page. I can’t thank the author enough for writing this.”
Darya Crockett - Editor

“This is a good piece of work. The readers will thank you for writing this material. You have made this material fun to read and comprehend.” – Cynthia Sherman – Critique

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Preface

Have you ever wondered why God sent his only son to die for us? He is almighty after all and could have sent the devil to hell with one breath. He could have uttered the command and we could have been saved and restored to our rightful place in heaven. I never understood why we had to be saved, if he could have easily restored us back to himself. Why did his son have to go through all the pain and suffering? Why did his son have to die such a brutal death? I also did not understand the involvement of the devil in our everyday lives, and why the Lord allowed him to roam the earth and cause problems for us. I was confused and nobody had the answers I was looking for. The only being I knew that could help me was Jesus. I turned to him and after spending devout time with him, and pleading for understanding, he, in his grace, granted me the answers to my difficult questions. I was so grateful for that, and I immediately captured it in this book.

With this book, (in storytelling format), you can take a journey with me through God's Word to fully realize and understand God's love, involvement, and patience with us since Creation. You can obtain a deeper understanding of Jesus' dedicated mission and be confronted with the fact that he did it all for you. This whole book is a narrative of God's incredible patience and unfathomable love for us, his "bride". In order to understand this book, you must see the "bride" as a representative of all the faithful people in the world. All the true followers of God in this world form a part of "his bride". And what is exciting, is that you are part of this bride that is mentioned throughout the book, and that God loves you dearly.

I hope this journey will strengthen your faith and draw you even closer to our Heavenly Father. May this book unravel the mystery of Jesus' whole mission and make it clearer to you.

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Along with all the angels I can only say: What an awesome God we serve!

Praise his name!

Chapter 1

Paradise Gained, Paradise Lost

A hushed silence fell on the vast, magnificent, angelic audience. Their presence shone forth and glistened with big, silvery wings enveloping their beings. Their delicate wings were carefully sewn together like a web; it sparkled and cascaded into all the different colors of the rainbow. They stood transfixed and captivated by every single word that their Master spoke. A blinding light shone forth from inside of him, and penetrated their innermost beings causing them to glitter and distribute heat across the whole heavenly realm.

Their Master was the Almighty; who was, and is, and always will be, their loving Creator.

He was about to share with them something very exciting; it was something that would change the course of their existence forever. They could sense it in the air. The angelic assembly surrounded him and was enclosed in his brilliance. It was a brilliance that captivated them, and drew them even closer to his being. His thunderous voice carried mightily through the expanse, yet it was calm and reassuring.

“I am the beginning and the end. I am love. I am. An expression of my love will be made.”

Instantly, the scenery evolved and through the radiant cloak of the One, the angelic beings could see a strange, formless shape. The One was hovering over it. With one brilliant swoop, he created light and separated it from the

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darkness. The light enhanced the gushing, dark waters rushing over this shape.

“A separation needs to be made.”

The waters obeyed his very words, and the mists of the skies were separated from the waters below. The waters below were gathered into one place and were called the sea. Immediately, big waves with white crests rushed to the shore. Dark, brown, fertile soil appeared where the waters were and with the gentle sound of his voice, hills of rolling green grass and beautiful seed-bearing plants and trees appeared decorating the landscape. There were blue, green, yellow, red, all colors imaginable, and all the textures you could dream of. An atmosphere of tranquillity presided over these, and the whole angelic assembly held its breath in anticipation of what would happen next.

“Now let us decorate the skies too.”

Immediately, with one command, the glorious sun and the mystifying moon presided over their appointed times. The sun appeared during the day and the moon during the night. The brilliance of the burning sun cannot be described and its power cannot be contained. It is the source of life for all who respect it. Even the moon was dependent on the sun’s glowing rays. As the sun and the moon moved around in their predetermined orbits, the moon would sometimes shine in full, round glory, and at other times had only a mystic smile. It was designed that way to keep the Creation interesting and mysterious. Accompanying the moon were billions of twinkling lights forming their own unique patterns in the decorated sky.

“Now we need to fill the sea and the sky with life.”

At once, birds were soaring across the sky. There were colorful ones, big ones, and small ones. Some had long, strong beaks with the strength to devour, while others were fluffy, small, and plump; these birds were cute, ferocious, elegant, gracious, and came in any size and shape imaginable. The Lord’s creative self was portrayed through them.

