

# **Theology Made Simple Series**

**Jim Daniels Ministries**



**By Jim Daniels M.C.C.**

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## **Jim Daniels, Ministries**

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**Jim Daniels  
Books and Materials**

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## Foreword

As Director of the Greater San Antonio Community of Churches I would like to commend to you Rev. Jim Daniels.

It has been my pleasure to be closely associated with Rev. Daniels for more than ten years. Rev. Daniels served as Director of Chaplains for a Community of Churches initiative called Bexar County Detention Ministries (BCDM). During his tenure he developed very effective programs ministering to a prison population of more than 4,500 inmates. He directed a staff of seven Chaplains (in six facilities), three support-staff, and more than three hundred volunteers from the Community of Churches of San Antonio. Rev. Daniels wrote BCDM's first volunteer training manual, philosophy of training and much of BCDM's policies and procedures manual.

Rev. Daniels and his wife Shirley initiated San Antonio's first inmate aftercare program for which Mrs. Daniels later served as Outreach Director. Rev. Daniels has been active in the Community of Churches of San Antonio and active in many community affairs projects.

I have always found him to be a man of integrity, commitment, and creativity. He is recommended enthusiastically and without reservation.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Thompson, Executive Director San Antonio Community of Churches.

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On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association, I would like to express our most sincere thanks to you for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak at the workshop entitled "Anger Management" during our recently held Annual Conference & Exhibition in Columbus, Ohio.

Your assistance and support for our training program are deeply appreciated. The evaluations reflect a job well done.

National Sheriffs' Association's Director of Training Ed Keyton. August 4<sup>th</sup> 1999

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Through you're teaching on anger management you are providing a valuable service to our community.

I recognize the need for anger management programs in our correctional facilities and applaud your tireless efforts.

You share your skills and knowledge with those who need you most. The service you provide not only has direct results, but is a long term solution to the growing problem of violence.

Cyndi Taylor Krier, County Judge San Antonio, Texas

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The South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center, a university-based research center, at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas, would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for your “Face of Anger” presentation and participation on the panel discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Childhood Injury Prevention Conference on August 8-10<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

This letter of appreciation, and endorsement for “The Face of Anger” which you created and have implemented at the Bexar County Detention Ministries and sent throughout the United States. From positive personal opinion, to favorable conference evaluation by participants, we at the injury center have been reassured that examining anger management in our society is an important topic to study. “The Face of Anger” is an innovative approach teaching the constructs an origins of anger that is simple by design, yet presenting a complex subject.

LaDona Rayburn Farinacci,, Dr. P.H. Assistant Professor of Research August 30, 2001.

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In reviewing the materials within “The Face of Anger” program produced by Jim Daniels, I feel the material within the program would provide an extensive tool for both the offenders as well as employees to learn how to deal with anger management in a positive and powerful way.

Jim Daniels commitment to this program and his dedication to serve the Lord would be an inspiration to any agency in providing spiritual growth and as well, a community ministry.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Jerry Groom Administrator of Chaplaincy Programs.  
August 5<sup>th</sup> 1999

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Dear Shirley and Jim Daniels, The two of you made and extremely positive impact upon Chaddock. Your gifts of time and talent to our staff is greatly appreciated. It is such a thrilling experience to “connect” to people like the two of you. Your Generosity is appreciated!

Chaddock (*servng children since 1853*) Gene Simon President

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On the eve of his departure from the Bexar County Detention Ministries and the Inmate Human Services Department, I would like to share with you some of Chaplain Jim Daniels’ contributions to those respective organizations.

Rarely have I had the opportunity and good fortune of working with an individual such as Chaplain Jim Daniels. As the Director of Chaplaincy for the B.C.D.M., Chaplain Daniels was responsible for several staff members as well as nearly 300 volunteers. This included scheduling, planning, coordinating with various churches, and the training of all personnel within his purview. Further, Chaplain Daniels always pulled out all stops to support me and my staff both professionally and morally. His professional competence is without question; add to that Chaplain Daniels brings a moral integrity to the table that he absolutely refuses to compromise. Conversely, his ability to counsel and teach helped enable me to take the reins of Human Services in November of 1996. Rather than criticize, he guided me through the complexities of the many social services that I was not familiar with, in particular the ecumenical needs of an inmate population. Chaplain Daniels' exceptional capacity for hard work was only exceeded by his discretion, sensitivity and his deep sense of faith, which he willingly shared with those in need. Over the years I worked with him, Chaplain Daniels was fluid and always in motion. He was able to balance both the blessings and the tragedies in the lives of inmates and their families with a professional competence and a moral sensitivity that stayed with them long after the initial ministering took place.

Chaplain Daniels unselfishly gave to the needs of the officers and the families of other Sheriff's Office employees as well. He willingly worked long arduous hours after most of our days had ended, as it often fell on him to have to deal with tragedy, death of a family member, or some other unforeseen problem in the life of an incarcerated person. In some cases he helped an officer's family with matters of faith in times of hardship.

Chaplain Daniels is known for saying that the "Volunteers are the Heartbeat of the Ministries". If that be so, he was surely the soul of it.

Rick Walsh, Supervisor inmate Human Services, Bexar County Sheriff's Office. San Antonio Texas.

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This letter is official notification that your organization (The Face of Anger Seminars) has been approved as a continuing education sponsor by the Texas Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. This approval allows your organization to provide continuing education activities for marriage and family therapists.

Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. Bobby D. Schmidt, M.Ed. Executive Director. February 14, 2000.

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## **Proper Study Habits (How to best use this study)**

**Introduction:** Dear Pastor, Ministry Leader and fellow students of the scriptures; firstly we at Jim Daniels Ministries never merchandise the gospel; therefore this ‘Theology Made Simple Series’, is provided at no cost.

Though this material is under copyright protection, it may be copied and used by Churches, Ministry leaders and serious students of the scriptures without prior permission—if used in its original form and content.

This Theology Series is a result of years of study and research, which includes the Early Church Fathers writings, and comments. We believe you will find this course comprehensive yet easy to understand. It is written with the average Christian in mind.

If you are using this material as a study group, you will benefit greatly by class discussions and comments: however if you are using this material as an individual study, please know that looking up each scripture and praying about its content will reward you richly.

We would now like to take this opportunity to introduce to you Jim Daniels, the author of our study materials. Jim Daniels originated from the Mid-West, served in Viet Nam, but later migrated to San Antonio, Texas; where he attended Bible College—graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Theology, and a Master’s Degree in Christian Counseling.

Brother Daniels served as Director of Chaplaincy programs for six jail/prison facilities, and a community Outreach Center for ex-offenders and their families. Jim’s wife Shirley, served as a social worker in several of the jail/prison facilities, and eventually became the Director of the Outreach Center for the Bexar County Detention Ministries—a community of Churches endeavor in San Antonio.

With Jim’s visibility within the Community of Churches of San Antonio, he consequently taught in many of the Churches in San Antonio. Jim also served as treasurer for the National Chaplains Association, Southwest Region.

Having published a book on Anger Management from a Christian perspective, ‘The Face of Anger’ (*now out of print*), he was subsequently awarded, ‘The Governor’s Innovative Program Award’ by George W. Bush, then Governor of Texas. Jim traveled extensively across the United States conducting seminars on this innovative program at conferences and seminars. Jim’s passion however, has remained a continuing search and study of the Scriptures. Jim has now returned to the Mid-West and continues to write. He has written a book called ‘The Chaplain *A journey into darkness*,’ which is now available at Amazon/Books, please visit [jimdanielsbook.com](http://jimdanielsbook.com) for an overview of the book. We wish you God’s speed in all you endeavor to do in our Lord’s service.

# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

*Jim Daniels M.C.C.*

## “Inspiration of Scripture”

**Inspiration—Definition:** *Greek ‘Theopneustos,’* meaning God breathed.

### Scriptural References:

- II Timothy 3:16- “ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
- II Peter 1:20-21- “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
- Hebrews 1:1- “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.”

### Theories Regarding Inspiration:

**Intuition Theory:** This theory assumes that all men are spiritual, therefore being morally correct, and therefore man is able to discover truth for himself. All men, they say, are therefore inspired. Thus Plato, Shakespeare, and Gandhi were all inspired of God. I Corinthians 2:14 puts this theory to rest by saying, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

**Illumination Theory:** According to this theory, God illuminated the minds of the writers of scripture with good thoughts, however they maintain that the scriptures are not the inspired word of God.

**The Dictation Theory:** This theory believes that man is no more than a pen in the hand of God, and God dictated to them the exact words He wanted them to speak. This theory has some valid points, however, dismisses that the personalities of the prophets came through in their writings. For example, the fisherman Peter sounded nothing like Paul the theologian—and John was completely distinguishable from the others apostles.

**The Dynamic View:** (Which seems to us to be the biblical view). God did the speaking, through His prophets. Therefore, inspiration is a supernatural act of God through His anointed-ones the prophets. This action involves both God, and His vessel man. Thus God did the speaking in such a way as to utilize the personalities of the prophet.



**Illustration:** *If you have ever been watering your garden, and become thirsty—you will often take a drink out of the hose you are using. This water is the same water you have in your house, which you utilize to quench your thirst. However, there is something different about the water you taste from the hose, it's the same water, but now you can taste a little of the hose that the water is coming through. Thus it is with inspiration—the living water (God's word) comes from God in such a way as we get a taste of the prophet's personality: yet the living water remains pure.*

## **Did the New Testament Writers Know They Were Speaking by Inspiration?**

First let's look at the Old Testament prophets: Often you would hear them say, "Thus saith the Lord," or, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, or Isaiah etc.

### **The New Testament Writers:**

- I Corinthians 14:37-38- "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. (38) But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."
- II Corinthians 13:3- "Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you."
- II Peter 3:15-16- Peter called Paul's writings scripture, and compared them to all-other scriptures.
- Galatians 1:7-12- Paul claimed direct revelation for his message, and pronounced a curse on anyone who would preach another gospel than what was revealed to him.
- Most all epistles carry a greeting, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Apostle Paul's Clarification:** In I Corinthians 7:6-12- Paul makes it clear that he now stops speaking by commandment (inspiration), and gives his own opinion. Chapter seven deals with marriage, and relationships between men and women. In Verse #6 Paul lets us know that he is now departing from inspiration and giving his own opinion, however, he also says that in doing so he is speaking with the permission of God.

I Corinthians 7:6- "But I speak this by permission and not of commandment." Notice, Paul stops speaking by inspiration and gives his opinion on the subject of marriage. Then in Verse #12- he now says that he (Paul) is giving his own opinion again, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord:" and again in verse #25 Paul says "Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful." Again in verse # 40- Paul says, "But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God."

How are we to make sense of this chapter? First let's realize that this is the only time in scripture where this phenomena happens. The entire book of I Corinthians is to set in order some of the Corinthian Churches divisions, I Corinthians 1:11- "For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are in the house of Chloe, that there are divisions among you." By the inspiration of God, Paul corrects these divisions in the Church. However, in Chapter seven which

deals with the subject of marriage, Paul has no clear commandment from the Lord concerning the Corinthian Churches argument on this subject; therefore, he gives his opinion partly by permission of the Lord, as we have seen.

### **Three Important Takeaways from I Corinthians Chapter Seven:**

1. We should be encouraged by Paul's respect for the integrity of God's word, and the subject of inspiration. Paul is careful to tell us when he has no direct commandment from the Lord on this subject, but gives his judgment as an apostle. *Should we therefore say that Chapter seven is not God's direct revelation; God forbid, for Paul says that he has the mind of the Lord in one place, and that he speaks by permission in another. God saw fit to include it in His inspired word, so which of us wants to disqualify what is written in Chapter seven; not I my friends, I have too much fear of the Lord and integrity for His word to make such a judgment.*
2. Paul is concerned for the Churches lack of understanding of marriage, and the role of man and wife in that institution; to let it pass without his commenting. For me, he has the mind of the Lord, and permission from God to comment, therefore it is settled in my mind.
3. We should be heartened that God, in His infinite wisdom, takes the time to let us see, if-you-would, behind the curtain of His relationship with his ministers, and His care for us to know the truth.

### **Clearing Up Controversies Challenging Inspiration:**

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the synoptic gospels. (*Synoptic meaning general view, or a view which has been condensed*). These three gospels give an account of the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ. The gospel of John is not designated as synoptic, because John's gospel does not follow the same format as Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

It is imperative when reading the synoptic gospels, that one keeps in mind, that each of the writers is relating (by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit), a general view of what had taken place. Those who forget this principle, can fall into confusion about the story line.

**Example:** The healing of the two blind men near Jericho. Following are the details as related by all three of the synoptic gospels.

**Matthew 20:29-34-** Matthew includes the following—there were two blind men healed as Jesus was departing Jericho.

**Mark 10:46-52-** Mark reports that Jesus came to Jericho and as He went out of Jericho, He healed a blind man named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus—but says nothing of another blind man. It is evident that Mark is relating the portion of the healing of a man he evidently knew, because he named him and his father. Thus he relates what is significant to him. This does not mean that he did not see the other blind man.

**Luke 18:35-43-** Luke relates this incident as Jesus came nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man was healed by Jesus. Luke also says nothing of the other blind man.

Remembering the 'Dynamic' view of inspiration, God speaks through His anointed vessels in such a way, as to allow their personalities to come through. Therefore, God is speaking through Matthew, Mark, and Luke in such a way, as to relate the experience of the healing of the blind men, using each man's experiential knowledge.

To know the entire context of the healing of the blind men, one must read all three accounts. God's word says "out of the mouth of two or three witnesses shall everything be established," II Corinthians 13:1 and Matthew 18:16.

Those who misunderstand the nature of inspiration, will say that the word was written by man, and because man is not infallible, there are inconsistencies in the word; therefore, they say, the bible is not inspired of God. "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*" Romans 1:22.

**Summary:** Romans 10:17- "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of the God." If one does not believe that the scriptures are inspired by God, then faith cannot come; the mere words of men cannot produce faith. Which of us want to take the responsibility to decide which part of God's word is, or is not, inspired. Who would want to stand before Him on that day to give account of ourselves, and say, I decided which of your word my fellow believers could believe, and which words they could not.

Revelation 22:18-19- says that anyone who adds to the words of this prophesy, or takes away from it, will have his name taken from the book of life. *Many will say that Jesus is only speaking of the book of Revelation at this point. Yet, Proverbs 30:5-6- says, "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. (6) Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Deuteronomy 4:2- "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."*

God's word is what the Holy Spirit uses to teach us, and encourage us. Without God's inspired word, we have no revelation of Him, or His will for our lives. Without God's revelation to man, we live in darkness, and have no hope.

John 5:39- "Search the scriptures for in them ye think he have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 6:68- "Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." John 17:17- "Sanctify them through truth, thy word is truth." And finally; Proverbs 4:20-22- "My son, attend to My words: incline thine ear unto My sayings, (21) Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. (22) For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

# **“Understanding the Nature of God”**

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# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

*By Jim Daniels M.C.C*

## “Understanding the Nature of God” (The Doctrine of God)

Scripture assumes the existence of God, declaring simply “In the beginning God” Genesis 1:1. This is also seen in John 1:1-3. There is no attempt to pressure anyone into the acceptance of the fact that God exists. The Psalmist proclaims that whosoever denies God’s existence is a fool Psalm 14:1.

Man in his sinful state, has perverted the true revelation that God has given of Himself, such perversions range from complete denial of God’s existence, which is atheism, to worshipping creation itself, which is idolatry.

In this study we will examine God through the window of scripture, using both New Testament, and Old Testament writings.

### Various Concepts of God

- A. Agnosticism:** Agnosticism is a common form of skepticism with roots in Heathen Philosophy, which maintains that it is impossible for the human mind to ultimately prove the existence of God; therefore He probably does not exist (this of course is heresy).
- B. Atheism:** Atheism is the complete denial of God’s existence (this is also heresy).
- C. Deism:** Deism arose in England in the seventeenth century, and is the result of an attempt to harmonize the Bible with scientific reason. Deism, essentially believes that God is the creator of all things, and indeed does exist, however, after creation God is not personally involved in the affairs of man, and is allowing man to conduct his own affairs without God’s personal interaction or involvement. Essentially, they believe that God has wound up creation like a clock, and it is slowly winding itself down. (This is also heresy).
- D. Polytheism:** Polytheism is the belief, and worship of many gods (this of course is heresy).
- E. Pantheism:** Pantheism, is a theory which originated by the earliest schools of Greek philosophy, supposing that God, and the material world, including the universe, are one. God is all things, and all things are God, i.e. God is nature at work (this is also heresy).
- F. Idolatry:** Is the act of paying homage to a man-made object, or created object, such as the moon or the sun (of course this is also heresy). *Such homage belongs to God only, and not to an image made by the hands of man. It is interesting to point out, the New Testament, Colossians 3:5 says “covetousness is idolatry.” If we covet anything in the material world,*

*which interferes with our devotion to God, it can become idolatry. (Of course this also is heresy).*

## **God's Self-Existence**

One aspect of God's existence, is His self-existence. God not only exists, but He is also self-existent. He is not dependent upon anything out side of Himself, but the source of His being is within Himself; in John 5:26 Jesus said, "for as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." God is the fountain of life Psalm 36:9. God's nature is to be, "I Am" He said to Moses.

