

Here you can find the original interview between Kevin for Soundmagnet.eu and Gordon Tittsworth for Images of Eden:

**IMAGES OF EDEN is a special name for a band. It suggests that you deal a lot with religious themes. True?**

Actually no. We do not market ourselves as a religious band or even a "Christian" band even though we are very inspired by our faith. The name was born after going through a very rough time in life dealing with addiction/ near death. Once I overcame, many blessings came to me after the fact so it seemed like a very fitting name. That said, it was divinely inspired. As for "religion", well... that is a topic that has horribly failed me from birth, and I must make the distinction between "religion" and "faith". Religion are the stupid man-made "rules" and bastardization of the Word. Faith is the loving/ trusting relationship that is not watered-down.

**Listening to the album, I noticed that there are different thematic phases in the selection of songs. Was that intentional?**

Not specifically but it happened naturally with the healing process. The themes are overcoming loss, a new-found peace, reaching out to the lost to lift them and bring them hope and inspiration, then some "worldly warnings" of what is to come very shortly (Autumn Is Burning) as well as the massive Globalist deception that their mainstream media outlets are fueling (Animation In A Still World). The main theme we wanted to portray is one of healing. We are also not preachy/ Biblical because our key audience is the secular audience and when you get "churchy" it turns away the very people that need the message the most. Personally, I get extremely turned off by very churchy/ preachy lyrics. They don't impress me. You want to impress me? Tell me how you overcame your lifelong struggles via real-life testimonies and how you are a strong survivor because of them! Tell me how YOU (the writer) were changed, lifted, transformed and healed because these real-life testimonials are the most impactful and will create much more change than reciting Biblical passages. There is also a lot of hypocrisy when you pull religion into it. I call these people "Hypo-Christians". They are quick to point fingers, judge, and point out your every flaw without looking into the mirror. I have HUGE problem with them.

**The songs Angel Born and Killing God form a very strong contrast. I indicate it as a kind of religious war. What is your personal opinion to this?**

Sure, I can explain...**Angel Born** is the writer's (my) response to the devastating loss mentioned above and the initial agonizing pain and heartbreak (thus the harder hitting vocals in the verses). However, the chorus is where the writer gets the strength to „let go“

and allow the departed to „fly home“ thus God’s word to him- „Don’t you cry another tear for my new angel born“. The writer also accepts that there will be a reunion one day which brings peace (thus the slower more peaceful 2nd half of the song).

**Killing God** was a very real point that needed to be made. A very powerful title and one that an unbeliever might pay attention to where he/she otherwise might not. This song is written from God’s point of view on how He loves His kids so much and wants to give them everything, and only asks for love in return but does not get it. This will crush any parent!!! In this Godless society right now (fueled and perpetuated by excessive Globalist deception and power), people are removing God EVERYWHERE (thus the title- „Kiling God“). This song shows His very real sorrow because He is losing His creation!

**With the track In Memory Of Me you have created an impressive and very multilayered song. How did this more than 11-minute ballad come about and what is the background to this epos?**

This goes back to the theme of loss and if you listen closely, it takes you through all 5 stages of grief in order. When writing, there was no specific intention. I just started laying down ideas and allowed it to grow as I was (divinely) inspired. However, the first part was based on a dream about the newly departed just after the loss. The outro is the “reunion” spoken above in the song “Angel Born”.

**If you look at the album as a whole, there seems to be a red thread running through a story. Was that intentional when you put the songs together?**

The only intention when writing this album was to “listen” closely for direction and guidance. I equate this to building a house brick by brick. As I start layering bricks, a bigger picture starts to form (or “write itself” so to speak). At this point, think of it now as a jigsaw puzzle without having the box. After a certain number of pieces are placed together, you can start to see the big picture form itself. You then get an idea of the “missing holes” then you are able to fill them in a bit better to create the final product.

**In some of your songs you present really grandiose guitar solos. Does the idea for that come while you're working or is that planned in advance?**

I always allow for lead/ shredding “real estate” and basically felt out where these areas needed to be. We have an amazing lead guitarist as well as a great lead keyboard player so I really wanted to give them some opportunity to shine... and they did!

**Do you have any plans to present Angel Born live on tour in the near future and if so, what can the fans look forward to?**

Yes! We are about to embark on a 3-day tour of TX-USA in late July, then we will be touring with Yngwie Malmsteen and John5 for a 25 show US-tour later this fall. We would LOVE to get overseas in 2022 but one step at a time. The goal is to play and promote as much as possible!

