

Dr. Sam Soleyn, Bizweni Church.

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GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH:

PART 1

Good morning! It is truly a pleasure to see so many of you to whom I have been introduced previously, and it is a great honour to be here with you again. Kobus and I have had the great privilege and blessing of labouring together in here in Africa, in England, in the United States. He has been very busy; he's been going through quite a lot, not news to you, in the last 3 years. I looked forward to the opportunity to be connected again with him physically because I treasure this grace. Kobus is one who is intentional in being in the purposes of God, in being in the centre of the things God is doing in the earth. And his connections as you well know, are throughout the world. And he is well respected and honoured by his colleagues all around the world. And so when I was going to be in the Cape, I largely had my program set, and was part of the 30th and last apostolic school of ministry with Thamo Naidoo, and Sagie Govender, who are dear and previous friends to me as well, and then I was coming here to Cape Town to be with a spiritual son of mine, Peter Snyman over at the Lighthouse. Apparently Peter let the cat out of the bag that I was going to be here. So I got a text early in the morning at home from Kobus. And the moment he said it I knew I was supposed to be with you.

Anyone who thinks that we are going to go through this life as servants and sons of God without being attended by many, many fiery trials; is one who does not understand the purpose of trials in preparing us to carry the glory of God. Trials uniquely, trials uniquely refine us. Refine us! So Pete would say, "Don't think it strange that you would suffer fiery trials of many kinds, because when you do, when you do, the character of Christ that is being formed, is exposed. And it is exposed in your behaviour. You get two types of tests in our lives. One test is like when we enter a new grade or class in school. The test from the beginning is meant to locate the common level of knowledge of the incoming class, and a teacher will give that test as a forensic examination to determine the common levels of the incoming students, the thresholds and the base lines. So he or she, the instructor, would know where to begin in the levels of instruction. After being instructed and before you're allowed to matriculate to the next stage, you will be given another test. And this test is designed to bring out of you what you have learned. It is the same with God. Because an untried vessel and unproven person can be corrupted by excessive resources, which many include resources of glory. And it is one of the reasons why we see the difference between those persons who have suffered in a timely fashion under the hand of God, and remain steadfast. Refined. Because when He comes and before He comes, He prepares us as a refiner of silver and as the launderer's soap. He cleans the garments and purifies us because the Lord will not be carried in inappropriate and filthy vessels. It's very easy in these moments of trials, extremely easy to look for a way out. And I have seen men and women of enormous potential over the decades of my life in walking with the Lord, seen men of women of enormous potential, who when the trials came, circumvented the intentions of God and found a way to promote themselves without going through the trials. That person is on a fool's errand. But if you will endure the suffering God will refine you and He is the One who decides when to promote you. When He does promote you, it is because He knows you can carry what He has prepared you to carry. An old friend of mine used to say, "I do not trust a man who does not walk with a limp." (laughter). Some of you may have heard it, Bob Mumford was that person. Because in

short, you will wrestle with God, and in fact the nature of Jacob was changed and it required a name change. His original name was Jacov, which means “heel grabber” quite literally one who grabs the heel of another. And it meant “supplanter”, someone to took the place or position of another. And he supplanted his brother; he supplanted his father by pretending to be somebody else to get the blessing. His uncle I think managed to supplant him (laughter). Because his uncle got 14 years out of him. But he had a date with destiny. He was trying to grab the heel of God, and that is never a good opportunity. There’s no opportunity to trying grabbing the heel of God to try to wrestle a blessing out of God. You will come away walking with a limp. But it reminded him that he had intimate contact with God. And he had a name change. From that point on the old supplanter changed his mindset from an orphan who grabbed everything he could, to a son who was indeed no less than the son of promise. Covenant with Abraham passed on through him to Judah and ultimately of course to Christ. So just in these passing remarks, sometimes you need a perspective from outside of your immediate sphere. I am happy to see the return of joy, energy, life to Kobus. And I congratulate you both publicly. I encourage you to continue to press into the leadership that provides those of you who are under his leadership, and I continue to encourage the city as a whole to recognise the grace of a man who has sought God for decades. From my own part I encourage Peter and the rest of those with whom I have a common interest as a spiritual father to attend the tables of Kobus, because I know him to be that kind of man. And again i say, fiery trials will separate, will thresh us on the inside, and divide between the activities of the soul and the activities of the spirit. And when you are refined, as Jesus said to Peter, “When you turn again, help your brothers.” This is the nature of our kingdom and our King. And that’s now what I came to talk to you about, that’s just free stuff.

