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On Virtue, Revelation, and the Meaning of Genesis Chapter One

Abstract

Many people believe that the bible is founded on a lie. Some believe this because the scientific evidence supports Man's gradual evolution as opposed to his discrete creation in one day under creationism. Others believe this because the order of the creation of the universe in Genesis chapter one contradicts scientific evidence. Not having heard of an allegorical interpretation and having assumed that there is only a literal interpretation, many dismiss the authority of the bible. This paper asserts that Genesis one is an allegory about virtue and states some of the meaning of that allegory. More specifically, each day in Genesis corresponds to a particular virtue.

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Table of Contents

Abstract	2
Copyright and License Regarding Use	3
Foreword.....	6
Acknowledgments	7
Outline of Content.....	8
Background Scriptural References.....	8
Preface	8
Introduction	8
Body	8
Conclusion	8
Background Scriptural References for Each Topic [Optional].....	9
Angel: Fortitude.....	9
Angel: Faith.....	9
Angel: Wisdom	9
Angel: Courage.....	9
Angel: Hope	9
Angel: Patience	9
Angel: Charity.....	9
Seal: Charity	10
Seal: Fortitude.....	10
Seal: Wisdom.....	10
Seal: Courage.....	10
Seal: Faith.....	10
Seal: Hope	10
Seal: Patience	11
Genesis: Fortitude	11
Genesis: Charity	11
Genesis: Wisdom	12
Genesis: Hope.....	13
Genesis: Patience.....	13
Genesis: Courage	13

Genesis: Faith	14
Introduction	16
Seven Virtues in Scripture with Explanation	16
Virtue and Seven Angels in Revelation	16
Fortitude	16
Faith	17
Wisdom	18
Courage	18
Hope	19
Patience	20
Charity	20
Virtue and Seven Seals in Revelation	21
Charity	21
Fortitude	21
Wisdom	21
Courage	22
Faith	22
Hope	22
Patience	22
Virtue and Seven Days in Genesis	23
Fortitude	23
Charity	23
Wisdom	23
Hope	24
Patience	25
Courage	26
Faith	26
Conclusion	27

Foreword

If I just put in my interpretation of what each day in Genesis chapter one means, a reader may say to himself, “Hmmm, that’s possible”, and then put the bible down and cease to think about it. I want to show that the interpretation itself is correct, and to demonstrate that, I require other, confirming passages as evidence, which are scattered throughout the bible. Each day in Genesis regards a particular virtue, the same virtues that are angels in revelation: Fortitude, charity, wisdom, hope, patience, courage, and faith. However, the order in Genesis is different than in Revelation. In addition to seven days and seven angels, there are seven seals which concern the seven holy spirits, each seal corresponding to one the spirits, again but in a different order, this time going as follows: charity, fortitude, wisdom, courage, faith, hope, and then patience. It’s important for the reader to see the deliberate, unlying order of seven angels each talking about a virtue in a very systematic way. Similarly, at least the first four seals deal with the possessors of virtue. For clarity’s sake, I believe dealing with all the angels first, then all the seals, and then all the days in Genesis to be best.

However to get the “most bang for your buck”, I find that certain interpretations are best served by including supporting passages from the Old and New Testaments. I’ve tried to stay away from New Testament letters and instead rely more on the Old Testament and the gospels.

To keep this growing project from complete chaos, I constructed an outline of angels in revelation, then seals, then passages that serve as stepping-stones for Genesis, and I grouped the Old and New Testament passages under the title of the passage they support in the approximate order I want to use them in.

The main Revelation text that I have quoted is from Brad Haugaard’s translation of the New Testament of the King James bible, which I refer to as KJH (King James Haugaard), following Steve Kolk’s acronym at <http://www.bibleworks.com/forums/archive/index.php/t-567.html>

An open source version of this text is available online under a different acronym and title at <http://www.sacklunch.net/rkjv/>

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Outline of Content

Background Scriptural References

- Passages mostly from the Old Testament, Gospels, and Revelation that will be quoted or referenced by content but are too long to include in the text without distracting the reader.

Preface

- First chapter of Revelation as a preface to Revelation chapter two, where the body of the paper starts.

Introduction

- God is the beginning and the end.
- God is Love.
- Jesus's words unlock the Old Testament.