**Finally, a general question. You have been making music for over 20 years. How do you manage to stay constant for such a long time and to realize new ideas again and again?**

I think the key is just allowing myself to “feel” and also letting God move me through all aspects of my life, which always bring natural inspiration. As writers, we should always allow this to happen and never “reach” for something to write about. When you try too hard to write, it comes across as mediocre and “forced”, but If you write what is true to your heart, it will be sound very genuine! Now.. if you really dig into previous releases, they are all current snapshots of where I was at that particular place and time. I also know that this is what I am “supposed” to be doing. When you are “operating in your calling” there is no shortage of inspiration, strength and motivation! Also, we live in a rough world. From the day we are born until the day we die, almost our entire lives are pre-planned by society (which I have a problem with)... 1) School age, 2) Early adulthood (get a job, start a family), 3) Adult “slavery”... working until a ridiculous age (retiring if you are “lucky”) then 4) Death. So what is in-between? Well for me, it is being creative and living my dream and staying young by giving life to something that has none, while always trying to always lift and inspire, etc. Letting your dream die is a choice, and one I will never let happen!! I believe living my dream keeps me extremely young at heart and also in good physical condition as well. I feel better at 49 than I did at 18!!! What also helps is receiving fan testimonials on how we have changed (or saved) lives, it makes everything we do worthwhile. At this current day and time, I am in the middle of writing the 6<sup>th</sup> studio album and it is going extremely well. I am already seeing the theme start to “reveal itself”.

**What inspires you and what would you suggest to stay in business to young musicians nowadays?**

I feel I am divinely inspired and have been given a gift that I am to use to change lives. I also never do anything of this specifically with myself in mind. The very act of writing, performing, etc is the gift, but this is for those who are needing and wanting, the “broken”. and to be able to lift them is why I put all of the blood, sweat and tears into this.

As for the younger musicians, I have a lot to say....

+++ Always stay true to your heart and no matter how much resistance you get (and it will be a LOT), NEVER deviate from your heart. There have been 21 members of Images of Eden over the years specifically due to people trying to come in and change the direction (among

other issues).

+++ Learn ALL instruments (vocals, guitar, bass, drums, keys). You will be extremely surprised at how often you will need to “fill-in” gaps. This is imperative because if you stay true to yourself, you will find yourself needing to replace members, track their parts while looking for replacements etc. This eliminates downtime. Keep the machine running!!!

+++ Be very cordial and respectful to EVERYONE you meet (no matter how horrible people seem to be at times). Trust me- their attitudes will catch up with them sooner or later so don’t let that be YOU. This industry is over-saturated with selfishness, egomaniacs, and people that want to bring you down. Don’t give them the control!

+++ DO NOT GET DISCOURAGED!!! You WILL hear negative feedback and read some very bad reviews. LEARN from these. Your first instinct is to quit but NEVER DO THAT! If you do, you are giving someone else control over your lives. More than likely, this person is unhappy with something in their lives and they are just being unnecessarily and excessively hard on you. Remember- there are NO qualifications or degrees required for almost anything in this business and that is 100% obvious!!! ABSOLUTELY HATE THE BUSINESS but I love the music so I came to the terms a long time ago that the business part is just the nature of the beast. Remember- it is better to be frustrated with the business than to not be in it! Oh.. and DO NOT mix the music and business. Always separate them and allow for specific time for each. Never let the “sewage” from the business overflow into the tranquil waters of the creative element!

+++ Give 110% all of the time. A former member of Images of Eden (drummer of Chapter I) criticized me for “giving the listener too much” on the release (LMAO) and that I needed to “save more for future releases”. This is bad advice. We need to do the opposite. Give everything you have to give in each release. If this is truly your dream, the “well” will always have running water flowing into it.

+++ Stay away from drugs/ alcohol and do NOT get into this for the “Sex, Drugs & Rock and Roll” life. It will kill you very quickly. It almost killed me!

+++ MOST IMPORTANTLY- NEVER FORGET WHY YOU FIRST STARTED PLAYING- FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC!!! Do NOT do it for fortune/ fame or to “make it”. You may never reach your “destination” so you have to love the journey and everything that it brings!!!

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