We are in a global way, we are obsessed with the purposes of God in this generation. And to say ‘obsessed’ is not an overstatement because there is a recent even in USA that shocked the nation’s conscience. It happened on the Saturday probably a month ago in a place called Charlottesville, Virginia, where undercurrents of racism clashed in the streets of that city. The people of the nation were transfixed because it did not – it was pretended that such levels of division did not exist in the nation. I am personally convinced that this sitting president was given to the nation to show the nation its true condition. Right after that there was an eclipse of the sun across the pathway of the USA, it covered 12 states and 12 million people were directly in the path of the full eclipse. Now people outside of that band saw the eclipse as well. God said that He had put the lights in the firmament of heaven for signs and seasons. Now we do not need signs and seasons when we have the Holy Spirit ‘cos He reveals the mind of God to us. The signs in the heavens are meant for the unbelievers. Signs are for people who do not believe. People who believe don’t need a sign because they are in tune with the revealings of God through the Holy Spirit. But people who don’t believe need signs. Following those signs we now have had 3 major hurricanes come through the USA and one of them, the first of the 3 inundated the city of Houston, the 4th largest city in USA with uncounted billions of dollars’ worth of property damage, damage to infrastructure and the like. But part of the untold loss was that it affected such things as a dozen refineries of oil and a near panic spread in the cities adjacent to Houston. So God is speaking and people all over the world, and especially in the USA, which thinks of itself as the centre of the world, actually Texas thinks it’s the centre of the universe (laughter) because everyone knows that God is a Texan (laughter). It’s waking people up but when awakened we are not sure what they will chose to hear, how they choose to go forward, but clearly the leadership of the Church is quite interested in understanding the times. There was a CNN news report that following Charlottesville that asked the question, “Who can bring back peace and stability to the USA?” Because without peace and stability the economy cannot flourish. You have to know predictably how things.. what are the predictable factors. So it is a matter of huge importance to the USA. What group has the moral authority to bring the nation out of this deep traumatic division? The nation is at 50% on both sides. Terms of division. Now 50 to 50 is the deepest division that you can get. 98 to 2 is called a landslide in favour of the 98%. The divisions in the US are creating such a gap that the unthinkable is being whispered in the USA, which is the

collapse of the USA. And this is being thought and talked about in highest circles within the country. Now they understood this article was asking a question, who has the mandate to bring the nation together. It begged the question as to whether or not that could happen, but the people are nervous and they ask these question. They decided there are no leaders who can bring the nation together. And that is a lost cause. They also decided that judicially the Supreme Court was so thoroughly divided that its opinions now are entirely predictable along partisan lines. Interestingly the article said the Church cannot bring unity to the nation; the Evangelical church. Perhaps the largest gathering together constituency of people is the USA, but they cannot bring the nation together because 82% of Evangelicals voted for Mr Trump, and when the question was asked, "Where did these white supremacists, neo-Nazis; where did they come from?" Because they just seemed to emerge on the stage of the nation. And the shocking answer is, when they are not marching and wearing these signs of hatred, they are sitting in the pews on Sunday mornings. The corruption of the Church in America has broken wide open. And the filth that has been incubated in these ostensible 'houses of God' are now overflowing into the streets where it is entirely visible to all. And they are already saying that. I have had any number of conversations with people of influence who are not even whispering anymore that the Church is entirely compromised, because it is the primary support of Mr Trump. You know who came up as the only potential group who could lead the nation forward? It was the business community, because a number of business leaders who are on the President's council, President's economic council, began to resign after they accused him of being racist, at least not condemning racism. The business men and women began to resign from his council. And it picked up such speed that eventually all of his councils on economic collapsed. These are probably things you haven't heard much of or probably don't care about. But these are the realities. Someone said, and it might have been Kobus, when the USA sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. Now, so these are difficult times and knowing what God is saying in the earth is a compelling – is of compelling urgency. It can never be again business as usual. If the Church in the world, certainly if the Church in America has any relevance at all, it has to come back and align itself with the purposes of God. And in minimal it needs to rediscover the purposes of God, but there is nothing going on in the highest circles of Evangelicalism in the USA that indicates that they are even aware of how far they have drifted from the mandates of the Scriptures. So I look for the upshot of new initiatives, of fresh insights and anointings to come primarily from sources outside of the USA. Because this malaise is so profoundly distributed throughout the fabric of American church life, that even eclipses and hurricanes and social disorder and financial disruptions seem not able to dislodge the thinking of the Church from its entrenched positions. There are people who are quick to come out and talk about blood moons, who do not say a word about the convulsions going on within the nation because they have nothing to say, they are part of it. So I thought that I would take this time with you and reset, reset the understanding of divine purposes and divine protocols because God knows the end of every matter from the beginning. And if we are wise we will discover where we are going by the Spirit of revelation, bringing us back to the understandings which were original in the mind of God. If you re-connect to the end known from the beginning, then it doesn't matter who transitions or whether or not the transition in the sequences of humankind. You will be on track. And I say this in part because I believe; actually it is not that I believe, I have experienced the reality that the foremost voices speaking in the world today on behalf of the things of God are emerging outside of the USA. I think it odd that God would bring us here to the very ends of the earth as it were to join with the sound that is coming forth from heaven in the earth. And to make announcements and be part of the announcing of the purposes of God that He means to restore to us in the earth. So with that in mind I would like to begin by visiting again the book of Genesis chapter 1.