Body

- Each angel in the order of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 followed by an explanation that may or may not contain more citations from the OT or the gospel.
- Each seal in the order of Revelation chapters 6 and 8 followed by an explanation that may or may contain more citations from the OT or the gospel.
- Each day in genesis, followed by an explanation of that day's meaning that utilizes information from the explanations for the angels and the seals. More citations from the Gospel and the Old Testament are utilized if helpful to explain the passage.

Conclusion

- Assertion that the bible was founded on a lie was just discredited; It was founded on the truth.
- Taken from the gospel, Jesus's words were necessary to unlock the truth of what genesis 1 meant.
- Love is composed of the seven spirits of the virtues discussed.
- The connections between God's nature in the beginning (genesis 1) and the end (revelation) fulfill the statement that God is the beginning and the end (He's still Love!).

Background Scriptural References for Each Topic [Optional]

This section contains background scriptural references. If you are comfortable with the bible, pressed for time, or more interested in reading new content, this section may be omitted. If you want to have more complete background for many of the quotations used in the paper and have time, feel free to continue reading from here.

Angel: Fortitude

Angel: Faith

Angel: Wisdom

Angel: Courage

“His delight will be in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by the sight of his eyes, neither decide by the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and decide with equity for the humble of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.” (Isaiah 11:3-4, NHEB)

“The Lord has said to me: You are my son, this day have I begotten you.” (Psalm 2:7, CPDV)

“Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall rule them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” (Psalm 2:8-9, NHEB).

Angel: Hope

Angel: Patience

Angel: Charity

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.” (Matt 6:19-21, ASV)

“The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hid in the field, which a man having found has hid, and for the joy of it goes and sells all whatever he has, and buys that field.” (Matt 13:44, Darby)

““Again, you have heard that it was said to the ancients, `Thou shalt not swear falsely, but shalt perform thy vows to the Lord.' But I tell you not to swear at all; neither by Heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool under His feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the City of the Great King.” (Matt 5:33-35, Weymouth)

“Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears by it, and by all that is on it. And whoever will have sworn by the temple, swears by it, and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God, and by him who sits upon it.”(Matt 23:20-22, CPDV)

Seal: Charity

Seal: Fortitude

“Do not think that I came to send peace on the earth. I did not come to send peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man at odds against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes will be those of his own household.” (Matt 10:34-36, NHEB)

Seal: Wisdom

“The disciples came to the other side and had forgotten to take bread. Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” They reasoned among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.” Jesus, perceiving it, said, “Why do you reason among yourselves, you of little faith, ‘because you have brought no bread?’ ” “Don’t you yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up? ” “Nor the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? ” “How is it that you don’t perceive that I didn’t speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he didn’t tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”(Matt 16:5-12, WEB)

“He spoke another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of fine wheat flour, until it was entirely leavened.”(Matt 13:33, CPDV)

Seal: Courage

Seal: Faith

Seal: Hope

“For there shall be a day of Jehovah of hosts upon everything proud and lofty, and upon everything lifted up, and it shall be brought low; and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan; and upon all the lofty mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up; and upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall; and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant works of art. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day: and the idols shall utterly pass away. And they shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he shall arise to terrify the earth.”(Isaiah 2:12-19, Darby)

Seal: Patience

Genesis: Fortitude

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:1-5, AKJV)

“ ‘Do you think that I have come to give peace in the earth? I tell you, no, but rather division. For from now on, there will be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against her mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.’ ” (Luke 12:51-53, WEB)

Genesis: Charity

“ ‘But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Before him all the nations will be gathered, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will tell those on his right hand, ‘Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to me.’ ” Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?’ ” The King will answer them, ‘Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ ” Then he will say also to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you didn’t give me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and you didn’t take me in; naked, and you didn’t clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ ” Then they will also answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and didn’t help you?’ ” Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Most certainly I tell you, because you didn’t do it to one of the least of these, you didn’t do it to me.’ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’ ” (Matt 25: 31-46, WEB)

“One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here. I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and those who dwell in the earth were made drunken with the wine of her sexual immorality.” (Rev 17:1-2, NHEB)

“And he says to me, The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” (Rev 17:15, Godbey)

“Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him? That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?” (Isaiah 63:11-12, AKJV)

Genesis: Wisdom

“Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth existed. When there were no depths, I was born, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was born; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he set a circle on the surface of the deep, when he established the clouds above, when the springs of the deep became strong, when he gave to the sea its boundary, that the waters should not violate his commandment, when he marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was the craftsman by his side. I was a delight day by day, always rejoicing before him, Rejoicing in his whole world. My delight was with the sons of men.” (Prov 8:22-31, WEB)