God did not create because He needed anything outside of Himself. He created the world as a theater for His glory, Romans 1:20, Psalm 97:6, Revelation 4:11, Psalms 19:1, Ephesians 1:5-6 and Colossians 1:16.

God created man, permitting him to partake of His life and nature that God may have fellowship with man, and that man may bring Him glory and pleasure, Revelation 4:11. There are no other gods before Him, nor will there ever be any other God but the true God, Isaiah 43:10.

## **God's Nature**

### **His Personality:**

The scriptures reveal God's personality, and are evidence that God is a personal God. God is a personal being, and not just a force or spiritual principle. God has attributes of personality. He acts, speaks, thinks, and decrees things to come to pass. He is the "Living God" throughout scripture, Jeremiah 10:10 and I Timothy 3:15.

### **God is Spirit:**

God is Spirit John 4:24, this means that God is non-material, invisible and not limited to time or space. He is a personal being not subject to anyone or thing. He is self-sufficient within Himself.

Those scriptures which speak of God as having eyes, heart, hands and ears, are called anthropomorphic (using human terms to define a non-human being such as God). Man's vocabulary and understanding, are limited to earthly concepts; therefore, God uses anthropomorphic examples of Himself for our understanding. (We will discuss this principle in detail later in our study).

## **God's Glory**

**Definition:** In searching dictionaries for a definition of glory, one would find such synonyms as honor, distinction, magnificent or splendor. The Greek word maintains the same characteristics and definition. Because the word appears so often in scripture, and is used prolifically in Christian literature and songs, the word glory has lost much of its significance in our individual concept and understanding of God.

**Illustration:** Let's apply the word to something more contemporary for the sake of context. When visiting a jewelry store, one might have the occasion to hear *"isn't that a glorious diamond;"* after hearing such an account, we would expect to turn and see something quite magnificent on display. Such is the meaning of the word glory when applied to God.

### **God's Eternal Passion for His Glory:**

God is very protective of His glory, and will not share it with another. His jealousy is initiated when His glory is misused, or misplaced by His elect, who are called to glorify Him.

### **Scriptural Examples:**

- Exodus 20:4-5- "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." (5) "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me."
- Exodus 34:14- "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:" (See also Deuteronomy 6:4-16).
- Isaiah 48:9-11- Verse # 11: "I will not give my glory to another."
- John 17:1-5- Jesus is speaking of the glory He had with the Father before the creation of the world, and that He had glorified the Father also on the earth.
- Matthew 5:16- We are to let our light so shine, that we would glorify our Father which is in heaven.
- Isaiah 43:7- We are created for His glory.
- I Corinthians 10:31- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

There are many other scriptures which speak of God's glory and the need for His image bearing creatures (man), to bring Him glory in their daily lives. Moses asked God to show him His glory, in Exodus 33:18. God told Moses that He would allow him to see His glory, however Moses could not look upon God's face, Exodus 33:20, for God said, "Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live." God therefore covered Moses face with His hand, and then took it away after He passed, allowing Moses to see only God's back. In Exodus 34:29, Moses discovered after exiting the mountain that the skin of his face was glowing as a result of observing the glory of God. Moses saw God's magnificent glory. Whenever God manifests Himself to man, in the form of a man or angel, this is called a 'theophany,' which is a manifestation of God that is tangible to human senses. This is also referred to as an anthropomorphism (which we will learn more of later).

Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, was transfigured before Peter, James, and John where even His clothing began to glow; Matthew 17:2 "And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light."

The apostle John, upon seeing the glorified Jesus Christ, said "I fell at His feet as dead," Revelation 1:17. Thus John, who laid his head on the master's breast while Christ was in His physical body, now lost all strength, when confronted with Christ's glorious nature after His resurrection.

## **God's Glory and Holy Nature Demands Justice and Judgement:**

Proverbs 17:15- "He that justifieth the wicked and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." The anthology of the Old Testament, and the New Testament, reveal that God does, and will judge sin in righteousness.

*A primary example of God's mercy and judgement, is exemplified at the cross of Christ; God's mercy provided the cross, but His wrath against sin demanded it. John 3:16- everyone's memory verse, "for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son," however, not many memorize John 3:36- of the same chapter, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

*So we see that even at the cross of Christ, God's mercy, and wrath are revealed together: mercy because a substitute was provided for man's sin; God's wrath, because the death of a substitute was necessary for forgiveness.*

## **God Judges in Righteousness:**

Habakkuk 1:13 "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil". James 1:13 "Let no man say when he is tempted I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man:" (It is obvious that God allows man to be tested, however, not with evil to commit sin, but to prove character, James chapter one).

## **Righteous Judgement of God: Scripture References:**

- Psalms 9:8- "And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgement to the people in uprightness."
- Psalms 103:6- "The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed."
- Psalms 96:13- "Before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth."
- Romans 2:2- "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things."
- Romans 1:17-18- "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Divine wrath is an expression of God's redemptive love; God cannot behold sin. His glory demands conformity to His nature (glory), which is holy and righteous.

*Our study reveals to us God's unity of His nature. God's attributes are not just abstract manifestations of His nature; His attributes are His nature! God does not possess holiness, He is holy, God does not possess love, He is love. So it is with His righteousness and wrath, they are every bit as much a part of who He is. God's redemptive love requires wrath against nonconformity- "for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth" Hebrews 12:6; and "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten," Revelation 3:19.*

## **Our faith in Christ is not a panacea of itself: (God's glory still requires obedience).**

- We are told that "faith without works is dead" James 2:17.



- And again in James 2:14- “What doeth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?”
- Jesus words in Matthew 7:21- “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
- Ephesians 2:8-10- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Notice that the works come after faith, and not before it, however, “we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”)
- Luke 6:46- “And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?”
- II Corinthians 5:10- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”.

**God requires that we, the Church, also are to judge righteous judgement.**

- John 7:24- Jesus said “judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”
- I Corinthians 6:1-7- Paul exhorts the Church to judge things among themselves, rather than going to the heathen courts. He tells them that someday they will judge angels and the world; can’t they now not even judge the smallest matters among themselves.
- I Corinthians 5: This chapter discusses how the Church should judge the man who was living with his father’s wife (evidently not the man’s mother). They are told to put him out of the Church, and turn him over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh until he repents, and then bring him back again. In II Corinthians chapter 2: Paul encourages them to bring the man back into fellowship again (after his repentance), to forgive and comfort him, lest Satan would get the advantage.

**Summarizing God’s Glory:** God’s glory and holy nature will not allow Him to overlook sin, there is always a consequence. Light and darkness cannot occupy the same space at the same time. I John 1:5-6- “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” “If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.”

Isaiah 59:1-2- “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear” “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

Psalms 66:18- “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” (See also Isaiah 64:7) Many are the scriptural examples we could innumerate, but sufficient are the examples given. After creation of the earth, the Lord said “it is good,” after man was placed in the midst of the garden God said, behold it is “very good.” How then did sin enter creation? Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

The best Adam could do after the fall, was hide from God. It was God who came searching for Adam, not the other way around. So it has been throughout the Old and New Testament; God came calling man to Himself, providing a substitutionary sacrificial system to deal with man’s sin, till

the ultimate sacrifice would come: A lamb without spot or wrinkle, God's own eternal Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said "As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love." "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:9-10.

### **God's Unity:**

Another aspect of God's nature is His unity, which means God is one. "Hear, O Israel the Lord our God is one Lord," Deuteronomy 6:4. This is in contrast to other Nations who had many gods. Isaiah 44:6-8 God says He is the one and only God, He knows of no other gods. (Later we will examine the triune nature of God i.e. the trinity).

### **'Examining the Doctrine of 'The Impassibility of God'**

After deliberating at length over what title should be given this segment, titles such as 'Does God Change His Mind?' or 'God's Immutability' were all considerations, however, I thought it important to bring to the surface a teaching that has been placed on the shelf for decades, yet was written about extensively by the early Church Fathers, and the Reformation Leaders, *'The Impassibility of God'*.

Having chosen the title *'God's Impassibility'* will have already aroused a number of mixed emotions among those of you who have in passing, read or heard portions of this doctrine; yet I challenge you to prayerfully consider what we say here, and examine it through the lens of scripture. I believe you will find it will answer many of the questions which go unanswered in the minds of most believers.

**What's in a Word?** Words as we know, change in their meaning and usage from generation to generation. We will illustrate just a few:

- Meat- This word once meant foods of all kinds, not just animal products.
- Cuff- This word once meant a person's glove.
- Climate- Once denoted a zone of the earth between two lines of latitude.
- Apology- Once meant to defend against an accusation.

**Theological words are no exception:** Let's examine a couple which we will be dealing with in this study.

One of the attributes the early (2<sup>nd</sup> Century) Church ascribed to God, was that **'God was simple.'** We would recoil at the very thought that God is simple, because of the use of the word today, we believe that simple when applied to an individual, means that they are slow, or unable to learn. However, even our modern dictionaries carry the thought that simple first of all means, 'to be composed of only one thing, to be without parts.' Thus the early Church Fathers of the second century were saying, God is the sum of who He is. He does not possess holiness, He is Holy. God does not possess wisdom, He personifies wisdom. God is not loving, He is love. They (the early Church), believed that God's wrath was just as much a part of His perfections as love. Therefore, God is not made up of these attributes, He personifies them; they make Him who He is.

The second word I would like for us to examine from the early Church Fathers, and confirmed by the Reformation Leaders, is The '**Impassibility of God**' (shown above). The word impassibility, means unable to feel pain, physical or emotional. The early Church Fathers, and the Reformation Leaders were not saying that God is incapable of having passions; what they were saying is that God cannot be provoked to feel such passions from without, but rather chooses when to display them at His timing.

### **Illustration:**

*Allow me to use myself as an example. I suppose it's because I have been called to be a teacher that I find myself asking some of the tough questions (experience however, has proven that most Christians also ponder these same questions).*

*I remember driving along a country road some years back, noticing as I went a dead animal here and there; being an animal lover it always affects me to some degree or another. It seemed however, on this particular trip I noticed more animals than usual, and then I came upon a small deer which had been hit. It was for me a rather disturbing sight, because of the obvious suffering that must have taken place. Then the thought came to mind: God, I know you are omnipresent (everywhere at once) and know all things, how then can things like this take place without you intervening, seeing you are a loving creator. Jesus said that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father knowing, Matthew 10:29?*

*And then a thought, which I immediately repented of, and only share with you now for a learning tool for this lesson; 'Lord I know you are a loving God but I don't understand, I would have had to intervene to save this little animal'; and I further thought that if I were omnipresent and saw all the suffering in the earth, I would have to empty out the hospitals, and protect all the small animals of the field.*

*I then thought of all the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament that God required to be sacrificed, millions of them, sheep, bullocks, and birds, knowing all the while that those sacrifices did not take away sin Hebrews 10:11-12, they were only a type of Christ who would come and offer Himself once for the sins of many. Immediately I knew there was something in my understanding of God, and His nature I did not comprehend. My earnest prayer was that God would reveal it to me. Though it took years to better understand some of what we are sharing now. We must remember, that His ways are far above our ways, who can truly know the mind of the Lord, (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

**Please consider what I say now, as we begin our journey into the impassibility of God: God who is love, has divine affections, such as compassion, longsuffering, mercy, and wrath. However, God's affections are not tainted by fleshly sentimentalism like ours. Charles Spurgeon wrote the following comments while discussing R. L. Dabney and J. I. Packers notes on Impassibility.**

**Charles Spurgeon- "Note that both Packer and Dabney insist, and do not deny that God has true affections. Both however, see the divine affections as always active, never passive. God is the sovereign initiator and instigator of all His own affections—which are never**

**uncontrolled or arbitrary. He cannot be made to emote against His will, but is always the source and author of all His affective dispositions.”**

**Spurgeon (continued) “So a proper understanding of impassibility should not lead us to think God is unfeeling. But His feelings are never passive. They don’t come and go or change and fluctuate. They are active, sovereignly-directed dispositions, rather than passive reactions to external stimuli. They differ in this way from human passions.”**

I have quoted Spurgeon because he is more contemporary than the early Church Fathers such as Polycarp, Ignatius, Irenaeus, and Tertullian. In the early Church, God’s impassibility was an accepted principle of the Divine Nature. It was not until open theism (we will explain open theism later) came on the scene, that modern commentators and teachers began destroying the Doctrine of Impassibility. Man in the past century has been slowly profiling God to fit our need and pleasure.

*(See page 35 for the Baptist Church (ARBCA & London Baptist Confession on ‘Impassibility’)*

*A word about the use of Anthropomorphisms in scripture: Anthro-(Greek for man) Morphism- (Morpho Greek for form).*

**Defining Anthropomorphic Examples in Scripture:** God who is Spirit, has revealed Himself in terms we can understand. Jesus said, “A spirit hath not flesh and bones,” Luke 24:39. In Isaiah 31:3, God contrasts His nature as Spirit, from that which is created, which is flesh. God as Spirit, fills the universe, He is everywhere which allows Him to be manifested in more than one place at a time.

### ***Examples of Anthropomorphisms in Scripture:***

- When the scriptures refer to God as having body parts: Scripture speaks of God having an arm to protect us, eyes that He may see all things, feet, and other body parts, yet we know that God is Spirit and has not flesh and bone. These references are anthropomorphisms helping man to understand God’s workings.
- When Jesus said God makes the sun to rise and set on the good and the evil; He is creator of all things and knows that the sun neither sets nor rises, but that the earth is rotating which gives the appearance of the sun rising or setting.
- Knowing that God is omnipresent (everywhere at once), why is it that God could not find Adam in the Garden of Eden when Adam hid himself? God said, Adam where are you? This is said that we might know that it was God who came searching for Adam. Jesus said, “but the very hairs of your head are numbered,” Matthew 10:30, not a sparrow falls without the Father knowing, Matthew 10:29. God therefore did not lose Adam in the garden!
- There are other scriptures which we will discuss later as they appear, insinuating that God is provoked by circumstances, even seemingly surprised by situations as they happen. Some will say that God is repenting, which scripture makes clear He will never do, (Numbers 23:19). All of these are anthropomorphisms which give us human understanding of God’s purposes and ways.

## **Scriptural Examples:**

Anthropomorphic examples in scripture referring to God as having body parts; God's right arm and hand- Psalm 44:3, Psalm 98:1 and Isaiah 62:8, among others. There are scriptures which speak about God having eyes, ears etc. Jesus reminds us however that "God is Spirit" and does not have body parts, John 4:24.

## **Anthropomorphic Examples of God's Emotional Responses in Scripture**

Most expositors prefer the word passions rather than emotions, when talking about God's responses, for God is not an emotional God subject to mood swings like man. *God's passions are never arbitrary, nor forced upon Him. He chooses when to respond in wrath, as opposed to having uncontrolled emotional outbursts.*

Scripture however, sometimes portrays God's responses in metaphorical ways (anthropomorphic), that we may understand His interaction with man.

### **Classic Examples from Scripture:**

Genesis 6:6- "And it repented the Lord that He had made man upon the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart."

As we examine this verse in light of our entire study, and in context of all scripture, it becomes apparent that God's response in this verse is metaphorical and anthropomorphic in nature. First we will see that God is eternal, omniscience (all knowing) and omnipresent (everywhere at once); we will also learn that God knows the beginning from the end, and has predestined all things.

Just a Few Scriptural Illustrations of the omniscient (all knowing) God:

- II Timothy 1:9- "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."
- Titus 1:2- "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
- Revelation 13:8- "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (antichrist), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
- Revelation 17:8- "..... whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world," (*Notice that the book of life was written before the creation of the world!*)
- Romans 8:29- "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- I Corinthians 2:7- "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto your glory."

- Ephesians 1:4- “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:”

Knowing that God has known from the beginning all things, and has predestined all things, do we really believe that God was surprised in Genesis 6:6, when man progressed into such gross sin? However, to reveal to us the extreme actions He took in destroying all men, with the exception of Noah and his family; God communicated to us in language we can understand (anthropomorphic). Once again, did God know man would evolve into such a state before creation? Of course He did; yet God’s eternal purpose in Christ, and the pleasure in His elect, demanded His plan proceed as determined beforehand. Revelation 4:11 we were created for His glory and pleasure.

### **Second Scriptural Example:**

Exodus 32:10- “Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.”

In the above verse God draws Moses attention to the sins of the people, saying He will destroy them all and make another nation from Moses. We now have another example of God expressing Himself in an anthropomorphic way. Let’s examine all that is at play here.

1. God had already given Jacob a prophetic vision of what will take place in the end time, Genesis 49. In this prophetic vision, Jacob is shown what will happen to each of his twelve sons and the twelve tribes they will represent in the end of days.
2. In Genesis 49:9-12 God shows that the messiah, (Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God), would come from the tribe of Juda, this is repeated throughout scripture. *Thus if God destroys all the tribes and their leaders in His anger, and makes a new nation of Moses (who is from the tribe of Levi), God’s prophecy was faulty and God does not know future events; which we know is absurd.*

**Explanation:** God chose Moses to be the mediator of the Old Covenant, just as Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant. The purpose of a mediator is to represent both parties, and mediate between them. Moses is put to the test, and proves to be an excellent choice for the position God has chosen for him.

