



# Paradise Lost

by John Milton  
PART ONE

“The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”

John Milton

*“Of Man’s first disobedience, and the fruit  
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought death into the world, and, all our woe,  
With the loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,” (1-5)*

# BOOK BASICS

**AUTHOR:** John Milton

**YEAR PUBLISHED:** 1667

**GENRE:** Epic Poem

**PERSPECTIVE AND NARRATOR:** *Paradise Lost* is told by a third-person omniscient narrator. Readers learn that the narrator is the author, John Milton, when he inserts references to himself, as he does in discussing his blindness in Book 3: “these eyes, that roll in vain/To find thy piercing ray.”

**TENSE:** *Paradise Lost* is told in the present tense.

**ABOUT THE TITLE:** *Paradise Lost* refers to the expulsion of the first humans, Adam and Eve, from the Garden of Eden after they commit sin by eating from the forbidden Tree of Knowledge.

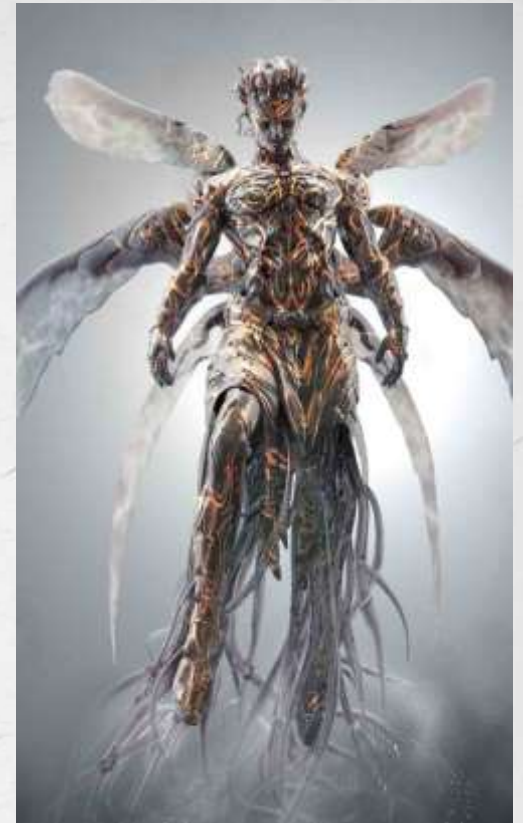
## HELL

Satan  
Fallen Angels  
Sin & Death  
Chaos & Night



## HEAVEN

God  
The Son  
Raphael  
Michael



## EDEN

Adam & Eve

## **THE HOLY TRINITY**

In Christian theology, the three persons that form one God.

### **The Father**

The Almighty, all-knowing, all-powerful. His perfection makes it impossible for Milton's audience to identify with him—an unchangeable character with no inner conflict. His main function in the poem is to explain free will, justice, and the consequences of disobedience. [Books III and X]

### **The Son**

Also called Messiah, the future incarnation of Jesus Christ, whom the Father ordains king of the angels and his equal in power. He defeats Lucifer's rebellion [vi.824], and is sent by his Father to carry out the miracle of Creation [Book VII]. He volunteers to become human and suffer martyrdom for man's sin [iii.227]; acts as judge over Adam and Eve, mercifully postponing their punishment of death [x.103]; and intercedes with his Father for their redemption. [xi.22]

### **The Holy Ghost**

A mystical aspect of God in Christianity, not directly addressed as such in the poem, but most closely represented as Milton's muse, Urania.

## THE FAITHFUL ANGELS

The spirits who serve God in Heaven. **Archangels** are the highest ranking angels. Others include **Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, and Principalities**, though Milton never clearly defines these. They are pictured as winged spirits who can change shape at will, yet they can be physically wounded in battle and can sup with humans. They battle the rebel angels in God's behalf, and later act as man's protectors.

### **Abdiel**

The only angel in Satan's crew who finds himself unwilling to break faith with God. He stands up to Satan, chastising him in front of his followers. Later he strikes the first blow against Satan in the war in Heaven.