“Hear you therefore the parable of the sower.”(Matt 13:18, AKJV)

“When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes, and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown by the roadside. 20 And what was sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word, and immediately with joy receives it; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. And what was sown among the thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. And what was sown on the good ground, this is he who hears the word, and understands it, who truly bears fruit, and brings forth, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.” (Matt 13: 19-23, NHEB)

“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, DRC)

“Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. “ (John 14:5-6, NHEB)

“ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer. Every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch can’t bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me

you can do nothing. If a man doesn't remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you. "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples." (John 15:1-8, WEB)

"From his ways is the backslider in heart filled, And a good man—from his fruits." (Proverbs 14:14, YLT)

Genesis: Hope

"Jesus therefore said to them, "Yet a little while the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, that darkness does not overtake you. He who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light." Jesus said these things, and he departed and hid himself from them. " (John 12: 35-36, NHEB)

"Now when he heard that John was delivered up, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, he came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them light has dawned." (Matt 4:12-16, NHEB)

"You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, for the works which the Father gave me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify about me, that the Father has sent me. " (John 5:33-36, NHEB)

"And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, said the LORD, for because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son: (Gen 22:15-16, AKJV), "that blessing I bless thee, and multiplying I multiply thy seed as stars of the heavens, and as sand which is on the sea-shore; and thy seed doth possess the gate of his enemies; and blessed themselves in thy seed have all nations of the earth, because that thou hast hearkened to My voice.' "(Gen 22:17-18, YLT)

Genesis: Patience

"Yonder is the great and wide sea: therein are moving things innumerable, living creatures small and great." (Ps 104:25, Darby)

"There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom you have made to play therein."(Ps 104:26, AKJV)

Genesis: Courage

Genesis: Faith

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16, AKJV)

“At that time, Jesus answered, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son, except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and he to whom the Son desires to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." “ (Matt 11:25-30, NHEB)

Preface Text to Seven Virtues in Revelation [Optional]

Like the background scripture section, this section may also be omitted though it may be helpful to serve as background as the paper spends time on chapter two of revelation. Below is the text of the first chapter of revelation from Brad Haugaard's bible translation:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show to his servants the things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent his angel to make it known to his servant John: Who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and heed those things which are written in it: for the time is at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace be to you, and peace, from him who is, and who was, and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, and the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us, and freed us from our sins by his own blood, And has made us a kingdom, and priests to his God and Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he comes with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, even those who pierced him: and all families of the earth shall mourn because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am Alpha and Omega, says the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

I, John, your brother and companion in the tribulation, and kingdom, and endurance which are ours in Jesus, was on the island that is called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying,

What you see, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamum, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.

And I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands; And in the midst of the seven lampstands, one like a Son of man, clothed with a garment down to his feet, and around his breast a golden girdle. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were like a flame of fire; And his feet like burnished bronze, as if they glowed in a furnace; and his voice like the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword: and his face was like the sun shining at full strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as if dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying to me, Do not fear; I am the first and the last, The one who lives; I was dead, and, behold, I am alive forevermore, and possess the keys of death and of Hades. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Rev 1: 1-20, KJH)

Introduction

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, beginning and end, saith the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is coming--the Almighty.”(Rev 1:8, YLT)

“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”(1John 4:8, NHEB)

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world.” (Matt 13:35, DRC)

Most people that the Bible is founded on a lie. They never hear a figurative interpretation, assume that the literal interpretation is the only one, and then side with scientific evidence against the literal interpretation. However, genesis chapter one is an allegory. Since God is the Alpha and the Omega, we should be able to find him at the beginning and the end. Since examining the beginning has not been fruitful, we'll go to the end, Revelation, in hopes that it will inform the beginning! Since God is love, virtue should be very near his nature. Along the way, Jesus's words as taken from the gospels will reveal what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.

Seven Virtues in Scripture with Explanation

Virtue and Seven Angels in Revelation

To compile the list of virtues, the examination begins in Revelation. Each of the seven angels is a virtue which is talked about in a very systematic way: the first line is given on how to identify someone with that particular virtue, then a line or two of short description of the virtue, then a line on the vulnerability point of people having that virtue, then information on how to buttress that vulnerability point, and finally a promise of a reward if certain conditions are met.