God searches for intercessors for His people so He may judge righteously. For example in Ezekiel 22:30 God says, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.” The following verse (verse 31) says “therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them, I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.”

Please turn to Deuteronomy 31:16-17, once again we see God making a prophetic statement about Israel to Moses; “And the Lord said unto Moses, behold thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up and go a whoring after other gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them.” (17) “Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day and I will forsake them, and I will

hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?"

Take note, God prophesied Israel's apostasy after Moses death, and His anger response that would follow. God has never been surprised by man's sins; nor are His emotional responses arbitrary or unknown to Him beforehand. God feels passionately about His creation, and expresses those passions, however, they are always expressed at His choosing and time.

### **Definition of Terms:**

- **Impassibility:** Classic theism teaches that God is **impassible** — not subject to suffering, pain, or the ebb and flow of involuntary passions. In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, God is "without body, parts, or passions, He is immutable."
- **Immutability:** Is an attribute where God is unchanging in his character, will, and covenant promises.
- **Anthropomorphism:** Is defined as an act ascribing to God and His actions in metaphorical terms, which compare Him to human experience and understanding.
- **Open Theism:** The belief that God is not as sovereign as Classical Theism has made Him to be; for example they believe that God does not know the future and is not in control of the future, nor many present events. Open Theism does not believe the Doctrine of Immutability. Unfortunately, Open Theism has permeated the Church today, thus robbing God of His sovereignty.

### **Scriptures on God's Immutability:**

- Malachi 3:6- "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
- Numbers 23:19- "God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent: hath He said and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken and shall not make it good."
- I Samuel 15:29- "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for He is not a man that He should repent."
- James 1:17- "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
- Hebrews 13:8- "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
- Isaiah 46:10- "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."
- Psalm 33:11- "The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations."
- Psalm 102:27- "But thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end."
- Acts 17:24-25- "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; (25) neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needeth anything, seeing He giveth life, and breath, and all things."

- Psalm 50:21- “These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such as one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.” (*Notice that God says the people thought that He (God) was like them, because He was silent, but they were wrong, God is not like man.*)
- Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. 9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
- Romans 11:33-34- “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! 34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counsellor?”
- Proverbs 8:22-30- In these verses wisdom becomes personified, and speaks of the joy that existed between wisdom and God before the earth was created. Verse 30- “then was I by Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” (This personification of wisdom was a type of Christ and the Fathers relationship in eternity. They were content, complete within themselves, there was joy within the triune God before creation). Jesus said in John 17:5-, “And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

### **God’s Tri-unity: (Triune nature or trinity).**

God being a triune God, does not take away from His unity or oneness. The Jews correctly interpreted the meaning of Christ’s words when He said, “I and the Father are one,” for they said He had claimed equality with God, John 10:30.

John 14:9-11 Jesus said “he that has seen Me has seen the Father.” Notice that in this verse, Jesus says He is one with the Father, yet in scripture He prays to the Father in heaven. God’s oneness is not a mathematical oneness; it is not the number one, but a qualitative oneness. This oneness is a unique oneness that belongs only to God, there are no earthly analogies to explain God other than what scripture provides.

There is one Divine Spirit which is God; one essence. The scriptures show that in the nature of the one God, there are three distinct personalities revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We being limited to time and space, measure God’s spiritual nature by what we know, which is mathematical three dimensional thinking. In doing so, we destroy His spiritual essence by reducing Him to physical limitations. For example, a physical body can only be in one place at a time, whereas God as spirit is omnipresent, everywhere at once. Consequently we must measure God’s nature by scripture, and not by the law of physics I Corinthians 2:13- “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. God as divine Spirit, differs from angels and other spiritual beings, in that God is divine Spirit and not created. Angels on the other hand are created beings with limitations.



## Scriptures Revealing the Trinity: (Father, Son and Holy Spirit):

- A) Genesis 1:26 “and God said, let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.” Note: The “Our” in the above scripture could not be referring to the angels, for they were not created in the image of God. (The “Our” is a reference to the trinity).
- B) Genesis 19:24 “The Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven.” (Notice the Lord on earth, who appeared as an angel, rained down fire from the Lord that was in heaven).
- C) Isaiah 48:16 “The Lord and His Spirit has sent me.”
- D) In the Old Testament, the Messiah as God, is distinguished from God the Father. Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 48:16, Zechariah 12:10, Zechariah 13:7, Psalm 45:6-7, Daniel 7:13-14, and Psalm 2.

## The Godhead:

- A) God is revealed as the Father in John 6:27 and many other scriptures.
- B) God is revealed as the Son in John 6:69, John 10:36 and John 9:36-37.
- C) God is revealed as the Holy Spirit, in Acts 5:3-4, I Corinthians 3:16 and I Corinthians 12:4-6. Note: The Holy Spirit is a manifestation of God, and not just a force or power; the Holy Spirit is referred to by a personal pronoun He or Himself some ten times in John 16:13-15.

Note: We have only quoted a few of the scriptures which show that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all manifestations of the one unique Godhead. It should also be noted that the word trinity does not appear in scripture. Trinity is a theological term given the Godhead, as revealed in a triune nature by scripture. In John chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17 Jesus shows the unity and oneness of the Godhead several times saying that He (Jesus), the Father, and the Holy Spirit will come and make their abode in man. *God is one God eternally manifesting Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

## ‘The Two Natures of Christ’ (The Hypostatic Union)

The Church Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, met with over 600 bishops and scholars to search the scriptures and establish what is now called the *Hypostatic Union*. Jesus Christ was declared to be one Person with two natures, one that is fully human, and one that is fully divine (God). These two natures are united in the one Person. These natures can be distinguished from each other, but never separated, Colossians 2:9- “For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

John Calvin after the reformation wrote: “The Word (Logos) in His immeasurable essence, united with the nature of man into one person, we do not imagine that He was confined therein. Here is something marvelous: the Son of God descended from heaven in such a way, that without leaving heaven, He willed to be home in the virgins womb, to go about the earth, and to hang upon the cross: yet He continuously filled the world even as He had done from the beginning.”

One author stated it this way; as Jesus Christ lay in the arms of the Virgin Mary, being protected as a baby, the Logos (Living Word) in His divine nature, was filling the whole earth “holding all things together,” Colossians 1:17 and Hebrews 1:3.

### **Foundation of Scriptures Showing Jesus is God:**

1. John 1:1- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
2. John 5:18- "For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."
3. John 8:24- "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins."
4. John 8:58- "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I Am.'" Exodus 3:14- "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
5. John 10:30-33- "I and the Father are one." Verse 31, The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy; and because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God."
6. John 20:28- "Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!"
7. Colossians 2:9- "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."
8. Philippians 2:5-11- "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, verse 6)- who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, verse 7)- but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Verse 8) - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Verse 9) - Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, verse 10) - that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, verse 11) - and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
9. Hebrews 1:8- "But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy Kingdom."
10. John 17:5, "And now O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory I had with thee before the world was."

11. I John 1:1, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.”

### **Scriptures Showing Jesus as Man:**

1. Jesus has a soul: John 12:27

2. Jesus had a Spirit: John 11:33, John 13:21:

3. Jesus became hungry and ate, He became tired and needed sleep, and He had to learn and grow in knowledge Luke 2:40.

4. Jesus was able to die, which is the primary purpose of the incarnation (God taking on flesh). God, who cannot die took on flesh therefore providing the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus the man remained sinless throughout all His earthly walk, despite being “tempted in all ways as we yet without sin,” (Hebrews 4:15). The virgin birth was necessary to prevent a sin nature being passed on to Jesus from human parents. He was born of a virgin, no man therefore providing the seed, nor did an egg of Mary become fertilized; that Holy Child was of the Holy Ghost Luke 1:34-35. Thus fulfilling the Old Testament typology which demanded a Lamb without spot or wrinkle should be sacrificed.

**As stated above it was the eternal Son of God, the Logos which became flesh, yet not limiting the Son (the Logos) from being omnipresent as God, filling the whole earth.**

### **Scriptures Revealing Jesus Was God’s Eternal Son:**

There are many scriptures which illustrate Jesus Christ as creator and sustainer of all things. Just as there are scriptures to show His eternal existence with the Father, the scriptures below relate to His being called the Son of God before His incarnation; thus disputing the error that Jesus became the Son of God only after His virgin birth.

1. Galatians 4:4, “But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” (Notice, He was the Son before being sent).
2. I John 4:14, “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” (Once again, notice that He was the Son before being sent).

3. I John 4:10, “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Notice, the above scriptures speak of God sending His Son into the world; Jesus was therefore the Son before He was sent. *Cults will say that Jesus was created, and then became God’s Son, this is heresy.*

## **Jesus Christ, Two Natures in One Person, These Two Natures Can be Distinguishable from Each Other, But Never Separated.**

### **Understanding the Kenosis Experience**

Philippians 2:5-8- “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in the fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The above scriptures describe what is called ‘the Kenosis experience of the eternal Son of God.’ The words in verse #7, “of no reputation” is translated from the Greek word *kenosis*, which means to empty. We must be careful how we interpret the meaning of Christ’s kenosis experience.

These verses reveal that Jesus Christ was equal with God, yet He chose to experience His time in the flesh as a man. He was totally man and totally God at the same time. None of His attributes like being omnipresent, omnipotent or omniscience was lost or laid aside, but became latent only in Christ the man, not in the Logos (Living Word).

His life, miracles and the cross was done as a man dependent on His Father. Yet He remained God at all times. Colossians 2:9- “For in Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Some would say, Jesus Christ was God, but left His deity in heaven. This is however a heretical statement, if one understands the Godhead, God cannot be divided, being one in nature and essence. Jesus the man was still God.

Jesus, answering His disciples question of the time of His second coming, answers as follows, Matthew 24:36-“But of the day and the hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” And Mark 13:32- “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.” Such statements confirm that the Son of God,

was in complete submission to His Father, and was living His life as a man dependent on His Father. This should be comforting for us. I have heard some say, ‘of course Jesus could endure the tests and trials of His life—to include the cross, because He was God and had the ability to lessen His experiences and pain.. My friends this could not be further from the truth, everything Jesus experienced was as a man, in subjection to the will of His Father. All that He did He did as a man. The following scriptures will further define these facts.

### **Distinguishing the Divine Nature of Jesus:**

- John 1:1-4- These verses call Him God, creator of all things and giver of life.
- Hebrews 1:2-3- Jesus, once again called creator and upholding all things by the word of His power.
- Colossians 1:16-17- Jesus again called creator and sustainer of all things.
- Philippians 2:6-8- These verses reveal that He was in the form of God and equal with God, but humbled Himself and came as a man.
- John 8:58- Jesus said “before Abraham was I Am.”
- John 10:30- “I and the Father are one.”
- John 14:9- Jesus said “if you have seen Me you have seen the Father.”
- John 10:38- “The Father is in Me and I in Him.”
- John 14:10- “I am in the Father, and the Father in Me.”
- II Corinthians 5:19- “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” *Notice how the Godhead cannot be divided!*

### **Distinguishing the Human Nature of Jesus:**

#### **The Garden of Gethsemane:**

We have already illustrated the humanity of Jesus Christ in several scriptures, now we will examine the human emotions expressed by our Lord at the most extreme passion of His life; the Garden of Gethsemane and the cross.

- John 14:30- Jesus now preparing for the cross experience, tells His disciples that “the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.”
- Luke 22:44- Describes His sweat as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- Matthew 26:38- “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me. Verse # 39- “O My Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

#### Summary of His Passion:

1. Satan is coming but has nothing in Jesus i.e. no sin nature or failures, Jesus was sinless.
2. Jesus is sorrowful in His soul (human soul).
3. His dread of the cross was not the suffering or pain which He was to endure; but the terrible anticipation of the weight of the sin of the world, which would be placed on Him, and that terrible moment of separation from His Father on the cross. Not separation of God from God, but for the first time this Man, who had always relied on His Father for everything, would feel abandoned. Until that point, He has known only the joy of His fellowship with the Father. The cup He spoke of, was the Father’s wrath against Him as sin bearer for the world, a wrath which He had never known.
4. Jesus chilling words on the cross, “My God, My God why hath thou forsaken Me?” Remember it was the purpose of the incarnation that a perfect man would die for the sins of the world; only in His humanity could death take place. *It was not His divinity (Godhood) which died, but His humanity. God cannot die, once again this was the purpose of the incarnation, God is triune in nature, but one God; you cannot have one person of the Godhead die and not them all, for God cannot die. I Peter 2:24- “bore our sins in His own body on the cross” I Peter 3:18- says that Jesus was “put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” If the eternal Logos died on the cross, the entire world would destruct, for He holds all things together by the power of His word, as we have seen in this study.*

In all of this we must remember, the two natures of Christ cannot be separated, but we can differentiate between them. Christ is both God and Man in one person, however, it was His body, His flesh that died on the cross; which was the whole purpose for the incarnation. Jesus lived His life as a man, depending on His Father. Jesus said in John 14:10- “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.” And again in II Corinthians 5:19- “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.”

## **Christ after the Resurrection**

Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection, when they supposed He was a spirit, “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have,” Luke 24:39. Jesus had a bodily resurrection, to deny this is heresy I Corinthians 15:16-17.

Jesus will always have a spiritual body, yet be omnipresent at the same time. He manifests Himself at the right hand of the Father, yet fills the whole earth. Scripture reveals that we see through a mirror darkly, I Corinthians 13:12. The Lord makes known to us that which is necessary to walk by faith, yet have a knowledge of His person, and purpose. I Timothy 3:16 says, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

## **God’s Attributes**

God reveals Himself in attributes, which are the inner perfections of His nature. These fall into two categories; those that are found in man and those that are not found in man.

### **God’s Eternalness:**

Deuteronomy 33:27:

I Timothy 1:17:

Psalm 90:2:

Revelation 1:8:

Revelation 4:10-11:

### **God’s Omnipresence: (Present in all places at all times)**

Space in relationship with God:

- God is not limited by physical space. He does not have to go anywhere to be somewhere. He is everywhere at once. He created physical space, but is not limited by it.
- Space in relationship to man, two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, this is not so however with spirit.
- For example, the legion of demons that possessed the demoniac in Mark 5:9. A legion which may be as many as one thousand demons, could occupy one individual; thus space in the spirit world does not equate to space in our physical world.

### **Scriptural Examples of Omnipresence:**

- Jeremiah 23:23-24.
- Psalm 139:7-10.
- I Kings 8:27.

- Isaiah 66:1.
- Amos 9:1-4.
- Acts 17:27-28.

## **God's Relationship between Time and Eternity:**

God is not in time, He created time for man, time, is but a speed bump in eternity to God!

II Peter 3:8 "One day with the Lord is as 1000 years."

Psalm 90:4 "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

Because we are creatures of time and space, it is difficult for us to relate to a timeless God. Since we had a beginning (birth), and we will have an end (death), we measure things in time. Events happen for us in sequences of time; to conceive of a God who created time and a physical universe, yet has not limited Himself to time or physical space, is more than our finite minds can comprehend.

*Let us contemplate God, who is eternal and not limited to time or space, God is always in the now! Any definition or analogy will fail to describe an infinite being like God, who is timeless and eternal. Yet somehow, we must stretch our minds to find an analogy which will help us.*

*Life for us is much like watching a movie real as it passes by the lens of the projector, one frame at a time. Let's imagine, that instead of experiencing life one frame at a time, we would unwind the entire reel of film exposing the beginning, the middle, and the end all at the same time. We could then enter, and experience life at any point we desire, we could go to the present, or we could go into the future and experience that as well.*

*I am sure you are starting to get the idea, as we use this feeble attempt to explain God's timelessness, we must explain that God not only sees creation (past, present, and future), but He sees it as though it is always in the now. He is actively involved at every venture. God not only is involved at every point of time, but has predestined it to be so. God does not look forward in time like a fortuneteller, and then predict what will happen, it happens because He predetermined that it would. Many would say, man does not have a free will if all is predestined! However, predestination and election takes in account man's free will.*

## **Predestination Scriptures:**

- Ephesians 1:4- "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."
- Ephesians 3:11- "According to the eternal purpose, which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Acts 15:18- "Known unto God are all of His works from the beginning of the world."
- II Timothy 1:9- "Who hath saved us, and called us, not according to our works, but according to His purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."