In Genesis chapter 1 it begins with this statement, "In the beginning, in the beginning God created the heavens, plural, and the earth, singular. And the first question I would ask is, "Why?" Hahaha. Why? When you say that people are shocked because we assume God is God and He can do

whatever he wants to. But the Scripture says it is the glory of God to conceal a matter and it's the honour of princes to find it out. It is the willingness to pursue God to find out, that allows us to have the spirit of understanding. The men of Issachar, one of the tribes of Israel, understood the times and they knew what Israel ought to do. The Scripture says that men of understanding will be able to determine the number of the beast and the meaning of the symbols locked up in God. So don't be afraid to ask "why?" In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and my question to God was, "why?" Because if you create anything, as the Creator, you have in mind that that thing is valuable to the expression of something that is important to You the Creator. Now you will immediately notice in the statement "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth", you will immediately notice that He created the earth, and He created the heavens. That seems simple enough until you unwrap it. And when you unwrap it you come up with neither the earth nor the heavens are eternal. Why not? Because they were created. God didn't just create the earth. In the same statement, in the beginning God created the earth; it also says that in that same beginning God created the heavens, which means that until He created them, they did not exist. The heavens did not exist. And they were created at the same time that God created the earth. Hmm? So why did He create the heavens, why did He create the earth? That demands that we understand that there were things in play before the creation of heaven and earth that are meant to be served by the creation of the heavens and the earth. So what would those things be? What could the examples of those things? Well let's look.

Come to Ephesians chapter 1 please and I will show you the primary reason why God created the heavens and the earth. They were to serve a purpose and because they are not eternal they have a beginning and they will have an end. When they have served their purpose, what God intended to achieve by creating them, is what will remain. And so the heavens will pass away at a point in time, and there will be a new heavens and there will be a new earth. But for now, we have the heavens as they were created, and it's not just the heavens that are immediately over the earth, it's all that are the heavens. Now we haven't yet touched the question of what was put in the one realm and what was put in the other realm, and how they relate to the eternal purposes of God. Are you with me? So let's look at what constitutes pre-existent purpose that would mandate the creation of the heavens and the earth. In Ephesians 1 Paul writes to the Church in Ephesus, beginning in Verse 3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* In this you see a relationship of Father and Son, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*, that would make Jesus Christ the Son. God and Father. He is the object. He's the Son. And the subject would be, the God and Father. So there's an identification of God that contains both Father and Son. But Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, Christ is Himself going to be defined as both heavenly and earthly, which is to say, *God, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*. So the earth, um the heavens were created to hold blessings that would become available to those who are in Christ. Right? *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*. So Christ is connected to the heavens and although we are connected to the earth, we are the recipients of heavenly blessings in Christ, in the heavenly places and Christ who is the Son of God, and God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. So the mist is beginning to become a little dissipated. Now, He, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He chose us in Him. The Father chose us in Christ, when? There were things going on before the foundations of the earth, right? I didn't sneak up and put this in your Bible last night (laughter). There it is in front of you, that there were pre-existent determinations by the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, that required Him placing blessings in the heavenlies to attend those who were upon the earth. Because Paul the author when he says "us" is on the earth, and "us" is inclusive of Paul the author, and the subject of his message, namely the Church in Ephesus. One of the things that we're finding to be curious at least is that in this season God is disturbing settled views that are inaccurate. And the push back is because some have not been willing to migrate. The condition that I describe to you in the USA of the Evangelical church, where 82% placed their hope in the government, these are not people who