Fortitude

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands;

I know your works, and your labour, and your patience, and how you cannot bear those who are evil, and how you have tested those who say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them to be liars; And how you have persevered, and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary. Yet I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen, and repent, and do the works you did at first; or else I will come to you, and will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But this you have in your favour, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; To him who overcomes I will give the right to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Rev 2: 1-7, KJH)

The stars are the angels and the angels are virtues. How do you hold the seven virtues in your hand? Scripture can be held in one's hand. The churches are people who are temples of God; those are the people a person of fortitude walks around with. The angel of Ephesus is fortitude, "I know your works, and your labour, and your patience, and how you cannot bear those who are evil, and how you have tested those who say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them to be liars; And how you have persevered, and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary." (Rev 2: 2-3, KJH) The person of fortitude is like a fort that evil-doers pound on but the strong person holds up under assault and does not grow weary. The next point is the vulnerability of fortitude: "Yet I have this against you, that you have left your first love." (Rev 2: 4, KJH) The man of fortitude holds up under siege but in time develops a hard heart from being under attack. But if you have a hard heart, the enemy is on the inside as well as the outside so what is the point of a fort? Next, how to buttress the vulnerability of fortitude is given, "Remember, then, whence thou hast fallen, and reform, and the first works do; and if not, I come to thee quickly, and will remove thy lamp-stand from its place--if thou mayest not reform;" (Rev 2:6, KJH). Then it says, "but this thou hast, that thou dost hate the works of the Nicolaitans, that I also hate. He who is having an ear--let him hear what the Spirit saith to the assemblies: To him who is overcoming--I will give to him to eat of the tree of life that is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Rev 2:7, KJH)

Faith

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These are the words of him who is the first and the last, who was dead, and came to life;

I know your tribulation and your poverty, (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you shall have tribulation ten days: be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." (Rev 2: 8-11, KJH)

This angel is faith. I have heard this passage used to defame Jews, so I will address this misuse then move on. There are those who are Jews, and there is another distinct group, Danites, who claim to be Jews, but are not.¹

¹ In Abraham's blessing, "Judah is a lion's whelp;..." (Gen 49:9a, ASV), while "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that bites the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward" (Gen 49:17, AKJV), yet in Moses's blessing, "And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan." (Deut 33:22, AKJV) The symbolism of Judah in the Bible is often representing a person of authority who submits to authority, and Abraham identifies him as the lion's whelp. In contrast Dan, whose symbol is the snake, an animal that carries negative connotations in the bible, is the wicked person, a person who is closed to Love and who goes around punishing people: "Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel." (Gen 49:16, AKJV) So why then does Moses use the symbol of the lion's whelp in his blessing for Dan, the snake? Moses's blessing addresses how to befriend or deal with certain types of people. One of the main lies that the wicked person (a Danite) tells is "I submit to authority" but in reality he does not.

The Danites, the wicked, are instruments of the devil and slander the person of faith. And the vulnerability point of faith is fear of suffering. This is buttressed by God's promise to give the crown of life for those faithful unto death.

Wisdom

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write; These are the words of him who has the sharp sword with two edges;

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is: and that you hold fast to my name, and have not denied my faith, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, that they might eat things sacrificed to idols, and commit sexual immorality. In the same way you also have those who hold to the teachings of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I will come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no man knows except him who receives it.” (Rev 2:12-17, KJH)

The angel of the church of Pergamum is wisdom and the person who has wisdom has a sharp tongue. Wisdom points out hypocrisy, the difference between what one says and what one does. It's a double-edged sword because it cuts both ways: if a person is pointing out hypocrisy, “Oh those hypocrites!” and is a hypocrite him or herself then he implicates himself by his own tongue.

The vulnerability of wisdom is false teaching, sexual immorality, and eating food sacrificed to idols. “I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is: and that you hold fast to my name, and have not denied my faith, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, that they might eat things sacrificed to idols, and commit sexual immorality. In the same way you also have those who hold to the teachings of the Nicolaitans.” (Rev 2:13-15, KJH) A command is given: “Therefore repent; or else I will come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” (Rev 2:16, KJH) The reward for wisdom is given “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no man knows except him who receives it.” (Rev 2:17, KJH)

Courage

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bonze;