- Revelation 17:8- “..... whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world .....
- Revelation 13:8- “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

*Let's use a simple story to demonstrate God's timelessness. Johnny decides he would like to make a cup of coffee; when does God know that Johnny is going to make this cup of coffee? The answer is, God has always known it, and has known it from eternity. Now let's say that Johnny at the last minute decides not to make his cup of coffee, is God surprised by this sudden change? No, God is not surprised, because what God knows, He knows from eternity. Remember, past, present and future are all the same to God. You and I are fixed in time, we therefore cannot comprehend God who is not in time.*

*Let's look at salvation. As the above scriptures reveal to us, God predestined His elect to be in Christ before the foundation of the world. God has always known those who are His and those who are not. Some will say that this is not fair; God is unrighteous to save some and let others continue in a lost state. Of course scripture warns us against such accusations, and assumptions against God, who is sovereign and calls whom He wills as stated in Romans chapter nine (please read).*

*God is sincere in His call for all men to repent, and embrace Christ as Lord and Savior. When He says, “Whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved;” He is sincere and restrains no man from coming to the knowledge of Christ. However, when God applies grace to the elect, and they respond, their free will is taken in account and they will respond. Man, in his sinful state, is incapable to comprehending spiritual matters. Without the application of grace, he is lost forever. I Corinthians 2:14- “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

### **Scripture References:**

- John 6:44- “No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- Matthew 22:14- Jesus said, “For many are called, but few are chosen.”
- Acts 16:14- “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.” *Lydia was a believing Jew, but did not know Christ until God opened her heart to understand Paul's preaching.*
- II Timothy 2:25- “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” Notice, it is God who grants repentance, not the person.

The Westminster Confession of Faith of 1647 chapter ten, (a standard long accepted by the Church), speaks of the effectual call, vs. the general call. The general call goes out to all who hear the gospel, the effectual call however, is for the elect.

*Is God unrighteous because He extends grace to some but not all? Not in the least, God does not restrain any from believing of their own free will, they could come if they chose to do so. Therefore, as Romans chapter nine tells us, He, as God, can apply grace to some and withhold grace from others, without interfering with their free will to choose.*

*If we did not speak of prayer in relation to God's timelessness, we would be remiss. Some would say, if God knows the beginning from the end, then why pray? Because God has ordained prayer as a means to intervene and change man's circumstances. God can best do that if He is in the now. All our prayers, have been predestined from the foundation of the world, because a timeless God, who always knows from the position of the present, ordains it to be so. Matthew 6:8- Jesus said, "For your heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before you ask Him." Yet the word says "Ye have not because you ask not", James 4:2.*

### **Summary of the Timelessness of God:**

*Notice that all of our questions of a timeless God, come from a time sensitive perspective, because our minds naturally gravitate to time and space issues. However, when we reconstruct our thoughts to a timeless God, who is not in time but eternal, only then can we begin to comprehend a sovereign omnipotent God.*

## **God's Omniscience: (Having all wisdom)**

God's wisdom is not limited to the present, but includes past and future as well. Much as we have seen in God's omnipresence, we will also see in His wisdom. Wherever God is, He has complete power.

## **God's Wisdom vs. Man's Wisdom:**

Man: Man learns and accumulates knowledge as he grows in maturity, just as the scriptures say Jesus did Luke 2:52.

God: Knowledge is one of His attributes. He does not just possess knowledge; knowledge is an expression of Himself. He did not have to learn, He has just always known.

### Examples:

- I John 3:20- He knows all things.
- Job 37:16- Perfect in knowledge.
- Psalm 147:4-5- His understanding is infinite.
- Psalm 33: Knowledge of the works of men.
- Acts 15:8 and Psalm 139- He knows the thoughts of men.
- Romans 11:33- His ways are past finding out.

## **God's Omnipotence: (All Powerful)**

Examples:

- Jeremiah 32:17- Made world by His power.....nothing to hard for Him.
- Matthew 19:26- "With God all things are possible."

Note: When the scriptures say that nothing is impossible with God, it should be understood that God's power does not include that which is self-contradictory.

Examples:

- James 1:13- God cannot sin.
- Numbers 23:19- God cannot lie.
- II Timothy 2:13- God cannot deny Himself.

## **God's Sovereignty: (Complete power and control over all things).**

Ephesians 1:11- Sovereign over all.

Daniel 4:34-35- Sovereign over armies.

Romans 9:15-21- Sovereign over salvation.

Acts 13:48- Sovereign over those who come to salvation.

Romans 8:28-31- Sovereign over all.

## **God's Immutability: (Unchangeableness, always the same).**

James 1:17- No variableness of turning.

Malachi 3:6- I change not saith the Lord.

Hebrews 13:8- Same yesterday today and forever.

Numbers 23:19- If He said it He will do it.

God's immutability does not mean that He is immovable or static. His immutability is the unchanging essence of His being and nature. *The scriptures say that "God is love," this does not change when God shows His wrath.*

In passages of scripture such as Ezekiel 22:29-31 and Isaiah 59:16-18, God is asking for intercessors to intercede on behalf of the sinful Nation Israel, so that He may turn from His wrath. Such intercession does not change His mind, His will, or His purpose, yet God has ordained that men should intercede in prayer and has promised to answer prayers that are according to His will I John 5:14. Thus God works in concert with man's prayers.

**Included in God's unchangeable plans, is the fact that some promises are conditional.**

Examples:

- Jeremiah 18: If a Nation repents after His judgment, He will turn from His wrath.

- John 15:7- “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.
- Deuteronomy 28- Man’s choice of blessings or cursing by obedience.

**God’s Holiness:**

God’s holiness, is the perfection by which He is by nature, morally separate and unique from all other creatures. Holiness means to be set apart and separate from all unrighteousness or sin. Holiness refers to God’s absolute purity of nature.

Examples:

- Habakkuk 1:13- He is too pure to behold evil.
- Job 25:5- Even the stars are not pure in His sight.
- Isaiah 57:15- Even His name is holy.
- Isaiah 6:3- Seraphim cry holy, holy in His presence.

**God’s Righteousness:** (All that God does is righteous, including His judgments).

God being righteous, holds a standard for man who has been created in His image, to also be righteous.

Examples:

- Leviticus 19:2- “Ye shall be holy, as the Lord your God is Holy.
- Matthew 5:48- “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect:
- Matthew 6:33- “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness”.

Because God is just, He must judge righteous judgment, He visits conformity with reward and non-conformity with punishment. A righteous Holy God must deal with sin.

Romans 2:4-8- Shows that God does right toward all His creation, and He judges according to man’s works.

**God’s Faithfulness:**

Another attribute of God is His faithfulness, He is righteous, and just; therefore, He is faithful.

Examples:

- II Timothy 2:13- “He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself”.
- Hebrews 10:23- “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith because God is faithful that promised”.
- I Thessalonians 5:23-24- Faithful to complete His work in the believer.
- Matthew 5:18- He is faithful to His word.
- Isaiah 40:8- He is faithful to His word.
- Numbers 23:19- “God is not a man that He should lie”.

Note: God’s justice means that He is faithful to reward those who have been obedient to His word and revelation to man. His justice also means that as He promised, He will punish sin and iniquity.

His justice, holiness, and faithfulness require both responses. God's justice demanded the cross of Christ, while His love and grace provided it.

**Meaning of God's Love:** God's love is unconditional. The love of God creates value of the object in which it is extended, Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

Whereas man's love is determined by the value of an object. In fact, we only love God because He first loved us, I John 4:19.

God's love is not mere affection; God is love I John 4:8, and everything that He does is based on love. Even His chastisement is based on His love for the individual; "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth" Hebrews 12:6.

## **God is the Same God in the Old Testament, as He is in the New Testament:**

### **Scriptural References:**

- James 1:17- "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
- Hebrews 13:8- "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- Malachi 3:6- "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

The above verses will help refresh our memories, declaring that God is Immutable, and indeed does not change. Unfortunately, many confuse God's temperament differently in the New Testament, as compared to the Old Testament.

The reason for this misperception, is a failure to understand that the narrative between the two Testaments are completely diverse. We are told that the Old Testament was written for our learning, and for our example, I Corinthians 10:11- "Now all these things happened to them (*Old Testament*) for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the end of the world (age) are come." Hebrews 10:1- "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." The Old Testament was pointing to the grace to come, which was the giving of Christ Jesus the eternal Son of God.

**Old Testament and New Testament Comparison:** The Old Testament is a history lesson, which spans from creation to the Minor Prophets. This history covers approximately 4,000 years. Most of this History reveals God dealing with a rebellious people, both before the flood, and after His call of the Nation of Israel. This history lesson shows man's continual rebellion from God, and God's response to their sins. Thus we see a continual conflict between man and God.

The New Testament however, begins with the prophecy fulfillment of God sending His Son, born of a virgin, thus not partaking of man's sin nature. Much of the New Testament is centered on Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, revealing Himself by doing miracles, and delivering Gods

people from the bondage of Satan; thus proving He was the Son of God. Therefore, much of the New Testament centers on His obedience to His Father, and redeeming man at His cross.

The New Testament, largely centers on the three years of Jesus ministry, and the revelation of God's call for men to accept Christ. Thus the New Testament does not deal with a great deal of history, but rather God's revelation of His Son, and the calling of men/women to follow Him. Therefore, the time span of the New Testament covers less than seventy years of time, compared to 4,000 years of Old Testament history.

**Jesus Christ's Role in the Old Testament:** We have seen that Jesus Christ is said to be God, the Living Word. The Word, as it relates to Christ, is the Greek word *Logos*; which means not only a word, but the thought and the meaning behind the word.

**Scripture References:** (Read John 1:1-18)

- John 1:1- "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the Word was God. *Notice, Jesus as the word, was God.*
- John 1:3- "all things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (Jesus is the creator of all things). ***Other scriptures revealing Jesus Christ as the creator---Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16-18, I Corinthians 8:6 and Hebrews 1:2.***
- John 1:10- "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not." (Also showing Jesus Christ as the creator).
- Revelation 19:13- "And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God."
- John 1:18- "No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."
- I Peter 1:11- Speaking of the Old Testament prophets-"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the suffering of Christ, and the glory that should follow." *Notice, it was the Spirit of Christ which was in the prophets speaking."*

### **Question- Who was it that Moses Saw, and Spoke with on the Mountain?**

Exodus 33:18-23- Moses asked to see God's glory, but the Lord said that Moses could not see His face, but rather God would walk past Moses, placing His hand before Moses eyes until God passed. Then God would take His hand away and Moses could in turn see His hinder parts (back).

We know that this was God speaking to Moses; but what manifestation of God was it, Father-Son- or Holy Spirit?

Letting scripture interpret scripture, let's examine the New Testament to discover the answer.

- We know that the Father is called God, John 6:27, John 3:16, Romans 15:6 and I Corinthians 8:6 just to name a few.
- We also know that Jesus is called God John 20:28, John 1:1-3 for just a few.

- We also know that the Holy Spirit is called God Acts 5:3-5- (Ananias and Sapphira was told they lied to God, and then identifies the Holy Spirit as the one they lied to). See also, Matthew 28:19, where Jesus commands them to go baptize in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus Answer to our earlier question--who spoke to Moses on the Mountain, and who was it that Moses saw?**

- John 1:18- “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”
- John 14:9- “Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, show us the Father?” *Jesus has always been the one to reveal the Father’s will, by revealing Him to Moses and the other prophets. It was Jesus who spoke through the prophets, as illustrated in the following verse of scripture..*
- I Peter 1:10-11- “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: (11) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the suffering of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” *Notice, it was the Spirit of Christ who spoke through the prophets; i.e. the Living Word.*
- John 6:46- “Not that any man hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, He hath seen the Father.” *Once again no man has seen the Father, which would include Moses.*
- II Corinthians Chapter Three shows that Moses face began to glow after he saw the glory of the Lord. Moses, when he returned from the mountain, after seeing the Lord, frightened the people because his face was glowing. We are told in these verses, Moses face shining is a type of us in the Church, and we also reflect the glory of the Lord after coming to Him. *Notice, the comparison between Moses and us, after coming to the Lord, we begin to reflect His glory. Moses natural face shown, while our lives reflect Christ’s glory.*
- Remembering again that Jesus Christ created the world, as the living word—Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16-18, I Corinthians 8:6 and Hebrews 1:2.

Jesus Christ as eternal Son and Logos (Living Word), has always spoken through the prophets, and appeared to a few. In Genesis during the creation we see the manifestation of the Godhead, clearly functioning in their roles (all being equally God).

Genesis 1:1-2-3- “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” *Notice the sequence, and function of each person of the Godhead. God the Father is the source, Jesus Christ as the Living Word spoke it fourth, and the Holy Spirit moving over the waters provided the results. This sequence we can see displayed throughout scripture.*

**Synopsis of Facts Learned Thus-far:** Jesus Christ as the Logos (Living Word) and as creating agent, is the Godheads voice to the prophets and Israel. It is Christ who spoke to the prophets revealing God’s word and commandments. Therefore, it was Jesus who spoke to Israel to destroy the inhabitants of the Amalekites, I Samuel 15:3- “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy

all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.”

It is important for us to remind ourselves, within the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they are all one in essence and nature. What one knows, they all know. They are in complete unity in all things. There is no division within the Godhead; therefore, Jesus is not more loving than the Father. There is one God, who is omnipresent (everywhere at once), When one of them is present, all of them are present. Jesus said, John 10:30- “I and the Father are one. John 14:9- “Jesus said unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, show us the Father.” The Godhead cannot be divided. II Corinthians 5:19-“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,” John 10:38- “the Father is in Me, and I in Him,” John 14:10- “I am in the Father, and the Father in Me.” *If we were to illustrate the Godhead as a mathematical equation, it would not be  $1+1+1=3$ , but rather it would be  $1+1+1=1$ .*

As we saw earlier, the short content from the New Testament, compared to the Old Testament revelation. Jesus is revealed as the savior of the world, The Lamb of God which was to take away the sins of the world. In John 3:16 “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” It was God’s love which provided the cross of Christ, but it was also His wrath, which demanded it. Therefore the New Testament message is God’s love to provide a sacrifice for all. All the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament, were only a type of the sacrifice which was to come: God’s eternal Son.

However, we must remember, the book of Revelation which Jesus Christ gave to John, is more terrifying than all the Old Testament combined. The coming judgement of Christ, who will smite His enemies, and condemn unbelievers to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. Read Revelation Chapter Nineteen, which gives a description of Christ Coming in judgement, notice the terrible wrath Christ displays at His coming. Jesus message to the seven churches in Revelation chapter 2-3- is also sobering. These are just a few verses from Revelation showing Christ’s judgment to come. Remember, At Jesus first coming at His birth and ministry; He said He did not come to judge John 3:17- “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” However, at His second coming, He comes to judge, see the following verses showing Christ coming to judge.

- II Corinthians 5:10- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- Acts 17:31- “Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that hath raised him from the dead.”
- Matthew 19:28- “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
- John 5:22- “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”
- Romans 2:16- “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of all men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”



- Revelation 19:11-16- These verses describe Jesus Christ at His second coming, to judge the world; He will come riding a white horse, having eyes as the flame of fire.”

Jesus Christs’ first coming, was to provide a sacrifice for sin, thus, providing salvation for us. His second coming will be in judgment.

In the Old Testament, it is important to note that God is portrayed as a God of love and compassion, following are a few Old Testament scriptures; Exodus 34:6, Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 4:31, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:5 and 15, Psalm 108:4, Psalm 145:8 and Joel 2:13.

### **Understanding Christ’s Intercession for the Church as Our High Priest:**

Jesus Christ satisfies many Old Testament types; He is a savior, a king, a prophet and a high priest. All of the Old Testament offices are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We will not define how He fulfills all of these offices, but rather center on the office of high priest.

### **Scriptural References:**

- Isaiah 53:12- (This is a prophecy of the coming Messiah, who of course was Jesus). This verse closes with “and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” *Notice, in baring the sin of many, He made intercession for the transgressors. This will become clear later.*
- Hebrew 7:21-28- As in all our studies, it is important to remember to keep scripture in full context. We should never take one verse, and make an assumption of its meaning without keeping it in context of how it is used within the surrounding verses. A careful reading will reveal that Jesus Christ as our High Priest, is compared to the High Priest from the law, i.e. Arron’s priesthood. Jesus in these verses is compared also to the Priesthood of Melchizedek, who was both a King and a Priest of the most-high God. Jesus is also called a King and a Priest. We are told that the High Priest under the law, entered the Holy of Holies once every year for the sins of himself and the people. Whereas, Jesus entered only once and for all for our sins. *(Notice, in both these references we have illustrated thus far, it was the entering of the Holy Place with blood, which provided intercession for the people. In the Old Testament the priesthood continually changed, when one High Priest would die another had to take his place. In contrast however, we see that Jesus lives forever. Jesus need not enter the Holy of Holies often, seeing He ever lives as our High Priest. He will never die and need to be replaced, for He ever lives in the presence of God.*

The early Church Fathers, understood, and taught Christ’s intercession in this context. The reformers also reaffirmed this truth. Remember what we have learned thus far, we have only one God; and what one knows, the whole trinity knows. They are one in essence and in total agreement.

Unfortunately, some modern teaches have spent much effort overemphasizing Jesus Christs’ humanity, thus almost robing Him of His deity. The Godhead however, cannot be divided, they

are one in essence. These teachers present Christ, as if He were trying to change the mind of an angry God (the Father), making the Godhead look as if they were not in total agreement.

