

## THE HISTORY OF MY LIFE

I was born a slave, in Prince William Co., Virginia, May 8, 1853.

In 1860, when it became known that there would be “war” between the North and the South. all slave s that were above the average in intelligence were, as fast as possible, sold to the extreme Southern States, because the State of Virginia was supposed to be the battle field on which the rebellion would be fought out.

My mother was what was known as a “house servant,” and with the assistance of her young mistresses learned to read, and write, and in turn taught me how to read in a *John Comly Speller*. Because of this fact, we were doomed to be sold as far South as wind and water would take us.

My master’s name was Doctor James McCrea, and like most slave holders, especially doctors, he was a drunkard. It hurt him so much to think that there was a possibility of losing his slaves, “he got on a drunk,” and made such a debt that my mother and myself had to be sold ahead of the time of sending slaves South.

General Robert E. Lee, being a cousin of my master, and not wanting my mother and myself sold to an out sider, bought us in on the day of the sale. We were sold from the block at the Court House in Warrenton, Virginia in the summer of 1860.

The start that my moth er gave me enabled me, with two exceptions, to be in a class by myself, when in the spring of 1864, the Government opened schools for colored children in Washington, D. C., out of which school I received all of the education my

mother was able to give me, so that I am what I am, because of my mother, and for her sake I have tried to make good.

Yours in Christ,

Samuel R. Cassius

# I.

## “WHAT GOD CREATED”

In discussing any question the proper thing to do is to start at the bottom and work up. And as the “Negro” is the subject of this book it would be well to first get a base for his origin. Because as a simple Christian and a firm believer in the whole Bible as God’s revealed will to man, I believe all the Bible was written by holy men who were inspired of God to write the very things that are in it. Some of these things are profitable for doctrine, some for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished (or prepared) unto every good work. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

By faith God created the heavens, and the earth, and the firmament, the sun, moon and stars, and placed them in the midst of the firmament. By the same power he created the grass, herbs bearing seed, with which they were to reproduce themselves from season to season. Then he created the trees that bear fruit, with their seed in the fruit by which they could reproduce themselves. All of these things were made to exist before they were placed in the earth, because there was no life in the earth, because God had not caused it to rain; hence by faith God perfected all vegetable and plant life by the faith that was in Him. Then when he saw that they were good (or perfect) He placed them in the earth to fill the place in life that he had caused them to come into existence for. And when God saw that all these things were just as he be-

lieved they should be He caused a mist to go up from the earth and water the whole face of the ground. Gen. 2:4, 7.

In the first chapter of Genesis we are told what God did by faith. In the second chapter we are told how he did it, and the purpose for which each thing was created. Every thing that God created He meant to fill some purpose in this world, and no place else. Therefore every created thing was made to sustain some kind or form of earthly life. The grass, herbs and fruits were created to sustain the insects, creeping things, fowls of the air, beasts of the earth, and the cattle, all after their kind, and in pairs, or male and female.

All of these things according to their several forms of creation, from the grass, herbs, and fruits, were made to sustain some form of earthly life, and in some way every created thing, except the sun, moon, stars, and earth, which were created in the singular and not the plural. Hence they will remain just as long as time remains, then with all other created things they will die.

But the animated things of life, such as the grass, herbs, fruits and all manner of tree life that God created will live, grow, die, and return to the earth to which they owe their lives. And through their seed, and laws of reproduction, will continue to reproduce their kinds as long as there is water to nourish the earth and cause their seeds to germinate, and the living things to survive. For water is the life of all created things of the earth.

## II. “MAN AND WOMAN”

Let us make man. How? In our image and after our likeness. Gen. 1:26. God made but one man. He did not create the man, because you cannot create a thing out of something that is. The word “create” carries with it the fact that the thing had no previous existence in another form. God made man out of something that already was, and like himself who already was. Therefore God took that which was and worked it over to fit the idea that was in his mind. And besides, if God had created the man he would have had no pre-eminence over the beast. Man was made lower than the angels because the angels were ministering spirits of God. How they became God’s ministering spirits, or when they became such, I consider is none of my business.

In the first place angels had no power aside from ministering to God. They were beyond (except those angels that followed Satan in his rebellion against God) hate, strife, malice and discontent. They were neither male nor female. They were angels of light, ministering spirits of God.

Let us make man, and let him have dominion over every created thing upon the earth. God made man just like Himself, in His own image. In form and stature, with arms, legs, body, and in every way man’s image was God’s own self, formed in the earth. But the body without the spirit was dead.