Upon hearing the command, the fishes started swimming in the ocean; even great sea creatures were created. The

kaleidoscope of colors was inconceivable. Amongst others, the Lord created colorful sea stars to decorate the lively waters, charming little fishes to dance around them, and looming predators to get rid of overpopulation in the waters. It was a pleasure to observe all of them and amusing to study each one of them. Every single one was unique.

A blessing was pronounced on the birds and the fishes to multiply and fill their territories. The first blessing on the Creation was heard by the audience. They became very excited. A blessing by the Almighty is something very special, and is something that cannot be revoked.

“Let us create something to fill the land.”

Instantly, the earth brought forth creatures of every kind, and every single one was lovingly created by the One. Some creatures were big, some small, some hairy, some fast, some adorable, some tall, and some were composed of a rainbow of colors. The creative God designed every one with a purpose, and as an expression of his love.

Shouts of praise and glory came from the crowd. Singing in glorious voices, the unison was incredible. Conducted by no one, the choir of all time just knew the melody, knew the words, and knew how to praise their Master.

“Glory be to God Almighty, the beginning and the end! Everything you touch is beautiful and extraordinary! Praises be to the Creator!”

They continued to sing for what seemed to be forever, but suddenly the praises started to die down. They noticed something different about their Master. The expression of the Lord changed to a tender loving look. His whole being beamed and a blinding light shone forth cascading into brilliance. The look was enhanced to shine forth abundant love. They realized something very special was about to happen; it was something that would change the future irrevocably. A feeling of awe filled the heavenly realm.

His brilliance started fading and evolved into a tiny, twinkling light. This tiny light started moving and spinning around and around; it grew bigger and bigger. Carefully, and

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with painstaking precision, the light was moulded into an image. At first, they couldn't see clearly.

“What is it?”

They murmured amongst themselves. The suspense was almost too much to bear. They squinted their eyes to see better, but to no avail. Suddenly, the image burst forward and stood on its own in front of its Maker. It was a being functioning on its own. The image was sparkling and covered in light. It was difficult to see, but slowly the glare dimmed and in front of them stood something that took their breath away. It was the most extraordinary, and the most exquisite creature they have ever seen!

Surprisingly, they saw that this new image was moulded into the image of God! It was an image of God with a difference. It was a dazzling bride. The bride consisted of two souls, a man and a woman, Adam and Eve. But to the Lord they formed a union, to the Lord they were his bride. Her whole being glittered and sent forth rays of sunlight. She slowly opened her still moist eyes. They sparkled like diamonds and gazed lovingly at her Creator. Her eyes were intertwined with his and she seemed to be only aware of his existence. Slowly, she raised her hands and touched his face in adoration. He was her Maker and they were the most perfect fit. It was the most beautiful moment captured in time. The angels were awestruck and marveled at the brilliance of their Lord and King. He had made something as his equal and his companion for all time to come. Carefully, he took her by the hand and gently guided her to his new Creation. He proudly showed her around and presented everything to her.

It soon became clear that he had especially designed all of Creation just for her. Creation was to be her new home where she would have everything that her heart desired. Squeals of delight could be heard. She was so impressed with all that he had made: the lush green pastures, blossoms in pink and white, impressive majestic mountains with tufts of white clouds covering high pinnacles, the roaring seas, the billions of twinkling stars, the brilliant sun, the shy moon, everything.

Standing on a high peak overlooking all of Creation, he placed her with authority in front of it and majestically crowned her as the royal master of it all. She would be their ruler and she would be the bride of our God. Together, they would care for all of Creation. They would be inseparable and enjoy fellowship forever in this paradise, which they called the Garden of Eden. The crowd was awestruck yet again and couldn't contain their praises.

“Holy, holy, holy, glory be to God Almighty! Who was, and is, and always will be the great, ‘I am’!”

The angelic beings have never seen the love of God expressed as this before. They finally experienced what true love was. He beamed and declared a day of rest for all to enjoy what he had made!

Louder than ever before, the radiant angelic assembly burst into song and worshipped the One.

“Shout to the Lord, all of Creation let us sing and praise his holy name!”

Everything was in abundance and there to enjoy.