**Key Verse: II Corinthians 5:15-16-** “**And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. (16) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, thought we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth we know Him no more.**” *Notice this verse plainly shows that we are not to know Christ after the flesh any longer! We are to know Christ today as the risen Lord, sitting at the right hand of the Father. All power has been given to Him in heaven and earth, He is Lord of all. After His resurrection He appeared to His disciples and said, Matthew 28:18- “And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.”*

Unfortunately, most in the Church have frozen Jesus Christ in time. They are infatuated with His earthly walk, and have not graduated Him into Lord of Lords, who now rules at the right hand of the Father.

**The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646) Defines Jesus Christ the Son of God as follows:**

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man’s nature with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

**The Westminster Confession was devised during the Reformation, where it became necessary to have a statement clarifying Reformation Doctrine. The council that convened in England, was made up of 151 Theologians from Reformation leaders, which included the Puritans.**

**The Westminster Confession is the doctrinal standard which governs most of the protestant churches of today, and has stood the test of time.**

**Summation:** Without the foundational truths of biblical doctrine, one does not have a proper foundation on which to build an understanding of scripture. Studying scripture is like the separation of threads for a tapestry. Each thread individually has a beauty of its own, but without weaving them together, one never sees the full beauty of the tapestry.

I often use the comparison of Mark Twain’s book ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.’ If two instructors gave separate courses on this same book, the two classes could graduate with two entirely different impressions of the character, Tom Sawyer.

For example, if one teacher saw Tom Sawyer as a good kid, who liked to help people in his adventures, and really loved his aunt Polly; then his class would graduate having adopted this same concept.

If the other teacher however, portrayed Tom Sawyer as rebellious, self-centered, and always taking advantage of those he encountered; of course this teacher's class would graduate with an entirely different concept of the boy Tom Sawyer.

If you have read the book, 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,' you know that the truth lies in the middle. Tom Sawyer, was actually a combination of both the above depictions.

I believe you are beginning to understand our point. Many pastors today, have a good understanding of the individual threads of doctrine. However, we live in a time when many teacher/pastors have not taken the time to weave the threads together; which leaves them with a fragmented understanding of scripture.

If we would ask some of these same pastors, if he agreed with the Westminster Confession's statement of the trinity, and of Christ, he would most likely say yes. However, he may still fall into the error of separating the Godhead, as reiterated above.

Having a Bachelor's degree in theology, and a Master's degree in counseling, I have not only observed the above scenario, but have experienced it as well. It may surprise most of you to know, Bible Colleges and Seminaries do not graduate theologians. These institutions give ministers a good basic understanding of scripture, and bible doctrine, but without continued study and research, a minister can be ill equipped to understand in depth Bible concepts. In Acts 18:24-26, there was a teacher named Apollos, who was said to be an eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures. Yet he only knew the baptism of John, he did not yet know that they were now baptizing in Jesus name. A couple of lay ministers, Aquila and Priscilla, took him aside and expounded to him the way of God more perfectly. Notice, Apollos was a teacher called by God, and was mighty in scripture, yet he needed to put it all together. Pastors of today are therefore no exception.

This has always been the case however, in today's Church, the office of a pastor has become multifaceted. The average job description of today's pastor requires him to take on the role of administrator, social director, activities coordinator, teacher, preacher, and counselor. The pastor of today becomes all things to all people. Can you see the problem? Today's pastor has no time for proper study and research; therefore, the following becomes the norm; the average pastor substitute's labor-some study practices, with reading of the latest book from the latest superstar in the religious community. This can be a dangerous practice.

Before entering the ministry I was in the construction business for a time. While working for an engineering firm which was constructing a chemical plant, I was placed in charge of personnel placement and daily progress reports.

The supervising engineer, came to me one afternoon warning me of a pending visit from the designing engineer of the project. The supervisor was concerned about the confusion which may follow the designers visit. The supervisor said that the man was brilliant, and was the individual which drafted the entire plant design. However, I was told he was dumb as a box of rocks when it came to taking what he had drafted, and putting it into practice. He evidently knew the total concept of engineering, but lacked the knowledge to put it together.

The designer did indeed arrive, and put the whole project in chaos. He began to confuse and anger the entire workforce. He could not figure out the simplest activity. He could understand the design and concept, but lacked the knowledge to put it all together. Sound familiar?

If you ever wondered what the problem of the maturity level of the Church is, this is the fundamental issue. I suggest to you that one of the solutions to the problem of immaturity in the Church, would be to restore the gifts to the Church. We have lost the office of the teacher. The pastor believes he has to be all things to all people.

The average pastor is afraid of installing other teachers in the Church; concerned he will not be the central figure any longer. I submit to you that the central figure of the Church is Jesus Christ, and we are all given different gifts by him. Paul warns the Church of preferring one teacher above another in I Corinthians 1:12-13.

In closing, we will reaffirm our understanding of God. We have only one God, eternally manifesting Himself as Father-Son-Holy Spirit. They are one in essence, therefore all are omnipresent (everywhere at once), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipotent (all powerful). There is no division between the three persons of the Godhead, being one in essence, they are, and have eternally been, of one mind and purpose.

## **Final Thoughts:**

In our study of God, we have covered many different aspects of God's character and nature; by the study of His word, we see that there is much to learn about God. As we pour over the Old and New Testaments, we can learn even more about Him as we observe how He reveals Himself by His interaction with creation.

God's greatest desire however, is to reveal Himself to each of us individually through personal relationships. As we spend personal time with Him in prayer and fellowship, He reveals Himself in a more intimate way as our fellowship grows.

Colossians 1:10- "That you may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Philippians 3:10- "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." (Paul is speaking of his desire to know the Lord even more intimately than he did at that time).

The word to know Him, expressed in the above verses, and in our calling to know the Lord in a more intimate way, is the Greek word *Ginosko*, which carries with it the meaning of to know experientially.

**It is the desire of 'Word Ministries,' that these studies will not only reveal who God is through this study of His word; but to encourage you to begin a journey to know Him experientially, and more intimately, as He draws you nearer to Himself.**

**Acknowledgement:** We would like to acknowledge Rob Lister’s book, ‘God is Impassible and Impassioned: *Toward a Theology of Devine Emotion*’ Rob Lister’s book was a Godsend for many of the thoughts, and clarity on this studies section of the impassibility of God. We recommend the reading of Rob Lister’s book for all those who truly have a desire toward “Understanding the Nature of God.”

### **Church Position Statements:**

Westminster Confession of Faith- (1646) Chapter 2.1 (Confirming the doctrine of the Impassibility of God)

London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Confirming the doctrine of the Impassibility of God.

ARBCA- Association of Reformed Baptist Churches (Position Paper 2L CF 2.1 (Impassibility of God). *Formally approved by the General Assembly on April 15, 2015, stating, “This is an affirmation of the classical Doctrine of Divine Impassibility, consonant with the united voice of Historic Confessional Reformed Theology, particularly as articulated in the Westminster Confession of Faith.”*

GARBC General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (Position Paper, Critiquing the ARBCA’s Position Letter).

### **Theological Terms Used In This Study**

**Trinity:** The unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead.

**Infinite:** Subject to no limitations or eternal duration, boundless space.

**Finite:** Having a limited nature of existence.

**Sovereign:** Having supreme authority, unlimited in extent.

**Godhead:** (Godhood or God’s divinity) God as revealed in scripture in His triune nature.

**Omnipresence:** Present in all places at all times.

**Omniscience:** Complete knowledge and understanding of all things, seen and unseen.

**Omnipotence:** Having complete power and authority over all things at all times.

**Immutability:** Not capable of or susceptible to change.

# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

*By Jim Daniels M.C.C.*

## “Understanding the Decrees of God”

**Decrees-Definition:** *Judgements or judicial decisions.*

God’s judgements, and judicial decisions, are revealed in scripture in various ways. Some will call these distinctions, God’s perfect will vs. God’s permissive will, while others call this distinction—God’s perfect will vs. His legislative will. Regardless, it is evident by scripture that God has two methodologies when interacting with man, and His creation.

Before we explain the above statement, I suggest we consider why this explanation is necessary in the first place. Since the 20<sup>th</sup> century began, the Church has undergone a paradigm shift in its understanding of the nature of God. (If you have not yet studied our, ‘Understanding the Nature of God’ teaching, I suggest you do so before going any farther. Without that basic foundation you will probably find this topic very challenging).

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century began, the Church has emphasized a misleading view of God’s nature, and relationship with man; instead of beginning with the nature of God, as revealed in scripture, the Church has been occupied in emphasizing how much God is like man. This paradigm shift has distorted God’s sovereignty. Scripture when taken in context, reveals the exact opposite, God is nothing like man.

### **Scriptural Examples:**

- Isaiah 55:8-9- “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
- Psalms 50:21- “These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thy self: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.”
- Romans 11:33-34- “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counsellor?”
- I Corinthians 2:16- “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Let's now examine a chapter of the New Testament, which is often overlooked by many of today's teachers—Romans Chapter nine (*please read this entire chapter before continuing*).

**Verses 10-13-** In these verses, God says that He chose Jacob over Esau as the heir, before either of them were born; Esau should have had the birthright because he was the firstborn, but God gave it to Jacob instead. God said that He hated Esau, and loved Jacob before they were ever born.

**Verses 14-18-** Paul by the inspiration of God, says that because of the judgments described in Romans chapter nine, who can call God unrighteous because of His judgments. 15) God said to Moses "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." Verse # 18- "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth."

**Verses 19-23-** "Thou wilt say then unto me, why doeth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will." Verse #20- "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus?" Verse #21- "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another to dishonor?"

Having re-oriented somewhat our thinking, we will now examine God's means of decreeing His will.

### **Verses to Consider:**

- Lamentations 3:32-33- "But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. (33) For He doth not afflict willingly (from His heart), nor grieve the children of men."
- Deuteronomy 28:63- "And it shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and bring you to naught; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it."
- Isaiah 45:7- "I form light, and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things."
- Amos 3:6- "Shall a trumpet be blowing in the city, and the people be not afraid? Shall there be evil in the city, and the Lord hath not done it."

Knowing that there are no contradictions in God's inspired word, we see that God is indeed more complex than we can imagine. We began this study with scriptures that show God is too great for man to counsel, and how unsearchable are His judgments (Romans 11:33-34).

### **Let's take two scriptures for comparison:**

Ezekiel 18:32- "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live."

Deuteronomy 28:63- "...as the Lord rejoice over you to do good ... the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you."

It has helped me to have a life experience, to help me make this comparison. When I was a Chaplain in the Texas, penal system. I ministered to a man who had been convicted of murder when he was only seventeen years old; he was later given the death penalty.

This young man had a dramatic conversion experience, and truly wanted to glorify God in what time he had left. I visited the judge who not only pronounced the sentence of death, but kept the same judgement in several appeals. After the final appeal I visited this judge to plead for leniency; following was the judge's response: he told me that he had grown to know this young man over the years, and empathized with his plight. He also had come to admire the young man's obvious change in demeanor.

The judge told me that he wished he could do something, but the judgment he delivered was the right thing to do according to the law. The judge was obviously conflicted in his heart; but had to remain resolute in his decision. In his heart he wanted to show the inmate mercy, but the law was clear. This young man was finally executed. **In the same light, God must judge righteously. His law, and His heart sometimes appear to conflict.**

We know that God is holy and separate from sin—Habakkuk 1:13- “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.” James 1:13- “... God cannot be tempted with evil.”

However, the scriptures we have already visited show us the balance in God's decrees.

### **Illustrations:**

Following are examples of God decreeing sin, yet disapproving, and even punishing the very sin He willed to take place.

1. The death of God's son: Judas willingly betrayed Jesus; Satan entered Judas to complete his plan, Luke 22:3-4. Yet it was Jesus himself who chose Judas for this very purpose, John 13:18-22 and John 6:70-71.
2. Before the cross, it was Herod who had contempt for Jesus, Luke 23:11, Pilate had part in the sin of crucifying Jesus, Luke 23:24, the Jews cried crucify Him, Luke 23:21, the gentile soldiers mocked Him, Luke 23:36, all were guilty of the sin of crucifying the Son of God.
3. After knowing all of the above, the scriptures make it clear to us, that all this was God's plan from eternity; Acts 2:23- “Him (Jesus) being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified Him.” Acts 4:27-28 “For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together. (28) For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.” Isaiah 53:1-11, these verses prophesy the events of the cross; showing it was God's purpose and will for it to happen.
4. God told Moses that He would send him to Egypt to tell Pharaoh to let His people go, yet God says the following in Exodus 4:21- “And the Lord said unto Moses, when thou goest to return to Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thy hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.” Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? Romans 9:17-18- “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, even for



this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show My power in thee, and that My name might be declared throughout the earth. Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth.”

5. In Deuteronomy chapter two, when Israel was going toward the Promised Land, King Sihon of Heshbon, would not let them pass through his land. In Deuteronomy 2:30- we are given the reason he would not let them pass: “But Sihon king of Heshon, would not let us pass by him: for the Lord thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.”
6. Joshua 11:20- “For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might destroy them utterly, and that He might destroy them, as the Lord commanded Moses.” *Keeping this in context with God’s loving nature, and righteous judgments—God promised Abraham earlier that his seed (Israel) would go to Egypt for 400 years, but then return with great substance to the Promised Land. God’s reason for the four hundred year duration, is as follows, Genesis 15:16- “But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” (God as a righteous judge, was going to give the Amorites four hundred years to repent of their sins; however, because God knows all things, He has made prior plans for Israel to take the Amorites land, knowing the Amorites would not repent, though He gave them time. **God is truly sovereign!***
7. God, so that His election would stand, blinded the eyes of the Jews (except the elect) from understanding the gospel, Romans 11:6-8.
8. Mark 4:10-12- Jesus spoke in parables so that many could not understand the gospel, so they would not be saved.
9. I Samuel 2:22-25- Eli’s sons sinned, but would not listen to their father to repent; the reason they did not repent was that God wanted to slay them.
10. Romans 1:24-28- God turns some of the heathens over to sink into worse sins.
11. Joseph’s brothers beat him, and sold him into slavery because they were jealous, Genesis chapter thirty seven, yet in Genesis 50:20- Joseph tells his brothers, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people.”
12. Finally in the book of Revelation chapter seventeen, God puts it in the hearts for the nations to give their kingdoms to the beast (antichrist).

As we reflect on the above scriptures, the Holy Spirit will kindle a return to something the Church has lost in the past two generations—the ‘fear of the lord,’ Psalms 111:10, and Proverbs 1:7. Having taught parts of this message at Churches, I often hear comments like—‘that’s not the God I have been taught about.’

**A Puzzle Which Needs Putting Together:** God’s word is much like a puzzle—God has an eternal plan for His creation, which we could say is much like the picture displayed on a puzzle box-lid. However, instead of benefiting from the motivational picture on the puzzle box-lid, we must construct the total picture, one piece at a time.

Imagine trying to assemble a puzzle which does not have a picture on the lid. Let’s envision someone giving us a puzzle, which has all the pieces in a plain paper bag. What is the theme, and where is the motivation, which usually is provided by the overall picture on the lid.

I am afraid there are many well-meaning pastor/teachers, who before putting all the pieces together for themselves, try to present a total picture of the bible to their students (disciples). When this happens, these students will most likely pick and choose scriptures, which reflects the narrative and mental picture which has been passed on to them.

*I often use an illustration which helps to exemplify this principle. Let's imagine two teachers who have been assigned the task of teaching Mark Twain's novel, 'Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.' Let's further imagine that these two teachers, who have read this book, have two entirely different interpretations of the books characters.*

*One teacher, during his reading of the book, was impressed that Tom Sawyer was a rebellious, unloving young lad, who hated his aunt Polly. This same teacher imagined Tom Sayer as a prejudice lad, who took advantage of Jim (the black runaway slave), and Indian Joe who was another character in the book. How would this teachers personal convictions influence his class? It would not be hard to imagine, most of his students would adopt this same philosophy of Tom Sawyer.*

*The second teacher on the other hand, believed that Tom Sayer was a rebellious young lad who got himself in a great many frightening situations. However, this teacher also picked up on Tom Sawyers' actual fondness of his aunt Polly, which was illustrated on several occasions. This teacher also understood that Tom Sayer always protected Jim, the runaway slave, from being captured or injured by slave hunters. Do you see how these two teachers might influence their class?*

*However, if any of the students from either class, would diligently read the book for themselves, allowing the context of the book to interpret the storyline, the influence of both teachers could be either disproved or validated.*

*Another illustration is political party distinction. You ask a young person, are you a democrat or a republican? Their answer will almost always reflect their family's philosophical view. If however, you would ask them what the philosophy of a democrat vs. a republican is, they will most likely not be unable to provide an answer.*

*The same is true with religious affiliations. If you ask a young person what religion they belong to, they will again most likely respond with their family's connection; even if they have never attended a Church service in their life.*

*Our last illustration will have to do with Bible College students. They attend a Bible College of their choosing to learn the scriptures, and to become an effective minister. However, I have never seen a graduate from a Baptist Bible College graduate thinking like a Presbyterian; nor have I ever seen a graduate from a Methodist Bible College graduate thinking like a Lutheran. Yet, they all teach the scriptures to their students: can you see how influential presupposed ideology can be.*

**God's Eternal Plan—His Son:** From the position of most Churches today, one might think that man is the purpose for creation, and the central theme of scripture, but we would be wrong. The purpose of creation, in heaven and in earth, is to bring God glory and pleasure through **Christ**.