### **Gabriel**

Second in rank to Michael. He is charged to guard the Garden of Eden in the days before the fall. When Satan first discovers the Garden, Gabriel captures and expels him. [Book IV, lines 781-1015]

### **Ithuriel**

One of the two angels sent by Gabriel to find Satan in the Garden of Eden. They find him whispering to the sleeping Eve. Ithuriel taps Satan's shoulder with his spear. [Book IV, lines 786-874]

### **Michael**

Highest ranking of God's army of angels. He wounds Satan in the battle in Heaven [vi.245]. Later, by God's decree, he expels Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, after showing Adam visions of the future consequences of his sin. [Books XI and XII]

### **Raphael**

The angel God sends to warn Adam and Eve about Satan. He is the poem's narrator of the account of Satan's rebellion in Heaven and the creation of the world, as told to the human couple. He is "sociably mild" in contrast to the stern, military angels. [Books V thru VIII]

### **Urania**

Milton's Christian muse, the angel-like female spirit who Milton invokes in the beginnings of Books I, III, VII, and IX, to inspire him in writing the poem. In the poem's opening lines she seems to be identified with the Holy Spirit of the Trinity. [i.1-26] Milton borrowed her from Greek mythology, where she is the muse of astronomy and astrology.

### **Uriel**

The guardian stationed on the sun. When Satan disguises himself as a young cherub, Uriel is fooled into directing him to where Adam lives. [Book II, lines 613-742]

### **Uzziel**

A guard in Eden, next in rank to Gabriel. [iv.782]

### **Zephon**

Together with Ithuriel, he captures Satan in the Garden of Eden in the night and brings him to Gabriel. [Book IV, lines 786-874]

### **Zophiel**

A warrior "of swiftest wing" in the battle against Satan's forces. [v.535]

## THE FALLEN ANGELS

The angels who, led by Satan, rebel against what they consider God's tyranny. They are thrown into Hell, where they become devils, devoted to the destruction of the human race as revenge against God. Some were destined to become the false gods of ancient civilizations.

### **Adonis (or Thammuz)**

In Greek mythology a beautiful youth destined to yearly death and resurrection, associated with nature's cycle and symbolized by a river of blood.

### **Adramelec**

A powerful Throne in Satan's army, beaten by Uriel.

### **Ariel**

One of the rebels defeated by Abdiel.

### **Arioc**

Another of the rebels defeated by Abdiel.

### **Ashtaroth**

Several spirits of feminine gender in Satan's crew.

### **Asmadai**

A Throne who lost his battle with Raphael despite his weapons of diamond.

### **Astoreth**

Worshiped as the queen of Heaven in Solomon's temple. [i.438]

### **Azazel**

A tall Cherub who raises Satan's standard in Hell to lift the spirits of the defeated rebels as Satan is about to speak.

## THE FALLEN ANGELS

### **Baalim**

A name for fallen spirits who would become beast-like gods of Israel.

### **Beelzebub**

The name means “The Lord of the Flies.” In the New Testament, it's another name for Satan. Milton casts him as Satan's second in command.

### **Belial**

A member of the demonic council. His graceful manner conceals a vice-ridden soul. On Earth he would corrupt churches and palaces, and fill the streets at night with violence and debauchery.

### **Chemos**

A devil who would turn the Jews against Moses.

### **Dagon**

A sea-monster, part man, part fish, worshiped by the Philistines.

### **Lucifer**

Satan's name before he fell. It means “brightest star.” In his original state, he was glorious to behold.



## THE FALLEN ANGELS

### **Mammon**

A low ranking angel, an admirer of material riches.

### **Moloch**

A brutish spirit, obsessed with war and violence. He would cause Solomon to build a temple against God. Children would be burned alive in sacrifice to his idol.

### **Mulciber**

The architect of Pandemonium, Satan's palace in Hell. He comes with much experience, having designed many grand towers in Heaven. [i.740]

### **Nisroch**

Badly wounded in battle, during a nighttime truce, this fallen spirit laments his newly discovered physical pain. [vi.447]

### **Ramiel**

Another of the rebel angels defeated by Abdiel. [vi.371]

### **Rimmon**

A devil who practiced his demonic craft in Damascus. [i.467]

### **Satan**

## PERSONIFICATIONS

In mythological style, Milton turns certain concepts into living beings. Among these are **Grace**, **Liberty**, **Night**, **Chance**, **Discord**, and the following three who become central to the plot.

### **Sin**

Daughter of Satan. Half-woman, half-serpent, she sprung from Satan's head when he conceived the thought of rebelling against God. She is charged to hold the key to the gates of Hell. Together with her son, Death, she builds a highway from Hell to Earth.

