

Study on “Story of Redemption” Chapter 1

Subtitle: External Appearances & God’s Decree

Elder Tess on External Appearance, and the References to SR 13-16

The first subject I want to address takes us back to a study done over a year ago as we responded to the 2019 shaking. That study centered on the introduction of sin and the government of heaven. I won't read out all the quotes. If I can refer to a particular section SR13-16 (*The Story of Redemption* - 1947). This is the portion of Ellen White's writings I am referring to. I will read 13.1.

*Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; **yet** Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host...” {SR 13.1}*

So, you have Lucifer and you have Christ. I want us to think about that word ‘**yet**,’ what does the word ‘**yet**’ mean?

Answers from chat: contrast, but, despite that, however (it's a good one)

So, I want to project a completely sexist story over this. There's Sister X and Sister Y. So we have Christ, Lucifer, and the Father. You spend this paragraph discussing Lucifer, then it says despite that Christ has authority over him from the Father. So, change this, you have Sister X, Sister Y, Brother Zed. So, I'm going to spend a paragraph talking about Sister X. Again, I'm being a sexist. Sister X is so beautiful, tall and slim, a perfect form, her skin is clearer and brighter than all the women around her, she has all of this beauty. And then if I was to say and ‘**yet**’ Brother Zed married sister Y,” what am I saying about Sister Y? If I was Sister Y I'd be offended. Can you see the significance of the word ‘**yet**?’ What I want to do is go through a series of steps, because if you don't agree in these first steps you really won't like the end. So, if there are questions or doubts, I'd like people to express them. What is being done here is, as they say to ‘Compare and Contrast’ between Christ and Lucifer. Repeating the point: This paragraph is discussing how glorious Lucifer is externally, the perfection of his form, the light that he radiates, his majesty, and then it says despite all of that, Christ was over Lucifer. So, what we did was change the story; we made it an earthly story. Sister X is beautiful, her form is perfect, she shines, and ‘**yet**’ Brother Zed married Sister Y. That ‘**yet**,’ says that despite Lucifer's beauty, Christ was his boss. And the implication through that word ‘**yet**,’ which means despite all of this, is that the physical form of Christ certainly didn't make him **externally** superior. In fact, the way that is framed indicates the one that had the beauty was Lucifer. Do people get the point now? We know that scripture says nothing of his appearance in heaven, but if I was to make this an earthly story, I said nothing about Sister Y's appearance, and ‘**yet**’ when I said and ‘**yet**’ Brother Zed married Sister Y, you could see the implications made. And this is one paragraph, you can go through passage after passage that would refer to the physical superiority of Lucifer, his glory.

We know that on earth we have Isaiah 53.2 describing the earthly appearance of Jesus. When it says, “if you were to see his earthly form, there is no beauty that we would desire him.” So, Jesus had no form, no comeliness, no beauty, that was the manifestation of his earthly body. If he did that on earth, I would suggest that he did that in heaven. We would look at his earthly body and would not see anything **physically** that would give him the preeminence. And humanity looks that way. Why did they choose Saul? It was how he manifested physically; that's how humanity operates. Why did so many angels love Lucifer and believe that Lucifer should have preeminence over Christ? It's the same thing. And God never buys into those arguments, in fact, he tests us upon them. So my question for this whole subject, is why did Lucifer look to Christ and say, “who are you to be my boss, what gives you preeminence over me?” I'm not looking for the moral, the pride. Lucifer looks to Christ and says, “what makes you different or superior to me?”

Sister Lynn says, “Lucifer was going by the visual.”

That's the point I want us to see; he's looking to the external. Okay, my point actually is not that, we're not done with this subject. We're going to come back to it, but I don't want people to go away thinking about all the moral, that Lucifer being vain and proud. Think about the actual story. Lucifer looking to Christ saying, “what makes you different, what makes you special?” When Lucifer has all of this glory. I'm going to repeat that, Lucifer looks to Christ, and says, “what do you have that I don't have?” In fact, Lucifer was more beautiful.

Sister Debbie's going to take us back to the Apis Bull. I like that.

Going down in these SR quotes, if you were to go to SR 14.1, Jesus has just been announced as having preeminence, Sovereign of Heaven, and then we're given a window into Lucifer's thoughts. He says, “I thought I was a favorite, I've been highly exalted, are not my garments light and beautiful. If my garments are light and beautiful, why should Christ be honored over me?” So, if Christ's garments were more light and more beautiful than Lucifer's, he can't make that argument, and the word **'yet'** implies that it's actually the other way around. Satan sees himself as more perfect in the physical form, more beautiful. And we know the rest of that story, I won't go further.

So, is everyone comfortable so far? I think people are saying yes. Lucifer sees nothing in Christ that should give Christ authority. I want to tie that into Sister Anna's study; people in the movement have come to me and say isn't it obvious that men should have preeminence over women, because they have muscles, they're stronger, they're taller. Can't you see that their physical attributes give them preeminence over women? I think more people have held to this perception than maybe willing to admit. If we can trace that argument, it started in heaven. It was the argument of Lucifer, it was the argument of the pharisees around Christ and the Sadducees, and it's the same sexist argument today, that the external gives preeminence. I would suggest Christ was resisting that before even creation. It's the spirit of the Apis Bull. So, we're not done with this topic, because it has implications, but we all need to get to this point together. We'll revisit it later in the camp meeting.