Let's first look at God's plan for man-kind as being eternal:

- Ephesians 1:4- According as He hath chosen us in Him (Jesus) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." *Notice, we (all believers), were chosen to be in Christ, before the creation of the world!*
- Ephesians 1:9-10- "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself. That in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in Him." *Notice, this mystery was the gathering of all things in Christ. Until Christ came this was called a mystery.*
- Ephesians 3:11- "According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Notice, once again, the eternal purpose is Christ.*
- Ephesians 3:5-9- (These verses also confirm the eternal purpose was in Christ, by whom also made the world). *Notice, it was Christ, the Living Word, who created the world.*
- Colossians 3:11- "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." *Notice, Christ is all and in all.*
- Hebrews 1:2- "Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He created the worlds." *Jesus is called the heir of all things, and creator of the worlds.*
- Colossians 2:9- "For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."
- Colossians 1:16- "For by Him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him." *Jesus Christ was not only the creator of all things, but all things were created for Him. Notice this includes all powers in heaven and earth.*
- II Timothy 1:9- "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world." *Once again, it was given us in Christ before the foundation of the world.*

**Jesus Christ as Logos (the Living Word), was creator of all things:** John 1:1-14, Hebrews 1:1-3, and Colossians 1:16.

**All Things Created for God's Glory and Pleasure:** Isaiah 43:7 and Revelations 4:11.

**Summary:** I Corinthians 13:12- “For now we see through a glass (mirror) darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” In biblical days, mirrors were made out of polished metal, which did not reflect a perfect image. This scripture illustrates how, in our present state, we only know in part—but when we are in His presence we will see the things of God more fully.

God gives us just enough knowledge by His word, to enable us to walk by faith. The scriptures we have studied in this lesson, reveal that God is much bigger than our finite minds can comprehend. Beware of the person who will present a philosophical view of God, and then proceed to wrap it in selective scriptures.

God makes it clear that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, Ezekiel 18:32; yet more die in their sins than those who have eternal life. Scripture says, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth,” I Timothy 2:4. Yet it is evident that most men remain in a lost state, than those who receive eternal life: Jesus said “Because strait gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:14.

By the context of all scripture, it is evident that God may indeed desire something from His paternal heart, yet decree something entirely different in actual experience. Just when we think we have God all figured out, we read a scripture and He breaks out of the box in which we had placed Him. God is indeed sovereign; **Romans 11:33-36- “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor? (35) Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (36) For of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen”**

*We trust you now have a greater reverential fear of the Lord, than you did when you started this study! God’s speed my friends.*

# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

By Jim Daniels M.C.C.

## “Doctrine of Sin” (The Nature of Sin)

**Definition of Sin:** Sin- To miss the mark: Greek root word *Harmantano*, “to miss the mark”, (so as not to take part in the prize), and to offend or sin. (*The Hebrew word has much the same meaning*).

### Origin of Sin:

Satan committed sin from the beginning, I John 3:8, he (Satan) was a murderer and liar from the beginning, John 8:44. Satan is therefore the author of Sin. (Isiah 14:12-14- Speaks of the Cherub Lucifer (who would later be known as Satan) was lifted with pride and wanted to be like God. Because of his sin he lost his place, and authority in heaven.

Ezekiel 28:12-18- Gives a further description of Lucifer’s pride and activities in heaven before his fall. (*The Ezekiel scriptures begin by making a prophecy over the King of Tyrus, but much like other prophecies in scripture, it is also analogous of someone else, in this case Lucifer, later to be known as Satan or the devil*). *An example of such dual meanings in prophecies, is when King David speaking of his own life, which in turn becomes analogous of Jesus Christ who was later known as ‘the son of David.’*

### Sin Enters the World:

- Genesis 3:1-6- (Satan tempts Adam and Eve, and they fall from grace).
- Romans 5:12- “by one man sin entered the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all man, for that all have sinned.”
- Genesis 3:6- Satan tempting the woman (Eve), showed her that the tree that God told them not to eat from (tree of the knowledge of good and evil) was pleasant to the eyes, good for food, and could make one wise.
- I John 2:16- “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (*Notice, much like Satan’s fall and Adam and Eve’s fall—sin comes in the same package; the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride; nothing has changed since the garden. Satan uses the same tactics today. Later in this study we will talk about the sin of ‘covetousness,’ which will give us a greater clarity of I John 2:16.*

Eve being enticed by Satan, was deceived, and therefore gave into temptation. Adam however, was not deceived, but followed Eve into the transgression because of his love for the woman God had given him, I Timothy 2:14.

**The first description of sin in scripture:** Genesis 4:7- “sin lieth (crouches) at the door and his desire is over you, but you shall rule over it.” *(Later we will see how sin is often personified in scripture, thus showing it is an enticement by Satan, or his demonic forces).*

**Sin Defined:**

- Sin is rebellion: Isaiah 1:2- “..... I have brought up children and they have rebelled against me.”
- Sin is disobedience: I Timothy 1:8-10; and Romans 2:15.
- Sin is unrighteousness: I John 5:17.

**Object of sin:**

- Sin is against God: Psalm 51:4- David said “against thee only have I sinned.”
- Sin is against ones neighbor: Exodus 20:13-17-
- Sin against one’s self: Proverbs 8:36- “he who sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul.” Proverbs 6:32- “he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.” I Corinthians 6:18- Fornication is sin against one’s own body.

**Universality of Sin:** Sin entering the world, (cosmos, Gods created order) and had universal consequences affecting not only man but heaven and earth.

- Elect angels affected by Satan’s sin: II Peter 2:4, Matthew 25:41, and Jude 6.
- All men affected by Adams sin: Romans 5:12, I John 1:10, Romans 3:10, and Romans chapter 6:
- Sin affected all nature: Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 8:19-22.

John 14:30- Jesus as it pertained to sin: “for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” *(Jesus had not sinned nor did He have a sin nature like us, this is the reason for the virgin birth). . Thus Satan had no hold on Him.*

Man however, because of his nature, Ephesians 2:3- “by nature the children of wrath.” Man therefore has a connection to and with sin, even though he may have been forgiven and delivered from its power. Christ however, did not, ‘being sinless.’ God cannot be tempted with sin as man can, James 1:13-14.

As we have seen, sin is sometimes personified because of its eternal power by demonic forces, and man’s propensity to be tempted because of his acquaintance with sin. Romans 6:11-17- says that we are the servant of what master we yield ourselves to, sin or righteousness, we have a choice.

Romans 6:14-18- Sin has no more dominion over us, for we are free from the law and now under grace. Sin used to be our master however, now righteousness is; we have simply traded one master for the other.

The law could only condemn, without the power to overcome sin; grace on the other hand, forgives past sins, and supplies the power to overcome the temptation to sin.

**The Personification of Sin in Scripture:** In literature it is not unusual for words to be used by personifying them. Personification, or prosopopoeia (impersonation of an imaginary or absent person), is not unusual in literature, particularly the Bible. For example: in Genesis 4:10- God says to Cain, “the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me, from the ground.” Notice that the blood of Able is personified; we understand that the blood of Abel did not actually speak to God, it rather was a prosopopeia, (the blood of Able took on a personification of the man now dead).

Sin is not the only word which takes on personification in scripture, there are other examples of words which are also personified, wisdom, and mammon are also examples of the personification of words

### **Scriptural Examples of the Personification of Sin:**

- Genesis 4:7- Cain was warned when he became angry because his Brother Abel’s sacrifice was accepted, but his own (Cain) was rejected. God told Cain, “Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you.”
- Romans 5:21- “Sin hath reigned unto death.”
- Romans 7:8- “Sin wrought in me .....
- Romans 7:11- “Sin deceived me.... Sin slew me.”
- Romans 6:14- Sin is a master.
- Romans 7:23- The law of sin waging war.
- Romans 6:16- A person can yield to sin.
- Romans 6:12- “Let not sin reign in your body, that you should obey it.”
- Romans 7:21- “When I would do good evil is present with me.”

**Is God the Father of All Men?** We will allow scripture to answer this question, however it is important to notice that God is called the Father of all those who are in covenant relationship with Him, who by faith are honoring that relationship, (Old Testament as well as the New Testament).

- John 8:42-44- Jesus told the Pharisees that “If God were your Father, you would love me ..... “Ye are of your father the devil.”
- Matthew 13:38- In these verses ‘the parable of the good seed and the tares,’ Jesus says that “the tares are the children of the wicked one.”
- Acts 13:10- “Paul full of the Holy Ghost” said to Bar’jesus the sorcerer .... “thou child of the Devil.”
- I John 3:10- John says that there are two classes of children, “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil:”
- Romans 9:8- “That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.”
- Romans 9:25- Paul is quoting from Hosea 1:9- “As He saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people, which were not my people (the gentiles) and her beloved, which was not beloved.” (Notice that God is calling the gentiles ‘people who were not His people.’ Therefore they could not have been His children.

- Ephesians 1:5- “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” This verse says that those who are predestined in Christ were called to be adopted; you don’t adopt someone who is already your child.
- John 1:12- “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (right) to become the sons (children) of God, even to them that believe on His name:” Notice it was after they received Him that they became children of God.
- I John 3:10- “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” (Notice the children of God vs the children of devil).
- Ephesians 2:1-3- Notice in these verses it states that those outside of Christ are “children of disobedience” and “children of wrath.”

There are a few scriptures which require our scrutiny, so as not to cause confusion. In Ephesians 4:4-6- “There is one body (the Church), and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism. (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.” These verses are clearly talking about the Church and not all of mankind. In verse #6- it says that there is “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.” Keeping this verse in context of its usage, Paul is clearly speaking of the Church, and not all mankind: For all of mankind does not have the Spirit for Romans 8:9- says “But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” Romans 8:14- says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.” Notice these verses show that not all men have the Spirit of God, nor are they led by the Spirit, thus they are not sons.

A second verse we must visit is Hebrews 12:8-9- “But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. (9) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of Spirits.” Notice once again the context of scripture. We saw that in verse #8, if we are not chastised, then are we bastards and not sons. Verse #6-7- Makes it clear that God only chastens those He loves, and if you do not endure chastisement, then are ye not sons, but bastards. These verses if read in context of the entire chapter, is clearly speaking to the Church and not to all men.

The last verse we will consider is Luke 3:38- where Adam is called the Son of God. Notice that Adam was created in the image of God before the fall, thus referring to him as a son. The substitutionary atonement was introduced to Adam, who passed it onto his sons; we know this because Able knew to sacrifice a lamb from his flock. He was evidently taught by his father Adam what God required. God deals with those who are in covenant relationship with Him as sons; which cannot be said of all men.

*As in all of our studies we continually exhort each student to keep all scripture in context of its usage; not only chapter by chapter, but also context of the entire bible. God is the creator of all men but not called the Father of all men. One will have to strain at the meaning of scripture to call fallen man after Adam’s fall, children of God. God often calls Israel His children who were*



*under the covenant. In the New Testament God calls those who are in Christ His children. Fallen man outside the covenant is another story.*

### **Man's Nature (Before the new birth).**

- Ephesians 2:3- "by nature the children of wrath."
- Psalm 58:1-3- "they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies."
- Psalm 51:5- "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."
- Mark 7:20-22- Jesus said "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders ....."

*Note: The very nature of the virgin birth of Christ was that Jesus Christ would be separate from Adam's sin nature. It is important to note that we (man) are not held accountable for Adams sin (original sin); we are guilty because it is our nature to commit sin. The question is not will man sin, but what kind of sinner will he be. Man has inherited Adams sin nature, not guilty of Adam's individual sin.*

*In Genesis 1:26-27- man is said to be created in the image of God. However, in Genesis 5:3 Adam is said to have "begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." It is important to remember that Adam begat children in his image, after the fall, his image which was marred by sin.*

**Understanding the Sin of Covetousness:** To covet something in the New Testament, and Old Testament, means to *long for, or strongly desire something*. There are several Greek words in the New Testament, which are translated as covet, covetousness, or lust. However in the New Testament, the primary Greek word translated as covet, covetousness, or lust, is *epithymeo*, which is translated as *covet or lust interchangeably*.

Let's begin our study of covetousness (or lust) with the Ten Commandments. If you would ask the average Christian to quote the tenth commandment, they would most likely quote it as follows: 'thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife,' however, it is quite more extensive than that. The tenth commandment, Exodus 20:17- says, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." Therefore, we should not covet (long for or have a strong desire for) anything our neighbor has.

We live in a society today that wants to keep up with the Jones's. If we have a strong desire for what our neighbor has, but cannot afford it, the good old American way is **charge it!** Then we find ourselves in debt **to the worlds system**, and no longer able to be a good steward of God's gifts to us. If there is a person the Lord shows us who has a need, and asks us to take from what He has blessed us with, and buy groceries for them; but we must reply, 'Lord it is the end of the month and my payments are due, I just am not able to bless that person right now, send John down the street he has more money than I do.'

## Let's look at the New Testaments description of the word covet or to be covetous.

- Colossians 3:5- “Mortify (put to death) therefore your members which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (desire), and covetousness, which is idolatry.” **Notice that covetousness is equal to idolatry.**
- Ephesians 5:5- “For this we know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” **Once again we see that a covetous man is equal to an idolater.**
- Matthew 6:24- “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Mammon meaning worldly goods or wealth).
- Matthew 19:23-24- “Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (24) “And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”
- Philippians 3:14-19- Paul exhorts the Church to be mature, and follow his example. He warns them about those who do not walk in maturity, by giving an example of them, verse #19- “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”
- II Timothy 4:10- “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica .....
- I Timothy 6:5-10- These verses talk about those who think that to gain is godliness, we are to withdraw ourselves from these people. Then we are exhorted in verse #6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” Verse #7 “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” Finally in verse # 10- “For the love of money is the root of all evil .....
- James 4:1-4- “From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (2) “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” (3) “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (4) “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity (hostility) with God.”
- I John 2:15-16 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (16) “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
- I John 5:19 “And we know that the whole world lieth in wickedness.”

Only through the lens of scripture will we understand how perverted this world really is. This is not the creation that God intended in the beginning. Everything has been corrupted by “the god of this world (Satan)” II Corinthians 4:4.

Every living thing did not devour one another in the beginning, even the lion ate vegetation like the cattle of the field. There was no death or decay; all of this corruption came in because of the sin of man when tempted of the devil.

We may look at the beauty of a bed of flowers, and say what glory God has created, yet be cautious, lurking under the leaves may be a poisonous spider, or asp, ready to bite you. This bed of flowers will soon wither and die, thus losing its short lived beauty. All of this is a perversion of God's original intent.

Men war for greed and power. Some individuals are interested only in accumulating wealth at any cost; others for whatever pleasure they may indulge themselves.

Man was created to serve God and glorify Him (Revelation 4:11, Ephesians 2:10 and Colossians 1:16). We encourage you to reflect on the life of Solomon (King David's son). God gave him great wisdom above all men. Solomon in this wisdom as a young man wrote Proverbs and the beautiful book of Song of Songs. Yet in all his wisdom he was corrupted by his 700 wives and 300 concubines. He became very rich and accumulated land, lavish gardens, and stables of horses. He fell into idolatry, being influenced by his heathen wives and was in a backslidden state.

Later in life, Solomon somewhat recovered himself, and wrote the book of Ecclesiastes in which he describes all of his wealth as foolishness; he uses the word 'vanity' thirty three times, and 'fool of fools,' eighteen times. At the end of Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." This is the story of a man who had everything and yet called it 'vanity' at the end of his life; because it took him away from man's whole duty which is to "Fear God and keep His commandments."

If we would but admit it, all of us are far too distracted by the things of this world. If we would but live a simpler and holy (separated) life, we would have more time for God and His kingdom. This my friends is why we were created.

It is not just the children of the world that are stressed, depressed, and anxious. Many are the children of the kingdom who also lack peace and serenity in their lives. The answer is for us to live a more consecrated and less complicated life. Philippians 4:5-8- (5) "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." (6) "Be careful (anxious) for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (7) "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." (8) "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

In ending our study of "The Nature of Sin," we would like for you to reflect on your own family tree. How many of us know anything about our great, great, grandparents? Many cannot even remember their great grandparents, let-alone our great, great, grandparents. Most likely, unless they were very famous, we know nothing about them at all. We may see a picture in a family album, but have no idea who or what they were like.

Each of them had dreams and desires in life just like each of us. They most likely had personal possessions which they were very fond of, maybe items they had coveted and sacrificed in order

to own them. Most of these personal possessions are probably in stranger's homes now, or even in a city landfill rusting away.

Now stop and think, that will be you, and that will be me in a couple of generations. Our pride possessions, all of our dreams, and aspirations will be forgotten. For the most part no one will remember us. This my friends is called the cycle of life.

So now we can see from a personal standpoint, what David's son Solomon was telling us. All that will ultimately mater, is what kind of stewards were we, of the life God gave us, how did we serve Him, and what pleasure did we bring Him? That's what will have everlasting results—all else is, "vanity."