### **Death**

Son of Sin, fathered by Satan. A faceless creature, his first act upon being born is to rape his mother. He confronts Satan at the gate of Hell, and the two are prevented from a deadly battle when Sin reveals that he is Satan's son/grandson by incestuous union with her.

### **Chaos**

The being who personifies the infinity of uncreated matter between Heaven, Hell, and our universe. Chaos resents God's intrusion on his domain by creating the new world, and cheers Satan on in his quest to destroy it.

## THE HUMAN RACE

God creates mankind to eventually replace the emptiness in Heaven left when the rebel angels were cast out. He creates the universe for people to live in first, where they will be tested and made ready for Heaven to accept them. Milton recounts the early history of man as told in the Bible, through prophetic visions and revelations given to Adam.

### Adam

The first man, created perfect, but given free will, with which he can either maintain or lose his perfect state of happiness. God tests him by forbidding him to eat the fruit of one tree. Placing his love for Eve above his obedience to God proves his downfall. When Adam finds out that Eve has broken this commandment, rather than survive without her, he eats also, thereby losing Paradise and eternal happiness for himself and the world.

### Eve

The first woman, created as a companion for Adam. She is subservient to Adam, but does not hesitate to argue with him. Satan targets her as the weaker sex, and tempts her to eat the forbidden fruit. She succumbs to his temptation, and decides to talk Adam into joining her in what at first seems like a good thing for both of them, but later brings terrible remorse. Their mutual love, together with God's mercy, sustains them and provides a conclusion to the story which is not without hope.

Eve's soliloquies before and after her sinful act are notable, as first she ruminates over Satan's persuasive argument, enhancing it with her own rationale, and afterwards considers *not* sharing the fruit with Adam, thereby raising herself to his level of wisdom by its imagined powers, or perhaps even, she thinks, a little higher. [Book IX]

## THE HUMAN RACE

### MICHAEL'S PROPHECIES

Before expelling Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, Michael shows Adam visions of events that will follow.

#### **Cain & Abel**

#### **Noah**

God instructed him to build an ark and take his family and a pair of every kind of creature inside.

#### **Nimrod**

Great grandson of Noah. Seeking divinity, he built the tower of Babel. He symbolizes mankind's corruption so soon after the flood.

#### **Abraham & Isaac**

#### **Jacob or Israel**

Son of Isaac, he had twelve sons who formed the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### **Pharaoh & Moses**

#### **Joshua**

Leader of the Israelites in the conquest of Canaan. He divided the promised land among the twelve tribes.

#### **David**

The second and greatest king of Israel.

#### **Solomon**

Son of David, third king of Israel.

#### **Jesus**

The Son of God.

# Satan

*'O, speak again, bright angel!'*

*~William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, II.ii.26*



❑ Satan used to be one of the most important of God's angels, but rebelled when God declared the Son to be above all the angels in glory. Satan persuaded a third of the angels to rebel with him, and declared war on God. Satan was defeated by the Son and cast into Hell with all the other rebel angels.

## **Fallen Angels' Rebellion**

❑ 'Lucifer' means 'light-bringer' in Latin, which is not far away from Shakespeare's 'bright Angel', but 'Satan' means 'the adversary' in Hebrew. In fact, he is first described to us in *Paradise Lost* as 'the arch-enemy, | And thence in heaven called Satan' (I.81).

## **Lucifer vs Satan**

❑ The allure of free will is where the attractiveness and power of Satan's character lies. In his will he is free and in his mind he is supreme: Satan was defeated but not defeated.