SR 13-16 - The Story of Redemption (1947)

1: The Fall of Lucifer

Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; **yet** Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. Lucifer was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone. {SR 13.1}

The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out His will and His purposes but would do nothing of Himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him. {SR 13.2}

Lucifer was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. **Yet** when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, he bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred. Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to His plans, while Lucifer was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of heaven, His power and authority to be the same as that of God Himself. Lucifer thought that he was himself a favorite in heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted, but this did not call forth from him gratitude and praise to his Creator. He aspired to the height of God Himself. He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God had shone especially upon him. He thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful? Why should Christ thus be honored before himself? {SR 14.1}

He left the immediate presence of the Father, dissatisfied and filled with envy against Jesus Christ. Concealing his real purposes, he assembled the angelic host. He introduced his subject, which was himself. As one aggrieved, he related the preference God had given Jesus to the neglect of himself. He told them that henceforth all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end. **For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor?** He stated to them that he had called them together to assure them that he no longer would submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs; that never would he again bow down to Christ; that he would take the honor upon himself which

should have been conferred upon him, and would be the commander of all who would submit to follow him and obey his voice. {SR 14.2}

There was contention among the angels. Lucifer and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. They were discontented and unhappy because they could not look into His unsearchable wisdom and ascertain His purposes in exalting His Son, and endowing Him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son. {SR 15.1}

Angels that were loyal and true sought to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator. They justified the act of God in conferring honor upon Christ, and with forcible reasoning sought to convince Lucifer that no less honor was his now than before the Father had proclaimed the honor which He had conferred upon His Son. They clearly set forth that Christ was the Son of God, existing with Him before the angels were created; and that **He had ever stood at the right hand of God, and His mild, loving authority had not heretofore been questioned**; and that He had given no commands but what it was joy for the heavenly host to execute. They urged that Christ's receiving special honor from the Father, in the presence of the angels, did not detract from the honor that Lucifer had heretofore received. The angels wept. They anxiously sought to move him to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice? {SR 15.2}

Lucifer refused to listen. And then he turned from the loyal and true angels, denouncing them as slaves. These angels, true to God, stood in amazement as they saw that Lucifer was successful in his effort to incite rebellion. He promised them a new and better government than they then had, in which all would be freedom. Great numbers signified their purpose to accept him as their leader and chief commander. As he saw his advances were met with success, he flattered himself that he should **yet** have all the angels on his side, and that he would be equal with God Himself, and his voice of authority would be heard in commanding the entire host of heaven. Again the loyal angels warned him, and assured him what must be the consequences if he persisted; that He who could create the angels could by His power overturn all their authority and in some signal manner punish their audacity and terrible rebellion. To think that an angel should resist the law of God which was as sacred as Himself! They warned the rebellious to **close their ears to Lucifer's deceptive reasonings**, and advised him and all who had been affected by him to **go to God and confess their wrong** for even admitting a thought of questioning His authority. {SR 16.1}

Many of Lucifer's sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels and repent of their dissatisfaction and be again received to the confidence of the Father and His dear Son. The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God's law, and if he should submit to servile obedience, his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far to go back, and he would brave the consequences, for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them. [THUS IT WAS THAT LUCIFER, "THE LIGHT-BEARER," THE SHARER OF GOD'S GLORY, THE ATTENDANT OF HIS THRONE, BY TRANSGRESSION BECAME SATAN, "THE ADVERSARY." --PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, P. 40.] {SR 16.2}

The loyal angels hastened speedily to the Son of God and acquainted Him with what was taking place among the angels. They found the Father in conference with His beloved Son, to determine the means by which, for the best good of the loyal angels, the assumed authority of Satan could be forever put down. The great God could at once have hurled this archdeceiver from heaven; but this was not His purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure strength and might with His own Son and His loyal angels. In this battle every angel would choose his own side and be manifested to all. It would not have been safe to suffer any who united with Satan in his rebellion to continue to occupy heaven. **They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God, and this is incurable.** If God had exercised His power to punish this chief rebel, disaffected angels would not have been manifested; hence, God took another course, for He would manifest distinctly to all the heavenly host His justice and His judgment. {SR 17.1}

Study on SR 13.2

The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. **The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself;** so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out His will and His purposes but would do nothing of Himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him. {SR 13.2}

And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. {Exodus 7:1 KJV}

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
{Matthew 23:12 KJV}

Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God. {Luke 3:38 KJV}

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. {Romans 8:14-17 KJV}

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:** {Philippians 2:3-6 KJV}

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. {John 17:3-4 KJV}

And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. {John 17:10-11 KJV}

For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. {Luke 22:27-30 KJV}