***We trust, you the reader, will look at the scriptures provided, and pray about this important study. It is easy to read scripture with a biased philosophical view, and miss the context of God's revelation. We hope better things of you.***

# **‘Theology Made Simple Series’**

**Jim Daniels M.C.C.**

## **“The Doctrine of Redemption”**

**Introduction:** At the heart of Biblical Theology lies the ‘Doctrine of Redemption.’ It is the central theme of scripture, Old and New Testament. Within this doctrine lies the very essence of God’s grace in delivering man from the grips of sin. Without this revelation from God’s word man would be lost forever with no hope of salvation—doomed forever from the presence and grace of God.

Because of God’s love for His creation, man, whom He created in His image; God in His merciful nature provided man the hope of salvation through the revelation of His redemptive plan. Forgiveness of sin, is the underling thread which ties the New and Old Testaments together.

### **Why the Shedding of Blood is Required for Redemption?**

The Christian religion has been called a bloody religion, and so it is. There are religious groups (non-Christian), which say that if one just does what is good, he/she will be saved. The problem with this theory is, it is not biblical. God, as we will see, makes it abundantly clear that “without the shedding of blood there is no remission.” Hebrews 9:22. The need of blood for forgiveness of our sins reveals to us, how serious sin is in the eyes of a Holy God.

God is a righteous God, and must judge righteous judgment. Therefore God cannot go against His revealed will, He must work within the framework of His revelation to man, and the dictates of His word. In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve only one commandment, and that was they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Genesis 2:16-17. Adam and Eve were told that if they ate of this forbidden tree, they would surely die; this death was not just physical death but also spiritual death.

In scripture death means there will be a separation involved. For example in James 2:26, it says, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead,” notice, when the spirit is separated from the body, the body dies. Spiritual death means that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden tree, their spirits were separated from the life of God:

Ephesians 4:18- “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God ....” Therefore Adam and Eve were separated from the life giving essence of God, and therefore dead in their sins. For more illustrations of being dead in sin, see Ephesians 2:1-5 and Colossians 2:13.

After Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, they felt guilt and shame for the first time, sensing that they were naked. Because of their guilt, they covered their nakedness with fig leaves, this was man’s first attempt to cover his own sin. However, God replaced man’s fig leaves with an animal skin, thus the first blood was introduced to cover their sin, Genesis 3:7-24.

We know that Adam and Eve understood what the killing of the first animal meant, for their two sons Cain and Able knew to present a sacrifice to God, Genesis 4:1-7. Cain in these scriptures presented to God the fruits of his labors as a farmer, Able on the other hand, brought of the firstlings of his flock and presented an animal sacrifice, with the fat. God accepted Abel’s offering, but rejected Cain’s. Showing that an animal sacrifice was needed.

We can understand, because of the context of all scripture that Cain’s offering of the works of his hands, was the first attempt of man trying to please God, while ignoring God’s revealed revelation. This then is the first introduction of works religion.

We know that Noah also had this revelation of sacrificing an animal to God: Genesis 8:20-21- “And Noah builded an alter unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” (21) “And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in His heart I will not again curse the ground anymore for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smote any more everything living, as I have done.” *Noah also knew the difference of clean and unclean animals, all of this before the law was given to Israel by Moses. We can also take note that Abraham knew to sacrifice an offering to God, as well as his sons Isaac, and Jacob.* The sacrificial system was well understood before the law was ever given to Moses.

### **Scripture References Showing that Blood was Required for Man’s Sin:**

- Hebrews 9:22- “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
- Leviticus 17:11- “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for your soul.”
- Matthew 26:28- “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins:”
- Ephesians 1:7- “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
- Colossians 1:14- “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
- Hebrews 10:10- “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
- I John 1:7- “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Many are the scriptures which speak of our redemption, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

**Definition of Terms:** In order to understand redemption, it is necessary to understand terms which relate to redemption.

- **Atonement:** (Kaphar in the Hebrew, which means to cover) In the Old Testament the blood of bulls and goats is said to cover the sins of the people for one year. Then there was a need to atone again on the day of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. In the New Testament (King James Version), the word atonement appears only one time, Romans 5:11. This is the Greek word Katallage, which means to reconcile. In Romans 5:10, and II Corinthians 5:18-19, the same word Katallage, is translated correctly as reconciliation. Our English word atonement, agrees with the Greek, and means to reconcile. Thus if one uses the word atonement as it applies to Jesus Christ dying on the cross, we should be very careful, if by using the word atonement as it applies to Christs work on the cross we mean reconciliation, then we are interpreting the word correctly. However, if we use the word atonement in the sense of the Old Testament usage we error, for Christ's work on the cross, does not just cover our sins, but it reconciles us to the Father, and has dealt with the sin question forever.
- **Redemption:** (means to buy back or pay the price). We can understand this word and its usage in the following scenario; if one owns an item but then pawns it, the item still belongs to you, however it has also been sold. When you return to the pawnshop with your redemption ticket, and pay the price, you once again become the sole owner of that item, because you have now redeemed it. Romans 7:14, says, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin," We are now however redeemed by the blood of Christ, Revelation 5:9, Revelation 14:3-4, Galatians 3:13, I Peter 1:18-19, I Corinthians 6:20 and I Corinthians 7:23. Jesus Christ has paid the price for us, and has now reconciled us to the Father once again, He paid the price, our individual redemption ticket, which appropriates the deal, is our repentance and faith, trusting that what Jesus Christ did on the cross, He did for me.
- **Reconciliation:** Reconcile means we are restored into favor. When two people are alienated from each other, reconciliation must take place for them to come together once again. Romans 5:8-10, says we were once enemies of God, but have now been reconciled by Jesus Christs blood.
- **Propitiation:** Propitiation means to restore to favor; one who propitiates restores into favor those who were alienated from one another. Jesus Christ is our propitiation, and has restored us into favor with the Father. See Romans 3:25, I John 2:2, and I John 4:10.
- **Expiation:** Means to appease, to make amends. Jesus Christ has appeased the wrath of God because of our sins, and made amends for us.
- **Conciliation:** To soothe the anger of someone, and gain favor.

It is important that each of us understand the above theological terms. Many of our Christian books, and often in the pulpit, the average Christian is exposed to these terms without understanding their meaning. If one does not understand what is presented to them, it is easy to become disengaged or even apathetic.

**Summary:** It is evident that the central theme throughout the scriptures is the application of blood for the forgiveness of sins. Under the Old Covenant, God gave the Old Testament believers a covering for their sins each year on the Day of Atonement, which was the blood of animals. All these sacrifices were only types and shadows of that which was to come—the sacrifice of God’s own Son on a cross, which forever removed our sins.

Hebrews 10:4- says, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.” Notice once again, in the Old Testament, the blood of animals was only a type of Christ who was to come and take away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist, who came to point the people to the Messiah, who was Jesus Christ, said when he first saw Jesus, John 1:29- “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, was the true lamb, which all the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to.

We have already seen that the life of the flesh is in the blood, Leviticus 17:11- “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” For this reason, Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, as the Holy Spirit planted the ‘living word,’ Jesus Christ, in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Jesus did not partake of the sinful nature of man, He was holy from the beginning. Only someone without a sinful nature, could qualify to make an atonement for mankind. Jesus Christ was without sin being the eternal Son of God. The experience of God in the form of His Son, coming in the flesh, is called the incarnation (God taking on flesh to die for the sins of the world). Jesus Christ’s holy blood was without sin.

John 3:16- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that howsoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” I am concerned that we have turned our bibles into textbooks, rather than the history of our adoption into a spiritual family, the family of God.



# **‘Theology Made Simple Series’**

*By Jim Daniels M.C.C.*

## **Confused About Baptism?**

### **“Baptism Made Simple”**

#### **Baptism an Ordinance of the Church:**

Basically there are two ordinances for the Church (direct commandments from Christ), water baptism, and communion (some would include foot washing). Even though Christ Himself commanded baptism, the Church is split as to the mode and timing in which baptism should be administered. Because of this controversy, many Churches have stopped administering baptism entirely, unless the subject is initiated by an inquisitive congregant.

#### **How Diversity in Baptism Began After the Reformation:**

Years ago, the protestant reformation recoiled against the abuse of baptism as a sacrament, which placed the power of baptism in the water, and ceremony, but minimized faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ, which leads one to baptism.

*Church doctrine changes slowly however, even when it is for the better, (in this instance returning to sound biblical examples, and principles), therefore the baptism controversy evolved slowly, and painfully, and in some cases remains unresolved to this day.*

Because of baptisms re-emergence as a faith issue during the reformation, divisions soon developed, and doctrinal differences emerged, leading the way for controversy. Some were still baptizing infants, others repenting adults; some continued the Roman Churches tradition of sprinkling, while others practiced effusion (pouring); many however, returned to the biblical example of immersion after a confession of faith was made in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

It was inevitable that these controversies would lead to division, and the gradual formation of different denominations. *(We should add at this juncture that though baptism was one of the major dividing factors, other doctrinal issues also played a part in the forming of Denominationalism).*

Sadly we find ourselves still divided on many of these issues, leading to apathy of many Churches who minimize the need for baptism altogether, thus ignoring Christ’s commandment to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19. Baptism is still an ordinance of the Church, and must be resolved in the mind of each believer.

*Later in this study, we will discuss how infant baptism was slowly introduced into the Church of Rome during the second century.*

**We suggest that everyone should commit themselves to study Church History, for a thorough understanding of Church development.**

### **A Biblical Understanding of Baptism:**

*Our study will now progress, using the following format, we will introduce a question on baptism, and then answer the same question using only scripture as a guide.*

**Question #1:** Are there any recorded examples of infants being baptized in scripture?

**There are those who quote a few verses of scripture, which they say show infant baptism, let’s examine each scripture individually.**

#### **Example One:**

##### **Acts Chapter 10: Cornelius the Gentile and his household.**

By quoting Acts 11:14- “Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved,” this scripture is referring to the gentile Cornelius, and his house as also described in Acts Chapter 10. *Proponents of infant baptism say that the reference to his household, includes infants, therefore, they say, infants must have been included.*

Looking back to Acts Chapter 10 however, and the account of Cornelius, close examination of verse #44 reveals that the Holy Ghost fell on only those that heard the word; infants could not have heard the word, or respond, therefore not included in those receiving the Holy Ghost. Verse #46 says they knew that they had received the Holy Ghost, because they heard them speak with tongues; once again, infants would not have spoken in tongues. In verse #47, we see that only those who received the Holy Ghost were baptized.

#### **Example Two:**

##### **Acts Chapter 16: The Jailer and His Household.**

Once again the proponents of infant baptism quote verse #31, “thou and thy house shall be saved,” which again they say, would include infants. However, verse #32 says, “and they spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house”; verse #33 says, “And was baptized he and

his,” Notice once again that those that were baptized, were those who heard the word in verse #32. Infants would not have heard the word, and responded.

### **Example Three:**

#### **Acts 18:8- The Household of Crispus:**

The above verse refers to the household of Crispus, “and Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized,” notice that all of his house believed, this could not have included infants, for they could not have believed, or understood the gospel being preached. Notice also that those of the Corinthians, heard the word, and then were baptized.

### **Example Four:**

#### **I Corinthians 1:16- the Household of Stephanas.**

In the above verse, the proponents of infant baptism, once again believe that household would include infants, however, in I Corinthians 16:15- referring back to the baptism of Stephanas household, scripture reads, “the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry”, this could not refer to infants.

### **Example Five:**

#### **Acts 2:37-41 Three Thousand Souls Saved.**

In the verses above, we find a record of the very first time the gospel was preached after the resurrection of Christ. Notice baptism was the central theme, and three thousand people were saved as a result. The proponents of infant baptism say that with such a large response, infants would have surely been included.

However, once again a close examination of scripture will reveal that, (verse #41), “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.” Infants could not have gladly received the word. Verse #38 calls on them to, “repent, and be baptized.” Infants could not have responded in faith or repent.

### **Example Six:**

#### **Acts 16:14-15- Lydia and Her Household Baptized.**

In the above verses, it is said that Lydia heard the word, and she and her household were baptized. Proponents of infant baptism, use the same reasoning as the other verses we have studied, however, in this instance nothing more is said to define household as was the case of our other examples. This verse is the only verse, out of all that we have studied, that did not include the hearing, and

responding of the household. It would not at all be unreasonable to assume that in keeping with the continuity of scripture, Lydia's house was no exception, and that those who were baptized in her house, also heard the word, and was able to respond.

*Each of the examples above, show that of the households referred to, all heard the word, believed, and responded, which could not be the case with infants.*

**The answer to our question; Are there any recorded examples of infants being baptized in scripture?**

*The answer clearly is no, there are no examples of infants being baptized in scripture. The examples we have just looked at, are the sum of the examples proponents use to illustrate infant baptism.*

Since there are no scriptural examples, or commandments to baptize infants in scripture, when did infant baptism first come on the scene?

This question is not easily answered, because Church history is our only guide. There were a few references in the third century, but they are vague at best. Tertullian (AD 160-220), was the first Roman apologist to write his views in Latin, and is the first known reference to infant baptism. After the heathen began to flood into the Church, as a result of Constantine's influence by making the Christian faith the national religion, (313 AD), many doctrines were introduced to the Church, which had no scriptural basis at all; as a result infant baptism slowly began to emerge.

By the 12<sup>th</sup> century, infant baptism was prevalent in the Roman Catholic Church, and was referenced as a sacrament, thus placing the emphasis on the ceremony, and not on one's individual faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross, therefore, extending to infants baptism who could not exercise faith.

Remembering Jesus Commandment in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...." (Notice the believing comes first)

***To understand how infant baptism was slowly introduced into the Church, one must understand the concept of 'Original Sin,' which was probably first introduced into the Church by Constantine in the Third Century.***

'Original Sin,' in its original concept, taught that Adam's sin had affected the entire human race, and man became depraved by nature, losing the innocence that Adam originally possessed, thus plunging the whole human race into sin, and as a consequence death passed on all men, (Romans 5:12-21, and I Corinthians 15:21-22).

However, gradually the Roman Catholic Church began to place the emphasis on Adam, and his sin, rather than on the individuals need for repentance, and baptism for his/her own sins: thus concluding that it was not the individual, and his/her sin which needed to be washed away, but the

sin of Adam only. This erroneous teaching, is the reason infants began to be the focus of baptism, and not repentant adults as we will see in scripture.

Notice how this doctrine bypassed the need for the individual to repent of his/her own sins, as scripture commands, but instead focuses solely on the ceremony of baptism.

**Following you will find a list of scriptures which call for repentance of one's individual sins, and the exercise of ones faith in response to hearing the gospel, before baptism was administered. Something infants could not respond to, or initiate.**

- Acts 2:38- "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Notice the word sins plural not just one sin of Adam)
- Mark 16:16- "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...."
- Acts 22:16- "why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Notice who's sins were being washed away, it was theirs not Adams, also notice the act of calling on the Lord)
- Matthew 28:19- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." *Notice, infants could have been made disciples, by hearing the word.*

*Notice that the above scriptures, speak of repentance, and believing, before baptism; they also reveal it was the individual's sins being spoken of, not Adam's.*

**Summary: Remembering our commitment to be brief, we will not linger on 'original sin,' however, it is important to clarify that we are not guilty of Adams individual sin, but we have instead inherited his depraved nature with the propensity to sin. In other words, we have inherited Adams sin nature, but not guilty of his personal sin.**

**Question #2: What is the proper mode of baptism? Sprinkling, effusion (pouring), or immersion?**

*Definition:* The word baptism in the original Greek text, means to immerse, make fully wet by dipping. John the Baptist was in the Greek, therefore was known as John the Immerser. The word baptize in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, references the Greek word as "dip" as does Webster's II New College Dictionary.

*Every example in scripture where it mentions the mode of baptism, shows the individual entering a body of water, being baptized, then exiting the water.*

## Examples:

- Acts 8:36-39- These verses show the Ethiopian Eunuch saying, “here is water.....both went down into water.....both came up out of the water.”
- John 3:23- “and John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there, and they came and were baptized.” You don’t need much water if one is only sprinkled.
- Matthew 3:16- (Jesus baptism): “And Jesus when He was baptized went up straightway out of the water.”

The above scriptures, along with others, show the people going into the water, and coming out again; notice that John (John 3:23 quoted above), baptized because there was much water there, it does not take much water to sprinkle, or pour, and coming out of the water shows they were in it, which indicates immersing.

## The Importance of Proper Baptism:

In Acts 19:1-5- In these verses Paul enters Ephesus, finding certain disciples who were already baptized by Apollos, (a prominent teacher of the time), and who had just left Ephesus; however, Apollos baptized them incorrectly, only knowing John the Baptists baptism, which only prepared the people for Jesus arrival. When Paul heard this, he re-baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ. If just the act of baptism was all that was required, and the reason of no importance, Paul would not have baptized them the second time. Proper baptism, with proper motives are therefore essential.

## Question #3: Does the act of baptism save a person? Or is it the individual’s faith, which leads him/her to baptism, which saves them?

This topic seems to be the most divisive of all the aspects of baptism. I suggest to you, a better question might be, are the two—faith and the act of baptism, mutually exclusive? Let’s examine where the scriptures put the emphasis.