## **Free Will**

# BOOK I

## Satan and the Fallen Angels in Hell

- A. Introduction to the poem, and first invocation [1-]
- B. Satan and his lieutenant awaken in the lake of fire [50-282]
  - 1. Satan's speech, refusing to accept defeat [84-]
  - 2. Beelzebub's speech, fearing eternal slavery in Hell [128-]
  - 3. Satan's speech, vowing to resist [156-]
  - 4. They rise off the lake and light on solid ground [192-]
  - 5. Satan's speech, accepting Hell as his new capital [242-]
  - 6. Beelzebub urges Satan to speak to the fallen angels [271-]
- C. Satan rallies his troops [283-669]
  - 1. Satan calls them out of the lake where they lay [283-]
  - 2. The multitudes fly out of the lake [331-]
  - 3. The high ranking angels come forth one by one [376-521]
    - a) Moloch [381-]
    - b) Chemos [406-]
    - c) Baalim and Ashtaroth [421-]
    - d) Astoreth [437-]
    - e) Thammuz [446-]
    - f) Dagon [457-]
    - g) Rimmon [467-]
    - h) The Egyptian gods [476-]
    - i) Belial [490-]
    - j) The Olympian gods [507-]
  - 4. They assemble before Satan [522-]
  - 5. Satan's speech [622-]
- D. The devils build their palace, Pandemonium [670-]
- E. They assemble within to hold council [752-797]

# BOOK II

## The Council – Satan's Odyssey to Hell

### A. High council is held in Pandemonium [1-520]

1. Satan's opening speech [11-]
2. Moloch proposes a return to war [43-]
3. Belial proposes inaction [106-]
4. Mammon seconds Belial's argument [226-]
5. Beelzebub proposes an exploration of Earth [299-]
6. Satan volunteers to undertake the mission alone [430-]
7. The council dissolves and the resolution is announced without [486-]

### B. The devils disband and occupy themselves during Satan's leave [521-628]

1. Part engage in sport, song, and philosophy [528-]
2. Part explore the interior of Hell [570-]

### C. Satan's passage out of Hell [629-1055]

1. Satan meets Sin and Death at the gate of Hell [643-889]
  - a) Death challenges Satan [675-]
  - b) Sin describes their origin [746-]
  - c) Sin opens the gate of Hell [850-]
2. Satan's journey across Chaos [890-1055]
  - a) The wildness of Chaos appears before the open gate [890-]
  - b) Satan sails out into the mixed elements [927-]
  - c) He holds discourse with Chaos [951-]
  - d) He approaches the heavenly region [1034-1055]



# BOOK III

## God's Prophecies – Satan Reaches Earth

### A. Second invocation [1-]

### B. God views and reacts to Satan's passage [56-417]

1. God, the Father, prophesizes man's fall [80-]
2. The Son responds, on man's behalf [144-]
3. The Father proclaims how man may be saved [167-]
4. The Son offers to sacrifice himself for man's salvation [217-]
5. The Father accepts same and bestows glory on his Son [274-]
6. The angels sing songs of praise [344-]

### C. Satan arrives at the new world [418-742]

1. He explores the outer shell of the universe [430-559]
  - a) The future Limbo of Fools [440-]
  - b) The stairway to Heaven [498-]
2. He enters the universe [560-742]
  - a) He lands on the Sun [571-]
  - b) In disguise, he accosts the angel Uriel [636-]
  - c) Fooled by him, Uriel directs him to Adam's home [689-742]

# BOOK IV

## Satan Enters Heaven

### A. Satan enters Eden [1-287]

1. His passionate speech to the Sun [32-]
2. He approaches Paradise [114-]
3. He enters the Garden [172-287]
  - a) He hides in the Tree of Life [172-]
  - b) The Garden of Eden described [205-]

### B. Satan discovers Adam and Eve [288-539]

1. Satan sees the human couple [288-]
2. He expresses jealousy of them [358-]
3. Taking the forms of various animals, Satan eavesdrops on them [408-]
4. He plots their ruin [502-]

### C. Uriel warns Gabriel of Satan's presence [540-]

### D. Satan is banished from Paradise [598-1015]

1. Adam and Eve retire [598-775]
  - a) Their discourse on the night sky [610-]
  - b) They go to the bower and say evening prayers [689-]
  - c) They lay together in conjugal love [736-]
2. Satan is discovered [776-1015]
  - a) Gabriel sends his angels to patrol the Garden [776-]
  - b) Satan is found near the human couple and is apprehended [797-]
  - c) Gabriel banishes him from Paradise [864-1015]

# BOOK V

## Raphael Descends to Warn the Human Couple of Satan

### A. Eve's dream [1-208]

1. Adam and Eve awake in the morning [1-]
2. Eve relates her nightmare [26-]
3. Adam comforts her [95-]
4. They say morning prayers [136-]