God did not say to the lifeless body, “Be thou alive.” If he had, that form or image of God would have only been a living *creative*. But God combined *faith* and *works*, and breathed into that lifeless clay the breath of life. And man became “a living *soul*,” endowed with the same everlasting life that was in God his Maker. If man had been content to live the life that God breathed into him there never would have been but that one man on earth. There never would have been any time, past or present. Man would have ruled the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, throughout all eternity, but God gave man a mind so that he could think and reason, just as God thought and reasoned. Therefore in his dealings with the created things of God, he saw that he was alone, and everything possessed a companion but himself.

Now keep this in mind, man’s body was of the earth and was earthy. And while he had the mind and life of God in that body of clay, he found in himself a law of the earth striving against the law of his mind. Therefore, God who made man, and gave him his mind, saw that man had begun in his mind to “*covet*” and envy the beasts because they had mates, and could produce their kind. Seeing then the trend of man’s mind, and not wishing that man should fall, God said: “It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helpmeet.”

Being free from sin, and pain, and sorrow, sickness or death, there is no telling how long the man and his wife lived in the Paradise that God Himself planted for them. But we do know that God put upon the man and the woman a limitation. For God being all-wise, and even the discerner of the thoughts of man, warned the man of what he must not do, for, saith he: “The day that thou eat of it, you shall surely die.” We speak lightly of that fruit, calling it an apple, but what it was we do not know. But we do know that Satan, that Old Serpent that is called the Devil,

found in the man's wife a weakness that was not in the man, for the woman did not come of the will of God, but of the will of man. God made man for his glory, but the woman was the glory of man.

### III. “NAKED”

“And they were both *naked*, the *man*; and his *wife* and were not ashamed.” Gen. 2:25.

We come now to the most complex subject of all the scripture, the fall of man. The how, and the why, of the fall is what seems to give the world the greatest cause for thought. They say that it was the devil that tempted the man’s wife, but what was the nature of the temptation, and why it was that they could not see their naked condition, just as well before they sinned as they could after their sin is not told.

We are told in the scripture that that old serpent that is called the devil, or Satan, tempted the woman. It seems from the reading of the narrative that he said to the woman, “Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden?” Gen. 3:1. But the woman said, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” Gen. 3:2-4.

Now if God used the word “touch” in his command to the man there fails to be any record of it. This presumption on the part of the woman reveals to Satan the weak point in her defense, which he did not fail to take advantage of, for he said, God doth



know that ye shall not die, but your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good from evil.

Therefore she, seeing that the fruit was pleasant to the eye, and something to be desired, took the fruit, and found it pleasant to the taste. She gave some of it to her husband, and he did eat of it, and immediately their eyes were opened, and they saw that they were naked. Gen. 3:5-7.

Here is where the spiritual life of the man and the woman ended, and “immortality” was swallowed up in “death” with man becoming “mortal.” Here is where the will of God was displaced by the will of the Flesh, and the Carnal Mind overcame the Spiritual. For, saith the Scripture, God had said if you disobey my command you shall surely die. But there was another tree in the garden that bore fruit, the tree of Life. They had never needed to eat of that tree because they possessed all life, and even if they had eaten of it nothing could be gained, but there was knowledge that God possessed that the man did not need, and that was to know the power of *Good*, and *Evil*.

He had endless life, and peace and everything he saw was good, and as long as he had the good he did not even need to know that there was such a state of mind or body as evil. The beast of the field, the fowls of the air, and every living creature that God had created was at peace with man. All was love, peace and happiness. And just as long as man allowed them to do so, every living creature followed the instincts of the life it was created for, and lived as God had intended it should live. Left to themselves every kind of beast, bird, or fowl, and cattle, will mingle, but they will not mix.

There is no sin among the created living creatures of the earth for in their creation, their boundaries were set by their creator; they will not confuse their blood. Not so with man. He was made like God, his Maker, and given the freedom of thought and action. He sees in everything something he can subdue to the will of his flesh. Everything is naked to his eyes. He lusts, plans, and plots, to his own destruction. He is not an angel, nor a beast, but a Godlike ravaging maniac, like the Devil. He is seeking whom and what he may devour.

*That Old Serpent that is called the Devil.* I have been asked, "Where did the Devil come from?" My answer is, he came from Heaven. Jesus says: "I saw Satan, like lightning, fall from Heaven." Luke 10:18. And John says: "There was war in Heaven." Rev. 12:7-8.

Jude says: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude: 6th verse, read also 9th verse.

Paul says: "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Eph. 2:2.