As the days (as he called it) flew by, the loving relationship between the Lord and his bride grew. They took long walks together in the picturesque gardens and enjoyed each other's company. They cared for Creation and everything was perfect. They loved one another and they were inseparable. They were the perfect fit. It was the most amazing thing to see the Lord's love being poured out like that, as well as seeing his love returned by her. You see, the Lord did not make her like a robot that was forced to love him. That would not be real love. He made her a being that could *choose* to love him. Someone who could choose to love him for who he is, and not because he is all there is. That was the most special thing for the angels. Currently, his love was returned in full by something he considered worthy enough to be his bride. However, it was not long before he decided to put her love to the test. He *had* to in order to discern the extent of her love for him. He had to create for her the opportunity to make the choice.

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That opportunity presented itself in the form of a tree. He put a tree in the middle of the garden. It was no ordinary tree. The tree had widespread branches bearing sumptuous fruit that was different from all the other fruit in the garden. The tree had a name and was called the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. He forbade her to eat of the fruit of the tree and pronounced that if she did, she would surely die! She could eat any fruit in all of Creation, except the fruit of *that* tree. The choice was therefore clear. She had to choose between life and death, obedience and disobedience. Her choice would be to obey him and enjoy his loving company until the end of days, or to disobey him and destroy their wonderful relationship in the garden forever.

Initially, his bride was not really interested in this new tree. If he said that she shouldn't eat of the tree, who was she to argue? She would have left it alone. She had more than enough already. He was her everything.



Watching from a distance, some of the angels were a bit confused.

To die? This was a new concept to all of the angelic beings. Did they hear right? Will she *die* when she eats of the fruit? What does that mean?

After intense discussions amongst themselves, they dared to ask him.

“What happens when you die?”

They have never seen anything die before.

“She will leave the place called earth and be banished from my presence forever,” he kindly answered them.

“To go where?”

“That, my dear servants, you will have to wait and see.” Sadly, he turned around.

“We will have to wait and see?” The shocked beings murmured amongst themselves. “Does this mean she would actually disobey him?”

This was a foreign concept to them. Disobedience was something they had only seen once before and the

consequences were immediate dismissal from the Lord's presence. It was a shocking time for everyone. It was difficult to believe that a time like that would repeat itself! Looking at their beautiful relationship now it seemed impossible, and out of the question! They were so happy together; nothing could surely come between them.



On the other side of Creation, expelled from the Lord's presence, the evil ones dwelt. The sound of cold water dripping onto an icy, dark pond below echoed through their shady domain. Eerie sounds filled the air and strange, evil beings roamed around aimlessly. They were once part of the glorious angelic assembly united in purpose, and united in splendor. But it was not enough for them; they wanted more! They wanted praise and glory for themselves and in a fiery rebellion and severe disobedience on their part, the Lord banished them from his presence in one impressive display of his Almighty power. Quickly, their glory faded and expelled from heaven, they had to establish their own kingdom. They were not the Creator of the world, and so to establish their own kingdom was quite a tall order. Eventually, they set up their own home, but their own icy, dark kingdom was not even worthy of the attention of the Lord's lowliest servant. Why the Lord did not destroy them there and then, nobody knows, but as always he was in control and he still had a purpose for them.

Their leader was the ominous Lucifer, who was always looking for ways to get even with the Lord. He regularly sent out scouts to report on all of the Lord's activities.

Suddenly, a still panting spirit rushed into the presence of his leader.

"Sire, did you see what the Lord did?" The graceless, evil spirit blurted. His cold, green eyes stared at his master.

This time Lucifer was one step ahead of him. The Creation of the world was such a huge event that nobody missed it.

"Are you stupid? Of course I did, do you think you are mightier than me that I actually missed the Creation of the world?" Lucifer scoffed. His hostile voice echoed through his

purposeless kingdom. He stood up from his frosty throne and a sinister black shadow was cast on the scout.

“No, no of course not. All of us know you are our leader, and our king!” The spirit trembled and cringed in a corner too afraid to even look at Lucifer.

“Well good, remember that!” Sitting down, Lucifer pondered on the topic. He was quite interested in this new Creation. He had been keeping a close eye on all the activities.

“Now, I wonder what he is up to with this whole, new Creation . . .”

“Did you see his bride sir? She is quite something!” The clumsy spirit came closer and tried to get the interest of his master again.

“On whose side are you anyway? Get out of my presence!” Lucifer thundered and in the middle of his sentence the spirit had already made a quick exit.

