

The Way Up Is Down
TS004

Up Is Down
4086

I. Spiritual Laws: Natural Laws (e.g. Gravity)

A. Example of a *universal spiritual law*:

1. Matt. 23:12—For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
2. Compare Prov. 16:18, 18:12
3. The *first sin* in the universe: *pride* leading to *rebellion* (the *inner* before the *outer*)
 - a. In *heaven*, not on earth
 - b. By an *angel*, not a human being
4. *Pride* arose from *beauty* and *wisdom* imparted by the Creator
5. Described in Ezek. 28:1–19
 - a. vv. 1–10—Depict a *human being*
 - b. vv. 11–19—Depict an *angel*
6. Ezek. 28:11–17. Note the following:
 - a. v. 12—Exalted in *wisdom* and *beauty*
 - b. v. 13—Was in *Eden*
 - c. v. 14—Anointed as a *guardian cherub*
 - d. v. 15—A *created* being
 - e. v. 16—Widespread *trade* led to *violence*. “*Trade*” = literally “*going to and fro*” [compare: Lev. 19:16; Prov. 11:13]
7. Compare a *parallel description* in Isaiah 14:12–15
 - a. Note: “*I will*” five times, especially the *final one*: “*I will make myself like. . .*” i.e. *equality with God*
 - b. *God’s response*: to make a different kind of creature (*man*), ultimately destined to take Satan’s place

B. Gen. 2:7—Note the following:

1. *Personal names*, i.e., a *person-to-person relationship*
2. God *stooped* to create a man
3. God *imparted himself* to man
4. Man combines in himself the *highest* and the *lowest*
5. Through his *spirit* man relates to *God*—through his *body* man relates to the *world*

C. Two main features of the relationship

1. Fellowship
2. Dependence

II. God’s Purpose for Man (Gen. 1:26)

- A.** To represent
- B.** To rule
- C.** So long as man remained *dependent*, *he ruled*
- D.** Satan had *special enmity* against man for *two reasons*

1. He could attack *God's image in man*
 2. Man was destined to take the place from which Satan fell. Satan procured man's downfall through the same motivation that caused his own downfall.
- E. Gen. 3:1–5—Three phases of temptation
1. Question *God's Word* (to discredit)
 2. Question *God's goodness* (to discredit)
 3. Offer *equality with God* (= *pride*)

III. Seven Results of Adam's Fall

- A. Adam's direct fellowship with God was broken
- B. Adam's life source was cut off
- C. Adam became subject to *corruption*
- D. Adam became subject to *satanic harassment*
- E. Adam became a *slave* instead of a *king*
- F. Adam's realm became subject to *vanity*
- G. Adam became identified with Satan in the guilt of rebellion

IV. To Redeem Man, God Stooped Still Lower

- A. In the person of Christ, He identified Himself with the fallen race and expiated its guilt.
 1. *Identification and expiation—Christ with man* (Heb. 2:14–15; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18)
 2. *Identification and exaltation—the redeemed with Christ* (Eph. 2:6)
- B. In *eternity*, God will make these fallen, but redeemed, creatures *His demonstration to the whole universe that He exalts the lowest to the highest* (Eph 1:11–12, 2:7, 3:10)

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I. The *Eternal, Universal Law* (Matt. 23:12)

- Satan demonstrated the *negative*, Jesus the *positive*
- A. Phil. 2:5–8—The seven steps down
 1. Step 1: Made himself *nothing* (*emptied* himself)
 2. Step 2: Took the *form of a servant*
 3. Step 3: *Human likeness*
 4. Step 4: *Appearance of a man*
 5. Step 5: *A humble man*
 6. Step 6: Obedient to *death*
 7. Step 7: Death on a cross
 - B. Phil. 2:9–11—The seven steps up (Note the *therefore*)
 1. Step 1: *Exalted to the highest place*
 2. Step 2: *The name above every name*
 3. Step 3: *Every knee should bow*
 4. Step 4: In *heaven*
 5. Step 5: On *earth*
 6. Step 6: Under the *earth*

7. Step 7: *Every tongue confess Him as Lord*
- C. Phil. 2:5—We are required to *apply this principle* in our own lives (Note the second *therefore*)
 1. 1 Peter 2:21—*A pattern* for us to follow
 2. *Humility* is a *decision* of the *will*
 - a. James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5–6
 - b. Phillips: Wear the “overall” of humility
 3. Deut. 8:2–3—God humbles us only by creating circumstances in which we are challenged to humble ourselves

II. Two Phrases of Application

- A. To come to God initially
 1. Matt. 18:1–4—Pattern of a *child*
 2. 1 Cor. 1:26–29—The people *God chooses*
 3. Three common sources of *pride*
 - a. Wise
 - b. Influential
 - c. Noble
 4. Luke 18:18–25—*The camel* through the *needle’s eye*
 5. 2 Kings 5:1–15—The example of *Naaman*. Naaman tried to come to God in a *big way*.
- B. To progress in the spiritual life
 1. Matt. 20:20–28—The path to *leadership*
 2. 2 Cor. 12:7–10—The example of Paul
 3. John 3:30—The principle stated by *John the Baptist*
 - a. Moody’s example of gifts on shelves
 - b. We must apply the principle also in our relationship to other people
 - c. This aspect of the principle stated (Phil. 2:3; Eph. 5:21)
 4. Gen. 13:5–17—Example of *Abraham*
Abraham was the *senior*, but he let Lot have first choice. After this, God revealed Abraham’s inheritance to him.
 5. Gen. 33:1–4—Example of *Jacob*
Bowing seven times represents *humility worked by the Holy Spirit*.