### B. Raphael visits Eden [209-560]

1. God gives Raphael his assignment [219-]
2. Raphael descends to Earth [246-]
3. He meets the human couple [298-432]
  - a) Adam, seeing his approach, has Eve prepare dinner [298-]
  - b) Adam greets Raphael [350-]
  - c) Raphael meets Eve [377-]
4. At table [433-560]
  - a) They dine [433-]
  - b) Adam induces conversation on food and angels [451-]
  - c) The conversation turns to Raphael's purpose [506-]

### C. Raphael relates the war in Heaven [561-907]

1. The celebration in Heaven [577-]
2. The jealousy of Satan (then called Lucifer) [657-]
3. God sees the rebellion rising [711-]
4. Satan's followers gather at his quarters [743-]
5. Abdiel opposes Satan's rebellion [803-907]

# BOOK VI

## Raphael Continues to Relate the War in Heaven

### A. The armies meet on the plain [1-188]

1. Abdiel returns to the faithful angels [1-]
2. The opposing forces meet front to front [78-]
3. Abdiel confronts Satan [107-]

### B. The first battle [189-405]

1. The battle is joined [189-]
2. Michael duels Satan [245-]
3. Other fights are described, as the faithful prevail [354-]

### C. The rebels retreat under nightfall [406-523]

1. In council, Satan urges more violent battle [418-]
2. Nisroch laments pain, never known before [446-]
3. Satan conceives the use of gunpowder [469-]

### D. The second battle [524-668]

1. Next morning, the faithful see their foe approach [524-]
2. Satan's crew attacks with cannons [555-]
3. The armies toss mountains at each other [634-]

### E. Messiah ends the war [669-892]

1. The Father sends forth his Son to end the battle [669-]
2. Messiah casts the rebel army into Hell [746-892]
  - a) He rides forth in his chariot [746-]
  - b) The faithful angels watch as he crushes the enemy [824-]
  - c) He returns to the Father triumphant [878-]

### F. Raphael's closing remarks [893-912]

# BOOK VII

## Creation of the World

A. Third invocation [1-40]

B. Adam asks Raphael to describe how the world began [59-]

C. Raphael relates the days of the Creation [110-640]

1. The Son returns after victory in battle [131-]
2. He is sent forth by the Father to carry out the acts of Creation [192-]
3. The first day: God creates light [243-]
4. The second day: God creates the firmament [261-]
5. The third day: God creates the green landscape [276-]
6. The fourth day: God creates the sun, moon, and stars [339-]
7. The fifth day: God creates the birds and sea creatures [387-]
8. The sixth day: God creates the animals and man [449-]
9. The seventh day: God returns to heaven [551-]
10. The song of the angels [602-632]

# BOOK VIII

## The Creation of Adam and Eve

- A. The discourse of Adam and Raphael on the heavenly bodies [1-178]**
  - 1. Adam asks Raphael about the proportions of the heavens [1-]
  - 2. Eve retires from their presence [39-]
  - 3. Raphael responds that these matters are not for Adam to know [66-]
- B. Adam seeks to extend their visit, and Raphael agrees [179-248]**
  - 1. Adam offers to tell Raphael about his origin [179-]
  - 2. Raphael explains his absence during the world's creation [217-]
- C. Adam relates to Raphael his memory of his and Eve's creation [249-520]**
  - 1. Adam awakes and explores the world [253-]
  - 2. Adam speaks with God [295-451]
    - a) God appears and brings Adam to the Garden of Eden [295-]
    - b) God pronounces his edict on the forbidden fruit [316-]
    - c) God instructs Adam to name all the animals [336-]
    - d) Adam and God enter into discourse on man's solitude [357-]
    - e) God informs Adam that he shall receive a mate [437-]
  - 3. God creates Eve from Adam's rib [452-]
  - 4. The marriage of Adam and Eve [484-]
- D. Adam and Raphael discourse on love and passion [521-]**
- E. Raphael's final warning and departure [630-653]**

# BOOK IX

## The Fall

**A. Fourth invocation** [1-]

**B. Satan returns to Eden and possesses the serpent** [48-191]

..... 1. Satan gains secret entrance to the Garden [48-]

..... 2. He expresses his thirst for revenge [98-]

..... 3. He finds and enters the sleeping serpent [179-]

**C. Adam and Eve divide their work in the Garden** [192-403]

..... 1. Eve's proposal that they work in different areas [205-341]