Lucifer leaned back on his frosty throne and pondered this new development. “He is right though; she is something else. The Lord seems quite taken with her. Very interesting . . .,” he muttered to himself. Thoughtfully, he sat there and true to his character, evil ideas instantly started developing in his disfigured head. Suddenly, it dawned on him.

“Imagine if I could snatch this being away from him. What a satisfaction that would be! Their loving relationship would be short-lived.” Smugly, he leaned back and gave free range to his evil train of thought.

“It is plain to see that he truly loves her, but the question is whether she loves him? Can he control her love? If he could control her, that would be superficial love now wouldn’t it? She would have no choice in the matter, and that would make her love for him dead like a robot doing everything he says. But if she *had* a choice and she freely chose him, how wonderful that would be for him to have someone returning his love out of free will.” He slammed his fist against his chilly armrest. Saliva dripped from his gruesome mouth, but he did not even notice or care.

“As I know him that would exactly be the type of bride he would create for himself. He would create someone to love him because they *want* to, not because they *have* to. And if that is the case, I need to know *how* he is going to test her love. I need to know what the choice is that she has to make and convince her otherwise.” His wicked eyes glinted as he got very excited.

“He will be left desolate and all alone! Deserted by the one he loves. Oh goody! I have searched far and wide, and finally there seems to be a way that I can actually get back at him for all he has done to me. He thinks he is so mighty and powerful. We will see who can control her love!” He was already bracing himself for victory.

“Come back you fool!” His yell echoed in the icy atmosphere.

The spirit cautiously sneaked back into the room scared of another outbreak from his master.

“Yes sire?”

“Go and find out more about his bride. I want to know every little detail. And hurry, we probably don’t have a lot of time!”



In what seemed to be ages for Lucifer, the messenger crept back into his icy presence proud of the information he could gather.

“Sir, I have a bit more news about this new creature.”

“Quick, tell me!” Lucifer was eager to hear. He had been pondering the thought ever since the spirit left; he had been tossing and turning on his uncomfortable throne for the past few days. Now, he was on the edge of his seat to hear what the spirit had to say.

“Well, from what I can gather by my wanderings on earth, is that the Lord designed everything especially for his bride. All of Creation. He wanted to show his deep founded love for her, so he made it especially beautiful. He thought of her during the whole Creation process and designed everything to suit her and be to her liking. They rule over Creation together

and everyday they take leisurely walks together in the beautiful Garden of Eden.”

“Yea, yea, skip the juicy stuff! I don’t want to hear it. Get to something I would really be interested in!” He was getting irritated with news about a cosy relationship between God and his bride. This is not what he was hoping to hear.

“Well, uhm . . . it seems to me that he gave her everything except one thing.”

Relief swept over him. He was right after all. “I *knew* it! *And*, what is it?” Lucifer’s sly eyes took on an interested stare.

“She can eat of every tree in the garden, every single fruit, except the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which he placed in the middle of the garden. He said that she would surely die if she ate of it!”

“I just knew it! I *knew* there would be something. He put the tree there as a test for her. Oh wonderful! Just think of the satisfaction if we could convince her to eat of the fruit and take his beloved bride away from him. That would be so much fun to be able to get back at him for once. Yes, let her die before his very own eyes. Let her join the angel of death!” Lucifer’s arms were extended into the icy air. He was already picturing his revenge.

“Yes, yes!”

The spirit was also getting very excited! He jumped up and down and made weird shrieking sounds.

“So, how are we going to entice her to disobey him and eat of the fruit?” Lucifer was thinking aloud and ready to take action.

“Tell her it is yummy!”

“Oh, you are really stupid!” In an outrage, he threw an ice cube at him which hit him squarely on the forehead. Irritated, he got up from his icy throne, and paced up and down his arctic stage. Suddenly, he stopped, and an evil grin spread over his unsightly face.

“No . . . let us tell her something else . . . something irresistible . . . something much more than a mere moment on the lips. Let’s tempt her with something we all crave for, and

something we all want. Let's tell her she would become just like him in knowing everything, being everywhere, being worshipped continuously, and being able to create something out of nothing."

His shrewd voice drifted off and he stared into space. His sour face crumpled as if he was thinking of something incredibly painful.