I am sure after reading the above Scriptures you will agree with me, that the war in Heaven was after God had created the heavens and the earth, and that Satan and a third part of the angels were cast out. He became the prince and power of the air, and by the great power he had in Heaven, was able to deceive the very elect, which, to my mind, accounts for his presence in the Garden of Eden and his power to deceive the woman, and

through her bring death into the world by causing man to be beguiled by the woman, so that when they lost their innocence in the spirit, they saw themselves in the flesh and became ashamed for they saw they were naked.

## IV. “THE FALL”

“*What Hast Thou Done?* Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?” The man said, “the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat.”

The woman put the blame on the serpent, and God pronounced a judgment on the serpent, and a penalty on the woman. Her conception was to be increased and she was to have in the bearing of children, pain and sorrow, and in spite of that sorrow and, pain, her desire was to be to her husband, and he was to rule over her.

And because the man listened to the woman, God cursed the earth for the man's sake. In sorrow he should eat of the earth all the days of his life, and that as he came from the earth, he should return to it again. And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Then the Lord made coats of skins and put them on Adam and his wife, instead of the fig leaves they had made, and sent them out of the Garden of Eden, to become tillers of the ground. And God placed at the entrance of the garden an angel with a flaming sword, to keep the man and the woman from eating of the tree of life. Gen. 3:1-24.

Cain was the first child born in the world outside of the Garden of Eden. If there were children born in the Garden of Eden

they are not mentioned, but if there were such children, they would have been born of the will of God, and not of the will of the flesh.

I honestly believe that the Sons of God, spoken of in Gen. 6:2, are the children that were born unto the man and the woman while they lived the spiritual life of God in the Garden of Eden, and that there were daughters born also. These children would not need to be named because it was not possible for them to die. There need be no record of their birth, or of the time of their conception. Neither would they be mentioned as sons and daughters because they would have come of the will of God, and not of the will of the man.

This idea will also account for the reason that in that age of the world, the female did not figure by name in the genealogy of a family. And it came to pass that “the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives, of all which they chose.” Gen. 6:2.

Of one thing you may rest assured, the sons of God were not of the seed of Adam and Eve through the line of Seth, because we can trace them to Noah, and we are equally sure that they did not come through the line of Cain.

Then it must be that the sons of God were born of the man of God and the *woman* of *man*. We might go a step further and say that Cain’s wife was the daughter of the *man* and his *wife*, while they walked not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

It must be borne in mind that men did not court women then as they do now, nor did the women expect it. They saw them, wanted them, and took them, and just as many of them as they

wanted, if they could get them. It was these mismated unions that started violence and corruption in the world. How long the sons of God lived is not mentioned, but as the sons of God they dropped out, and if spoken of again, it is after this manner: “And the Lord said, ‘My *spirit* shall not always strive with man, for that he also is of *flesh*. Yet, his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.’” Gen. 6:1-4.

God set the destruction of the violence and corruption of those sons of God, those giants who saw what they wanted and took it just as they pleased, and because of their success and seeming immunity, the entire human family, except Noah and his family, entered into all manner of violence and corruption until there was none but Noah and his family, eight persons in all, *that kept themselves pure*. These eight, by keeping themselves unspotted from the violence and corruption of the world, could trace their genealogy back to Adam, and through that line it still remains a fact that of one blood had God created all nations of men for to dwell upon the face of all the earth.

When the flood came it wiped out Cain and the sons of God, and all their violence and corruption from the earth. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were saved from death, just as you and I will be saved from death if we accept God’s word and obey his commands, for he has said: “I will never leave you nor forsake you, but out of every trial will find a way of escape for you.”

You have, I am sure, read the story of how, after one hundred and fifty days of floating in the midst of death, God brought that one family out of death into the life he had promised them, if they would obey him. So will God deliver the American Negro

out from under the stigma of his present condition, if he will trust God and do His will.

We are told that after the flood the whole earth was of one language and one speech, and that in the process of time they left the East, and found a great plain in the “Land of Shinar,” and that they settled there and decided to build a city, the central attraction of which was to be a tower high enough to reach to heaven, so that if God tried again to destroy the world by water, they could go up into their tower, and thus escape death. In order to stop them, God confused their language so that they could not understand each other.

We now come to the part of the world’s history where the people that the American nation has dubbed as Negroes, begin the work of building up the two mighty nations that have civilized the world, *Egypt* and *Ethiopia*.

I might add a conclusive word by saying that we are at this moment standing with bated breath to see what great things will develop from the findings of the tomb of King “Tut,” that is showing to the world how great a nation the Egyptians were, more than 3,000 years ago.

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