are thinking about these Scriptures. They are thinking about how they can keep their economies going and ride out whatever storm, and have cast their lots, not with God, but with the Republican Party in the USA. So there is coming a time of severe, severe clash between the thing God is raising in the earth and the thing that is pretending that it is what God is raising in the earth. And the question is, where are we going to be found? Let me move quickly because I have already taken half an hour and there is much, much, much I wish to unpack if I am going to give you anything that you can actually hold on to. So God chose us in Christ *before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless* That's part of the reason that He created man, that we, when disclosed at the end of the age would be disclosed in the condition of holiness and blamelessness before God as manifestations of the love of God and as those who manifest the love of God. So holy and blameless, and not ends within themselves, there are requisite conditions for the inhabitation of God by a people. The actual display will be that of the love of God. Having *predestined us* So God meant for us to appear holy and blameless in love as part of the corporate man named Christ, because all of this was envisioned to be In Christ. Apart from Me you can do nothing. So we know that the reference 'Christ' here, is not the reference to a natural man, but to a spiritual man, because the spiritual man is a many-membered body comprised of the spirits of righteous men made perfect. So the intent of God as it is emerging for creating the heavens and the earth, was to host the economies of God to produce a certain result. This is why He is establishing creation, which consists of the heavens and the earth, right? God before the foundations of the world predestined us. If you wait until the thing has been fully brought forth, that is not predestination. There is a prior destination, meaning, we are going somewhere. And that somewhere has been pre-determined. 'Pre' is before; destination' is the location in time at which you will be found. So God already determined that the earth would be configured in a particular fashion, and that is having predestined us *to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself*. So whose sons are we going to be? Sons of God! How are we going to be sons of God? By assembling to Christ, to whom God is the God and Father. So if you are found in Christ, you are, God now may be called your Father. No man comes to the Father but by Me. So this configuration, the spiritual man known as Christ, will be brought forth in the earth, nurtured by the economies of heaven, according to the pre-determined purpose of God. When it's done, when creation yields the purposes for which creation was established, when it's done, it's not heaven that is important, or the heavens, it's not even the earth that is important. What is important is that there's sons through whom the love of God is perfectly manifested in time. So let's just read a few more verses. *Having predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself* The methodology is by being assembled to Christ. But the purpose is to be Sons of God and the intended that to be by adoption. Let's just speak briefly about adoption knowing you've been under Kobus' teachings for all these years, you have a very good sense of adoption. I just want to add a brief definition to adoption to the fullness you already have. And I will use an illustration from history. Julius Caesar the emperor of Rome, in the hey-day of his power, had a relationship with the Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra, who of the line of Ptolemy's of Egypt, actually Ptolemy's were Greek who took over Egypt as part of their, the break-up of the empire of Alexander the Great. So Julius Caesar and Cleopatra produced a son. So Julius Caesar actually had a son. But the question arose, who would succeed Julius when he died and they were already tensions in the Empire between such people as Mark Anthony and the other fellow, Pompe. So they knew that the issue of succession was very precarious. In fact there was a time of civil war that followed his death to determine succession. Julius knew that no Roman would consent to an Egyptian being on the throne of Rome. And if he had made the move to install the son of Cleopatra in his place, then he would be wiped out from history. So instead he took the son of his sister, whose name was Octavian. We know him as Augustus Caesar. It was in his reign that Jesus was born. He took the son of his sister, Octavian and adopted him, and by the process of adoption named him his heir over his natural son. The process of adoption in Roman times and for our purposes in the Scriptures is where you position another to inherit your estate, and that positioning make take place over and above your natural children. So the concept of adoption means to be positioned as the heir. You cannot, once you adopt a child, you