"I wanted to be like him, and receive praise and honor! He can't receive it *all* the time! I worked very hard for him and deserved to be praised as well! I *deserved* a place of honor, and I *deserved* a throne made just for me where the angels could come and praise my name. But nooooo! He wanted all the praise for *himself*! Just look at what he did to me! He just violently threw me out, as if I was nothing but . . ."

Suddenly, he looked up and realized that he was not alone. His wicked followers were dumbfounded and staring at him. He was their leader and without him they did not have any direction. If he lost hope, they would wither away quite quickly. He reprimanded himself and hastily regained his posture. His defeated look quickly changed into a familiar evil grimace.

"However, that is all history now." He pulled himself together. "We are going to get our revenge. Finally!" he exclaimed, looking intently at all of them.

"Yes, we would love to get back at him!" All of his followers squirmed together and delighted in their master's plan. Their high-pitched, excited shrieks irritated Lucifer, but he contained himself. He needed them for his plan to succeed.

One of his repulsive spirits wriggled forward in his intrigue of the game plan.

"So how are we going to do it?"

"Simple. I will disguise myself as part of Creation and convince her to eat of the forbidden fruit."

"What would you like to be disguised as, sir?"

"What about that interesting reptile he created called the snake? I rather like the idea of the slithering, provocative

tongue. A snake . . . yes! Come, let's get going. We have work to do!"



The angels just loved the Lord's bride. They regularly joined her in the Garden of Eden and had a lot of fun together. She was so full of life and rejoiced over every small part of the Lord's Creation. Her personality shined forth love, and just being near her was such a joy. Everything was so perfect and they couldn't get enough of all the amusingly different creatures he made. It was so interesting that they all delighted in every little detail. They could have spent years in the garden and not even see the entire variety of creatures he had made. They regularly played games and whoever saw something interesting first, would call the others to join in the discovery. Laughing and running around in perfection was a regular occurrence. Today was a bit different though, as the Lord had made a bunch of perfect, ruby roses for his bride. In a beautiful ceremony earlier, he presented it to her. She was so fixated with it, that she couldn't leave it alone for one second. She slowly drifted off from her angel friends who were still running around and discovering new things.

Suddenly, one of her loyal friends spotted Lucifer entering the garden and slithering around disguised as a snake. They could recognize him anywhere, and could smell the evil stench from far.

"What is *he* doing here?"

"Probably up to something as usual."

"Why doesn't the Lord banish him from his new Creation? Why doesn't he just get rid of him for good?"

"Well, he most likely wants to expose his bride to him, and make sure that she chooses him above that cunning spirit! Otherwise, he will never know the extent of her love for him. He needs to know whether she loves him because he is *all* there is, or whether she loves him because of *who* he is."

"Oh, but that is easy! Who would ever choose *him* over the Almighty God?"

“You must remember how well we know him. He is very cunning and has the ability to deceive.” The wise angel warned.

“But she loves the Lord. She will never do anything to hurt him! I mean, just look at her!” Standing next to the forbidden tree, she was still fixated with the roses he gave her. Lovingly, she investigated each one of them.

“Yes, but as I said, he can easily deceive her.”

“Well then, let’s go and warn her. She is our friend!” Her loyal friend was almost on its way when the wiser one grabbed a hold of its wings.

“You know we can’t. She has to make this decision on her own. Hush! Look! It’s just as we thought. Lucifer is approaching her. Let’s go and see what he is up to.” In one swift move, they drifted off and went to sit on one of the top branches of the forbidden tree.

A cunning slither instantly brought him closer to her. His v-shaped tongue poked in an alluring way.

“Sssoooo. You are the beautiful, charming bride that everyone is talking about. The love of the Lord expressed through you.” He gazed at her and his eyes danced in a seductive way.

“Why thank you for the compliment snake.” Her lovely features beamed at the flattering remark.

“What a place to live! Wow, you must be so happy here?” Lucifer pretended to look around and be genuinely impressed. He was, in actuality, so jealous of this awesome Creation.

“Oh yes! Everything is in abundance, beautiful, lush, and green. I am the ruler here and the Lord has blessed me with so much. I have more than enough of all that I need.” She extended her slender arms in the air, and her joyous personality shone forth. It was almost contagious, but Lucifer had other plans in mind.

“Enough? You mean you can have anything in the garden that you want?”

“Well, yes. Anything I want.”

“Even all the fruit to eat?”