I know your works, and your love, and faith, and service, and perseverance, and that your recent works are greater than those you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you tolerate

that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and teaches and beguiles my servants to commit sexual immorality, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent; but she refuses to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of anguish, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. And I will strike her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he who searches minds and hearts: and I will give to every one of you as your deeds deserve. But I say to you, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not hold to this teaching, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they call them; I will put upon you no other burden; Only that you hold fast to what you have, until I come. And he who overcomes, and does my will to the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; And he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as when the vessels of a potter are broken to pieces: just as I received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev 2:18-29, KJH)

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bonze; “ (Rev 2:18, KJH) The person of courage has a fiery look in the eye and stands firm. The man of courage is vulnerable to adultery. It mentions repent of her doings; why her doings? Because she did them to get the man of courage; he needs to admit he is not worth it. Why her children? Imagine if mom was a liar and dad was an adulterer. What’s the child going to think of mom and dad and his own creation – while the community speaks well of dad- it would jade the child.

Isaiah speaks of the rod of his mouth (Isaiah 11:3-4) and in psalm 2 it talks about the nations being one’s heritage and breaking with a rod of iron: “The Lord has said to me: You are my son, this day have I begotten you.”(Psalm 2:7, CPDV) “Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall rule them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” (Psalm 2:8-9, NHEB). Again about ruling the nations with a rod of iron.

Hope

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write; These are the words of him who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;

I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Awake, and strengthen those things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of God. Therefore, remember what you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If you will not awaken, I will come like a thief, and you shall not know at what hour I will come upon you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He who overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white garments; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev 3:1-6, KJH)

The angel of the church in Sardis is hope. Hope is the last virtue to be received hence having the seven spirits and the seven angels. Now hope has the name of being alive when it is not present – How

often do people do people say, “Have hope” or “It’s important to have hope” when it is not present? Thus, “I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.” (Rev 3:1b, KJH) Are the works of hope perfect? “Awake, and strengthen those things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of God.” (Rev 3:2, KJH) If the works of hope were perfect, would we need any other virtue?

Patience

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These are the words of he who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, he who opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens;

I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: I know you have but little strength, yet you have kept my word, and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews, and are not, but lie; behold, I will make them to come and bow down before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word to patiently endure, I will keep you from the hour of trial, which shall come upon all the world, to test those who live upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold fast to that which you have, that no man may take your crown. He who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall never go out of it: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God: and I will also write upon him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev 3: 7-13, KJH)

And this is patience. The door is open for as long as it can be, and when it shuts it is not random. Also, the person of patience will not be judged because they were patient with others and did not punish them: “Judge not, that ye may not be judged.” (Matt 7:1, Darby)

Charity

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I wish that you were either cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, and have grown wealthy, and have need of nothing; but you do not know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white clothing, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness may not appear; and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: therefore be zealous, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes I will grant the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”(Rev 3:14-22, KJH)

This is charity. The knocking on the door references Jesus's teaching on charity. The charitable person gives all they have, "For you say, I am rich, and have grown wealthy, and have need of nothing; but you do not know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev 3:17, KJH) Charity gives, and thus lays up treasure in heaven. (Matt 6:19-21, ASV) The reward for charity is, "To him who overcomes I will grant the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne." (Rev 3:21, KJH) God's throne is heaven: "'Again, you have heard that it was said to the ancients, `Thou shalt not swear falsely, but shalt perform thy vows to the Lord.' But I tell you not to swear at all; neither by Heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool under His feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the City of the Great King."(Matt 5:33-35, Weymouth)

Virtue and Seven Seals in Revelation

Here, we see a repetition of the same virtues as listed before. While the seven angels were each a virtue, the first four seals focus on the possessors of a virtue.

Charity

"Then I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying, as with a voice of thunder, Come. And I saw, and behold, a white horse: and he who sat upon it had a bow; and a crown was given to him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." (Rev 6:1-2, KJH)

The rider is the person of charity.

Fortitude

"And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, Come. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him who sat upon it to take peace from the earth, that men should slay one another: and there was given to him a great sword."(Rev 6:3-4, KJH)

Here, the red rider is the person of fortitude. The person of fortitude takes peace away by having the strength to advocate for the truth. Jesus said, "'Do not think that I came to send peace on the earth. I did not come to send peace, but a sword." (Matt 10:34-36, NHEB)

Wisdom

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Come. And I beheld, and lo, a black horse; and he who sat upon it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not hurt the oil and the wine." (Rev 6: 5-6, KJH)

The third rider is a person with wisdom hence the balance. The wine probably represents blood as in not to spill it and the oil may signify joy as to not take it away. A recipe for bread is offered. In other places leaven has represented teaching such as when Jesus warns the disciples to "'...beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he didn't tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."(Matt 16:5-12, WEB) Leaven is also connected with the kingdom of heaven, "..."The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took

and hid in three measures of fine wheat flour, until it was entirely leavened.”(Matt 13:33, CPDV) Jesus is also the bread of life and perhaps his new teaching transforms the flatbread into something that can be life-giving.