cannot un-adopt them. In the USA and in ancient law you are not allowed to reverse an adoption, and you are not allowed to remove an adopted son from your will, because unlike a natural son concerning whom you may claim is not really your son, the adoption of a son is an intentional act to create an heir. The court will not allow you to reverse that action. We were predestined for adoption as sons. So when the earth is finished, all those who have been adopted as sons are destined to be the heirs of God, and our primary inheritance as heirs – you must be a son before you can be an heir. Son qualifies you to be an heir. Before it is finished the thing that we are to inherit as the adopted sons of God, as positioned heirs of God, is to become partakers of His divine nature, His divine nature. That is the inheritance of sons. And this word *according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace*. In other words whose idea was this that you should be adopted as sons of God? Whose idea was this? Your Father! Your Father God himself. And He has declared that this is the thing in which He derives the maximum pleasure. In other words He is not just allowing you to be adopted as a son, it's not like the story of little orphan Annie, that this rich guy comes and adopts to have mercy on the poor kid. No. It is His pleasure. He created everything for His pleasure. All things were created by Him and for Him. And all of creation serves His pleasure. And the ultimate of His pleasure is to have adopted us sons, to have positioned us in Christ as the heirs of God. That is why we may say, "Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Your Name." It's a reference to our rejoicing in the glory of the inheritance that we have received. This is an inheritance that will not pass away. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will.* I have made known to you today the mystery of His will. Pauls said, "The grace to reveal this mystery was given to me." And the mystery was that in the person of Christ, the Jew and the Gentile might be reconciled to God as sons, that in the dispensation, in the giving out, the dispensing is to give out. It's not a reference to time, or to a temporal epoch, it is a reference to the giving out of grace, the distribution of grace. So when grace had been fully distributed in the earth, right? He might gather together in one all things in Christ, all which are in heaven and which are on the earth, so that in this Man, Christ Jesus, everything that God placed in the heavens, everything God placed in the earth, will be distributed by the act of God's grace to Christ, and by extension to those who are in Christ. Look at this, He might gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth in Him, in Christ. In Him we have obtained an inheritance. That is what you get when you are a son. There is an economy that functions by the sweat of your brow, and it related by seed, time and harvest, and that economy will always be in the earth as long as the earth remains, but there is a greater economy than by the sweat of your brow. It's called an inheritance. An inheritance is a gift from your father to his son. Son here is not a reference to a male or a female because God is not the Father of our flesh, Adam is. God is the Father of our spirit. And our Father has set by eternal decree, the order that all things that are in heaven and all things that are in the earth exist as an inheritance for the sons of God. So it's very important then that we understand what are the things in heaven and what are the things on earth that constitute the destined inheritance of the sons of God. *That we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, which is us needing to be redeemed, to the praise of His glory.* I wanted to read just one of the small piece; but I urge you to read the whole chapter. *Vs 20 These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,* So in the heavenly places Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Now what that means is, the right had is the place of the heir. The right hand is the heir apparent. He is the one who has the authority. Far above all principality and power, so that is a reference to the highest of the heavens because this 'principalities and powers' is a reference to the middle heavens. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of this darkness and the spiritual forces of evil in

the heavenly realms. So the heavens are layered. Paul speaks of it when he said, "I knew a man 14 years ago, whether I was in the body, out of the body, I can't tell you" but he was caught up to the 3rd heaven. So there is a highest of the heavens, the middle heavens and the lowest of the heavens. The highest of the heavens contains the throne of God. The middle heavens is where the demonic was cast out and from which place they operate in invisibility upon the earth. And then the lowest of the heavens is the firmament in which the sun, the moon and the stars are set. And even that is rich with the symbolism of the things God intends to unpack as the times come about. *Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* Remember from Hebrews 1 where he said, Hebrews 2, it is not to angels that He subjected the rule of the age to come, but somewhere it is written, "What is man that You are mindful of Him, or the son of man that You should visit him. You made him a little lower, in chronology of the heavens, you made him a little lower than the angels, but you crowned him with glory and honour. So we are designed to have the same authority as that which resides upon the throne of the highest heavens. We do not now see it, Hebrews goes on to say, but we do see Jesus who was once where we are, a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour. So when all that is in the heavens has been dealt out, and all that is in the earth has arisen and been fulfilled to connect the reality of the heavens to the earth, the place where that compendium of heaven and earth will be found is in a Man, in a spiritual Man, in a location in time called Zion. Because Zion is not a reference to the heavens, nor is Zion a representational of Mount Zion in Israel, the temple mountain. It is speaking about, metaphorically about a perfected people whose purpose in the earth is to carry the glory of God. In the process of matric, as you say, matriculation, to that place you're going to suffer fiery trials of many kinds, but when you do, your character will be refined to be consistent with that which is required to carry the glory of God with clean hands and a pure heart. And the description of that in its corporate form is a holy nation, and a royal .. served by a royal priesthood. How are we doing on time? Let me just wrap up this reading. Now go back to Genesis in the next reading, alright? *Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* This age had a beginning and it has an end. In the beginning of this age God created the heavens and the earth to serve these purposes that we are just peeking into them, jut lifting the corner of the sheet as it was, and peering into what God has in store for those who love Him. Which is not common for the eye to see or the ear to hear, but is being revealed to the Church through God's holy apostles and prophets. Those who have been appointed, tried and refined, and are competent to carry the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the grace for the administration of Zion. And He put, look at this, isn't this just absolutely just stunning, verse 22. *And He put all things in subjection under His feet, What level of things, all things from where? Heaven and earth, all things were put under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which Ephesians would say, chapter 5, the Church which is His body. Well this one says it too. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him His body is the fullness of Him. Why is that so? Because He is the Head, and we are the body. The body is to be filled with all of what is His; His nature, His character, His rule, His destination, His representation, all of who He is in creation is to fill His body which is the Church, because His body is the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* This is the grace you've been given. We'll try to unpack a bit more of this as we attempt to cast vision as you emerge out of this dark night of trial. Amen.