..... a) Eve makes the suggestion [205-]

..... b) Adam expresses fear of danger in separation [226-]

..... c) Eve takes offense that he mistrusts her [270-]

..... d) Adam pleads his case further [290-]

..... e) Eve expresses dismay at their restricted condition [319-]

..... 2. Adam reluctantly submits to her wish [342-]

..... 3. Eve responds happily and they separate [376-]

-continued-

# BOOK IX (continued)

## The Fall

### D. The temptation of Eve [404-732]

- ..... 1. The serpent finds Eve alone and approaches her [404-]
- ..... 2. He speaks to Eve and leads her to the forbidden tree [532-]
- ..... 3. The serpent delivers his speech of temptation [664-]

### E. Eve's fall [733-838]

- ..... 1. Eve is tempted and eats the fruit [733-]
- ..... 2. Her reasonings and imaginings afterwards [784-]

### F. Adam's fall [838-1004]

- ..... 1. Eve greets Adam, who has come to look for her [856-]
- ..... 2. Adam's horror at finding Eve has eaten the fruit [888-959]
  - ..... a) His thoughts [896-]
  - ..... b) His words to Eve [917-]
- ..... 3. Eve offers him the fruit and he eats [960-]

### G. The aftermath [1004-1189]

- ..... 1. Lust [1011-]
- ..... 2. Shame [1046-]
- ..... 3. Mutual accusation [1119-1189]



# BOOK X

## God's Judgement - Adam and Eve's Reconciliation

**A. God reviews the situation before the assembled angels [1-]**

**B. The Son of God judges the sinners [63-228]**

1. The Son accepts his Father's charge and descends to Earth [63-]
2. Adam and Eve give account [115-]
3. God passes judgement on them and the serpent [163-]
4. God shows compassion towards the couple [209-]

**C. Sin and Death build a bridge to Earth [229-409]**

1. In Hell, Sin and Death sense Satan's success [229-]
2. They construct a highway across Chaos [282-]
3. They meet their father returning from Earth [325-]

**D. Satan reenters Hell [410-584]**

1. Satan arrives in Pandemonium and ascends his throne unperceived [410-]
2. He reports the success of his mission to the throng [449-]
3. They are all turned into serpents by God as punishment [504-]

# BOOK XI

## Michael's Prophecies till the Flood

### A. The prayers of Adam and Eve reach Heaven [1-125]

1. The Son of God intercedes for them [20-]
2. The Father accepts his intercession [45-]
3. God pronounces his will to the angels [72-]
4. God sends Michael to expel the pair from Paradise [99-]

### B. Michael descends to Earth [126-410]

1. Having prayed, Adam and Eve accept their plight [133-]
2. They see omens [181-]
3. They witness Michael's arrival [208-]
4. He informs them of their imminent expulsion [251-]
5. Eve's lament [265-]
6. Adam's lament [293-]
7. Michael's admonition [334-]
8. Michael brings Adam to the mountain top [370-]

### C. Michael shows Adam the future in visions [411-901]

1. Cain and Abel [423-]
2. The house of diseases [466-]
3. Men corrupted by women [556-]
4. War and plunder; Enoch [638-]
5. Noah [712-901]
  - a) The Ark and the Flood [712-]
  - b) Adam weeps at mankind's destruction [754-]
  - c) The rainbow and the covenant [840-901]

# BOOK XII

## From the Flood to Jesus – Expulsion from Heaven

### A. Michael continues to relate prophecies to Adam [1-605]

1. The Tower of Babel [13-]
2. Abraham [105-]
3. Moses [151-]
4. Jesus [270-551]
  - a) Adam expresses his sense of enlightenment [270-]
  - b) Raphael relates the origin of Jesus [285-]
  - c) Adam eagerly inquires about Jesus' battle against Satan [372-]
  - d) Raphael relates the life and resurrection of Jesus [386-]
  - e) Adam rejoices, but questions the fate of those left on Earth [466-]
  - f) Raphael summarizes the struggles of Christianity [485-]
5. Adam is reconfirmed in obedience to God [552-]

### B. Michael expels Adam and Eve from Paradise [606-649]

1. Eve greets the returning pair, her spirits restored by dreams [606-]
2. Adam and Eve are sent out of the Garden of Eden [624-649]

**END OF PART ONE**

**Part Two: Illustrations**