Courage

“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, Come. And I looked, and behold, a pale horse: and the name of him who sat upon it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with plague, and with the wild beasts of the earth.”(Rev 6:7-8, KJH)

The fourth horseman is the possessor of courage. The person of courage doesn't back down and when he faces an opponent he doesn't respond to the fear of death. Does Death fear himself?

Faith

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they maintained: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, must it be before you judge those who live on the earth, and avenge our blood? And white robes were given to every one of them; and it was said to them, that they should rest yet for a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, should be completed.”(Rev 6:9-11, KJH)

Faith gives rest to the martyrs' souls.

Hope

“And I beheld, and, lo, when he had opened the sixth seal, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts down its unripe figs, when it is shaken by a mighty wind. And the sky vanished, as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every slave, and every free man, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; And they called to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath has come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev 6:12-17, KJH)

This concerns those who have lost hope.

Patience

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire from the altar, and cast it upon

the earth: and there were rumblings, and peals of thunder, and flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.”² (Rev 8:1-5, KJH)

This concerns patience.

Virtue and Seven Days in Genesis

Fortitude

“In the beginning of God's preparing the heavens and the earth-- the earth hath existed waste and void, and darkness is on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God fluttering on the face of the waters,”(Gen 1:1-2, YLT) “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God, looking on the light, saw that it was good: and God made a division between the light and the dark,” (Gen 1:3-4, BBE) “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”(Gen 1:5, Darby)

The Light is good and the darkness is evil. Fortitude, strength is made for the battle between good and evil. The strong person takes the peace away and causes division (Luke 12: 51, WEB), division between Light and Darkness, Good and Evil.

Charity

“And God said, Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it be a division between waters and waters. And God made the expanse, and divided between the waters that are under the expanse and the waters that are above the expanse; and it was so. And God called the expanse Heavens. And there was evening, and there was morning--a second day.”(Gen 1:6-8, Darby)

In a place in Revelation, the waters represent nations: “And he said to me, The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”(Rev 17: 15, KJH) The firmament is heaven which is God’s throne - Remember that it’s the reward for charity? Just as Moses separated the waters to make a firmament for God’s nation to go forth (Isaiah 63:11-12, Darby)), heaven is gained by God’s holy nation of charitable people. Seated on the “throne of his glory”, Jesus will separate the waters from the waters, the heavenly nations from the earthly nations, the sheep from the goats, on the basis charity (Matt 25:31-46, WEB).

Wisdom

“And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear. And it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the

² There is more to the passage but for brevity’s sake the rest of Rev 8 has been omitted.

waters he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth cause grass to spring up, herb producing seed, fruit-trees yielding fruit after their kind, the seed of which is in them, on the earth. And it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, herb producing seed after its kind, and trees yielding fruit, the seed of which is in them, after their kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning--a third day." (Gen 1:9-13, Darby)

The power of wisdom is shown in the third day. Referring to Wisdom, "Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth existed. When there were no depths, I was born, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was born; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he set a circle on the surface of the deep, when he established the clouds above, when the springs of the deep became strong, when he gave to the sea its boundary, that the waters should not violate his commandment, when he marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was the craftsman by his side. I was a delight day by day, always rejoicing before him, Rejoicing in his whole world. My delight was with the sons of men." (Prov 8:22-31, WEB) This shows that Wisdom participating in founding the earth and setting the seas their limits. More explicitly: "Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding he established the heavens." (Prov 3:19, ASV)

We know from the explanation of the parable of the sower that the seed is the Word (Matt 13:18, AKJV); (Matt 13: 19-23, NHEB). Who is the Word? Jesus: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1: 14, DRC) He is also "...the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6, NHEB) So the word is life and thus the seed is also life. Now what does the fruit represent? The fruit represents the outcome. What is wisdom concerned with? The outcome.

Yielding new disciples for Christ, new followers of Love, is the outcome of a person because the fruitful disciple gains heaven, but the fruitless disciple is cast into the fire: "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples." (John 15:8, WEB) and "...Therefore every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire."(Matt 3:10b, WEB)

Hope

"And God saith, 'Let luminaries be in the expanse of the heavens, to make a separation between the day and the night, then they have been for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years, and they have been for luminaries in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth:' and it is so. And God maketh the two great luminaries, the great luminary for the rule of the day, and the small luminary--and the stars--for the rule of the night; and God giveth them in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth, and to rule over day and over night, and to make a separation between the light and the darkness; and God seeth that it is good; and there is an evening, and there is a morning--day fourth." (Gen 1:14-19, YLT)

This passage concerns hope and the fulfillment of divine promises. Remember the sun, moon, and stars from the seal about hope? The two great lights are Jesus and John the Baptist: "Jesus therefore said to them, "Yet a little while the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, that

darkness does not overtake you. He who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light.” “ (John 12: 35-36a, NHEB) , “Now when he heard that John was delivered up, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, he came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them light has dawned.” (Matt 4:12-16, NHEB) , and “You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John, for the works which the Father gave me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify about me, that the Father has sent me. “ (John 5:33-36, NHEB) The lesser light rules the night; during the time of evil, the spirit of the prophet foretells the coming of Messiah, a hope to come. And the greater light is the fulfillment of that promise. The stars are the sons and daughters of light, the promised descendants of Abraham,

“And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, said the LORD, for because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son: (Gen 22:15-16, AKJV), “that blessing I bless thee, and multiplying I multiply thy seed as stars of the heavens, and as sand which is on the sea-shore; and thy seed doth possess the gate of his enemies; and blessed themselves in thy seed have all nations of the earth, because that thou hast hearkened to My voice.’ “(Gen 22:17-18, YLT)

Patience

“And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that moveth, wherewith the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.” (Gen 1:20-23, ASV)

This passage is talking about patience. Ever notice how small fish feed on the plankton, the larger fish consume the small fish, and the whales consume the larger fish? Everything depends on consuming those smaller than yourself; isn't it cruel? “The strong rule the weak” - one might observe. Here, the sea creatures are those who pursue power and the sea is the spirit of cruelty. Those who pursue power are ruled by a spirit of cruelty, just as the sea creatures are ruled by the sea. Out of cruelty arises vice, the sea monsters, and just as the sea monsters consume the sea creatures, vice consumes those who pursue power. With patience God created everything, each having its time including the wicked, “Jehovah hath made everything for its own end; Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.” (Proverbs 16:4, ASV). How much patience God must have to have created vice!

Ever notice how birds sing and dance in order to find a mate? The birds are those who pursue happiness and are ruled by a spirit of lust.

Courage

“And God said, Let the earth bring forth living souls after their kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth, after their kind. And it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing of the ground after its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over the whole earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth on the earth. And God created Man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over every animal that moveth on the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb producing seed that is on the whole earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree producing seed: it shall be food for you;” (Gen 1:24-29, Darby)

“To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food; and it was so.”(Gen 1:30, WEB)

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.”(Gen 1:31, Darby)

This passage is about courage. Ever notice how cattle group together or move together? Why? For protection. The cattle are those who pursue safety from fear. Those who pursue safety from fear do what the group does; they follow the herd.

Now the man and woman are people of courage. What do people of courage do? The right thing. What does God want people to do? The right thing. So they are like mirrors, they reflect God’s will, and thus, “And God created Man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”(Gen 1:27, Darby) And God granted the man and woman of courage, “...dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over every animal that moveth on the earth.”(Gen 1:26, Darby), dominion over those who pursue power, over those who pursue personal happiness, and over those who pursue safety from fear.

Faith

“And the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made.” (Gen 2:1-3, ASV)

This passage is about faith. Faith can give a soul rest.

Conclusion

The assertion that the bible is founded on a lie just got crushed, and instead it was shown to be founded on the truth. Jesus Christ's words revealed what was hidden from the foundation of the world; his words were repeatedly used to elucidate the truth – his words were the keys to unlocking the truth of what Genesis chapter one means. Since God is both the beginning and the end, we saw the end informing the meaning of the beginning! And God's nature has not changed. Fortitude, charity, wisdom, hope, patience, courage, and faith; God is love! And he is found on page one.