Romans 6:3-4- “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

Galatians 3:26-27- “For we are all the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Ephesians 2:8-9- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

I Peter 3:21- Comparing baptism with Noah's ark, Peter says, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Christ."

Notice, in the above verses some put the emphasis on baptism, while others put the emphasis on faith. Which should we adopt? Notice, Peter qualified baptism by saying baptism, and its water does not remove the filth of the flesh (sin), but is an act of a good conscience toward God, referring to the operation of faith, which is the gift of God once again.

*Important conclusion: We could begin what I call a scriptural snowball fight at this point; we could gather a few scriptures which emphasize the act of baptism, and run with those, or we could gather a few scriptures which emphasis faith, and run with those; we could then begin to throw them at each other, as many do, like scriptural snowballs.*

*Which of us is prepared to speak for God, and say, 'I negate the faith issue', or who would speak for God, and negate 'the act of baptism issue,' or which of us would dare to negate 'Gods call and gift of faith issue:' I suggest the following would be preferable, allow scripture in proper context to emerge, and speak for itself. It is possible that we can react, and defend our Church traditions so strongly, that we overlook scripture, and become un-teachable.*

**Answer: There is no contradiction, nor conflict between faith, and baptism. They are both part of the same issue, putting our faith in Christ, and then responding to that faith.**

**Baptism is not in addition to my faith, it is an expression of my faith!**

**Baptism is not the gospel; it is my response to the gospel!**

I am about to say something that will cause some of you to pause; we have replaced baptism today with the sinners prayer. In scripture a believer's public confession, was baptism. I am not saying a prayer of confession of faith in Christ is not important; however, I am saying our true public profession of Christ, is baptism, and we have forsaken that commandment. Remember baptism is Still an Ordinance of the Church, and a commandment of Christ!

## **Including Baptism in the preaching of the gospel:**

Looking at scripture, we find the disciples following Jesus command to, “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” Mark 16:15-16, and again in Matthew 28:19-, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” *Understanding the importance of that commandment resulted in their baptizing their converts as soon as water was available.*

I personally would not know how to preach the gospel to prospective converts, without baptism. It is the picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: and our identification with Him. It is a picture of the old man being put to death, and the new man coming to life.

So you see, it has very little to do with us, but everything to do with Christ. The focus is on Him and His cross. Because He died, we can live. Baptism is an outward sign of what He did for us, and because He died for us, we become dead to sin. His death was our substitute, our baptism is our identification of, and agreement with, what He purchased for us on the cross. “Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12.

*God has given us a mini funeral service at the death of the old man’s life, and the rebirth of the new man—it’s called baptism.*

## **Conclusion:**

*In concluding our study on baptism, we have saved the most difficult challenge of our journey till last. Our greatest obstacle to submitting to scriptural baptism, is our traditions, and childhood memories. Each of us, including this author, has come to this crossroads in our walk with Christ; we must now make a choice between our family traditions, and memories, and follow what we know to be the truth. This choice can only be made through prayerful consideration, and obedience to what we know to be true in the scriptures.*

**Colossians 2:8- “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”**



# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

*By Jim Daniels M.C.C.*

## Understanding the Nature of Israel and the Church

(Essential for Understanding End Time Events)

We at ‘Word Ministries’ had to make a determination from the onset as to how we would present and format this study. We could have presented it as a theological dissertation to reach the more scholarly or we could format it to reach the average Christian interested in understanding the Book of Revelation. We chose the latter, in this way we could reach both groups.

### **An Essential Foundation:**

There are so many misconceptions pertaining to the ‘*Nature of Israel and the Church*’ that just selecting a title for this teaching presented a challenge; knowing that regardless of the title one could interpret the intended meaning numerous ways.

For this reason we must qualify what is intended by our usage of the two terms **Israel** and the **Church**. In this study our usage of the term **Israel** should be interpreted as **Natural Israel** the Nation and the people who reside therein. Usages of the term **Church** in our study are those who are redeemed under the New Covenant **both Jew and Gentile**.

### **Clarification of Terms:**

- **The Church:** Those who have been redeemed under the New Covenant both Jew and Gentile. (This will remain true throughout all end time events).
- **Natural Israel (The Nation of Israel):** Those Jews who have rejected the New Covenant under Christ, whether they reside in Israel or other Nations throughout the world.

So that there will be no misunderstanding we will maintain this continuity throughout our study, the **Church** should always be understood as **both Jew (redeemed Jews) and Gentiles (redeemed Gentiles)**. When we speak of the **Nation of Israel** we will always be speaking of Natural Israel (who are unredeemed and without Christ).

***Important Distinction: Church called the Israel of God:*** Galatians 6:16- *The Church is called the Israel of God (this will be understood as our study progresses, however we wanted to make note of it early).*

As we begin our in depth study of ‘*Natural Israel and the Church*’ we will conduct a short anthology of the Old Covenant (from the Old Testament) and its progression into the New Covenant (in the New Testament).

**Gods Promise to Abraham:** Though it may seem odd to some, we will begin our journey from the vantage point of the ‘New Testament’; remembering that the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed and the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed.

**Galatians 3:14-19:** (Please read these verses before progressing).

- **Vs# 14-** “**That the blessings of Abraham might come upon the gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.**” The key in understanding the covenants will be this word promise (keep this word in mind as we continue).
- **Vs# 16-** “**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He said not, and unto seeds as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ.**” This important revelation refocuses the entire subject of the promises given to Abraham “*That in blessing I will bless thee and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of His enemies. “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed My voice” Genesis 22:17-18.* (Remember this distinction, the promised seed was Christ).

**Important Note:** The Hebrew word seed is a plural noun just as it is in Greek and even English, except when it is used with a singular pronoun, verb, or adjective, and then it becomes singular. This is the case with the Galatians verse above, where Paul is quoting from Genesis 22:17, the personal pronoun “His enemies” is singular.

Unfortunately not all translations of the bible translate it this way, a good many of the ultra-modern versions translate this verse as “their enemies”. The following versions however do translate this verse correctly as singular because of the singular pronoun.

English Standard Version.

American Standard Version. (Not to include the New American Standard Version).

King James Version.

Darby Translation.

English Revised Version.

Webster Bible.

World English Bible.

*To further illustrate this principle the word in Hebrew for God (Elohim) is also plural i.e. Gods. The same grammatical distinction as with the word seed (seeds) applies; it becomes singular when used with a singular pronoun, verb, or adjective.*

**Genesis 22:17- I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven.**” This promise was only partially fulfilled in the Old Testament but was to be completely fulfilled in Christ, by the bringing in of the Gentiles.

Getting back to our Galatians verses we will now take a look at the word promise which we asked you earlier to take special note of.

**Galatians 3:17-18-** “And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul the promise.” Vs# 18- “For if the inheritances be of the law, it is no more of promise but God gave it to Abraham by promise.” Many are the teachers and students of the word who gloss over these verses without seeing the significance of what they say. The law (given to Moses four hundred and thirty years later) could not nullify the promises God made to Abraham and Christ his seed (singular).

### **Simplification:**

- God made a promise to Abraham that in his seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be blessed; that seed was singular meaning Jesus Christ.
- All the promises made to Abraham were also made to Christ, and the covenant God made with Abraham included Jesus Christ.
- Four hundred and thirty years after the promises which God made to Abraham and his seed (Christ); the law was given to Moses, however, the law given to Moses had no effect upon the promises given to Abraham and to Christ, the two were totally unrelated.
- God later confirmed the covenant He made with Abraham with Abraham’s natural seed, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants, therefore including them in the covenant He made with Abraham. God visited each of them usually saying something like “God remembered His covenant with Abraham.” (Keep in mind the covenant God made with Abraham was given to Abraham because Abraham asked for conformation of the promises which God already made to him; do not confuse the covenant with Abraham with the covenant made with Moses).

**Galatians 3:18-** “**For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**” The law given to Moses 430 years after the promise, did not affect the promises made to Abraham and Christ; the two are unrelated.

We might well ask as Paul does in Galatians 3:19- “Why then serveth the law? Why did God give Moses the law if it had nothing to do with the promises given to Abraham and Christ? The law was given only until Christ would come to whom the promise was made.”

The answer lies in the same verse: Galatians 3:19- The law was added because of the transgressions of the Jews coming out of Egypt. Because Israel had adopted many of the Egyptian ways, which became evident by their murmuring in the wilderness and difficulty in obeying God; God gave them the law until the promised seed should come (Christ).

**Galatians 3:19-** “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come (Christ) to whom the promise was made.” (Underlined words are ours for emphasis).

*As the above verse exemplifies and as our study will show, the law was only given until Christ would come. Galatians 3:24- says that the law was only a school master to bring them unto Christ, the law was always meant to be temporary till Abrahams seed (Christ) came to whom the promise was made. Galatians 3:24- “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Later we will see that a New Covenant was promised Israel).*

Galatians 3:24-29- These verses tell us that the law was only a school master to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith; just as Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness.

**Galatians 3:28-29-** There is therefore in Christ no Jew or Gentile, we are all one in Christ. “And if ye be Christ’s then are you Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.” (**Notice we are heirs according to the promise not the law**).

**Note:** Observe therefore that in the Church we are all one, no difference in Jew or Gentile but all are considered Christians i.e. the Church. We (the Church) enter in by faith in Jesus Christ and not under the law.

**Review:** The above information will serve as a foundation on which to build. If we do not fully understand these principles, all following information will be obscured. Let’s review a few major facts.

- Remember that a difference exists between the promise to Abraham and his seed (Christ), and the law which was given to Moses 430 years later. The law given to Moses 430 years after the promise given to Abraham and his seed (Christ) had no effect on the promise.
- The promise to Abraham and his seed (Christ) in Genesis 22:17-18- included the promise that Abraham’s seed would possess the gates of His enemies and that all the Nations of the earth would be blessed by Abraham’s seed. Those promises were never fully fulfilled by Israel as a nation, but were realized in Jesus Christ the seed of Abraham by the coming in of the Gentiles.

## **A New Covenant Promised and Given:**

### **Questions to be answered:**

**Question #1:** Why was there a need for a new covenant?

**Answer:** Israel broke the first covenant Jeremiah 31:32, the law was never meant to be permanent; but was only given till the seed (Christ) would come to whom the promise was made Galatians 3:19 and 24. The law was never given as a way to righteousness; no man could be justified by the

law Romans 3:20, Galatians 5:4, Galatians 2:16, Galatians 3:11, Acts 13:39 and Hebrews 8:7-13. The law was given to reveal sin and to show the righteousness God required, until the seed should come to whom the promise was made.

**Question #2:** Where in the Old Testament does it say that God would make a New Covenant with the house of Israel?

**Answer:** Jeremiah 31:31-34:

**Question #3:** To whom was the New Covenant made and promised.

**Answer:** The answer may be quite surprising to many. The New Covenant was given to and meant only for the Jews! The Gentiles were only grafted in after the rejection by most of the Jews (remember a remnant of Jews did accept the New Covenant and were saved, just as they are today).

### **Scripture Examples:**

- Matthew 10:5-7- Jesus in sending the disciples to preach the kingdom commanded his disciples to not go into the way of the Gentiles.
- Matthew 15:24- Jesus said “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
- John 1:11- “He came unto His own and His own (Israel) received Him not.”
- Jeremiah 31:31- When God promised He would make a New Covenant, He promised it to “the house of Israel and the house of Judah”.
- Paul in his apostleship (the apostle to the Gentiles) started his ministry saying I go to the Jew first and then the Gentiles; finally he washed his hands of the Jews and said I go only to the Gentiles.

**Question #4-** How and why then did the Gentiles come into the New Covenant?

**Answer:** It is evident in the Old Testament that God was going to include the Gentiles in the New Covenant by promising that all the Nations of the earth shall be blessed in the promised seed (Christ); Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 60:3, Daniel 7:14 , Malachi 1:11 and Genesis 22:17-18.

The promise and fulfillment of the Gentiles coming into the faith and Covenant is most clearly summarized in Romans chapter eleven (11), written by Paul who professed to be a Jew among Jews yet called to be an apostle to the Gentiles.

### **Romans Chapter 11: Highlights. (Please read this chapter).**

- There is a remnant of Israel who are being saved not all were excluded verses # 1-5 (remember the Church is made up of both Jew and Gentile).
- In Romans chapter #11 Paul uses the illustration of an olive tree to describe the Natural Jews in relation to the Gentiles. Paul likens this tree to Natural Israel from which God made the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. In this illustration Paul demonstrates how the unbelieving Jews are branches being cut off from the natural olive tree (Israel). Because of Israel’s unbelief, the believing Gentiles are being grafted in to replace them;

Paul calls these Gentiles ‘wild olive branches being grafted into a natural tree’. Paul also warns the Gentiles that they do not possess the root of the tree but that the root possesses them; in other-words the Gentiles do not possess the tree or the root, they have simply been grafted in until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. They have not become the New Israel (olive tree) but rather just grafted in as part of it. We could at this point as many do, call them spiritual Jews.

- Paul in this chapter says that Natural Israel is blinded till the fullness of the Gentiles come in, and then all Israel (not just a remnant) will be saved Romans 11:26. (The saving of all Israel will be only those Jews who are living at Christ’s return, this will not include those who are in the grave who have rejected Him). See the Zachariah scriptures following. God has not forgotten His people the Jews. He will remember them because of the promise He made to Israel’s forefathers.
- Under the New Covenant both Jew and Gentile come in as Abraham and his seed Christ came in, by faith, believing God and taking Him at His word and promise.

The question now is when will all Israel be saved? The answer is in the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10; where it says “they will look upon Me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for Him .....” Israel will be saved at Christ’s second coming, when they will look on Him whom they have pierced (pierced meaning the nails of the cross). This will all happen as all the Nations of the earth come against Israel

Zechariah 12:2-3. Notice Natural Israel is not cutoff forever, God has not forgotten them. He will keep His promise to Israel’s fathers Romans 11:26-29, He will save all of Israel at the second coming of Christ, when “they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced” Zechariah 12:10. However, at present only a remnant is being saved.

***God, under the New Covenant, says He will write His laws in the hearts of His people and not on tablets of stone Jeremiah 31:33 and Hebrews 10:16. The law is now an inward principle that Christians follow, not a set of laws written on tablets of stone.***

## **Who then is a True Jew?**

- Romans 10:12- “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek.”
- Philippians 3:3- “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in spirit.”
- Galatians 3:28- “There is neither Jew nor Greek..... we are all one in Christ.”
- Colossians 3:11- “Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision ,”
- Romans 2:29- “But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter.”

In Galatians 6:16- Paul addresses the church as the Israel of God as described earlier. Remember, Natural Israel, who rejected the New Covenant in Christ, were broken off and are not in covenant relationship with God at the present time (although God is preserving them as a separate people till the second coming of Christ when they will all be saved Romans chapter eleven (11)). **Those**

**under the New Covenant, Jew and Gentile, are considered in covenant relationship with God and heirs according to the promise; therefore called the Israel of God.**

**Important Reminder:** Please do not be confused, the promise of all Israel being saved at the second coming of Christ, refers only to those Jews who are living at the time of His return. It does not apply to those who are in the graves and have rejected Him. Only those who can look upon Christ at His coming will mourn for Him.

**Law Abolished as a way for Righteousness:** *This topic, the law being abolished, causes many teachers difficulty and is widely misunderstood. Consequently we will slow down and examine this doctrine carefully using scripture as our guide and not philosophy.*

**Before we look at the scriptures which proclaim the Mosaic Law is abolished as a way for righteousness, first we must understand what purpose the law serves now.**

- Paul tells Timothy that “the law is good if a man use it lawfully, knowing this, that the law was not made for a righteous man but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for the sinners” I Timothy 1:8-9. Remember the law was not given to Abraham or to his seed Christ; but was given to Israel because of their sinful conduct which they acquired in Egypt, such as their continual murmurings because of Gods testing in the wilderness and their desire to return to Egypt. Therefore, God gave them the law to reveal their sin and His demands. The law was never given to them for a way for righteousness it was only a “school master to bring them to Christ, to whom the promise was made” Galatians 3:24.” Therefore the law today serves the same purpose, it reveals sin and Gods righteous demands and leads a person to their need for Christ and His fulfillment of the law for them, if they would trust in Him through faith.
- The law is used to reveal sin; this is Paul’s real meaning of his experience with the law in Romans chapter seven. Paul says in Romans that there is nothing wrong with the law, the law is holy and reveals the righteous demands of God. Yet the law slew him (Paul) and he kept finding himself failing at trying to please God through the law. Paul therefore concludes and thanks God for Jesus Christ at the end of the chapter; and begins chapter eight by saying what he couldn’t do himself under the outward law, in Christ he now can. In Romans 8:3-4- Paul says “for what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Summarizing then, we see that the law is now written not on stone, but on the hearts of men with the Holy Spirit empowering them to obey; which demonstrates the entire difference between law and grace. The outward law on stone only condemns sin, whereas the inward law empowered by the Holy Spirit fulfills the law’s requirement in us as new creations in Christ. Just as Jesus Christ, man’s representative, fulfilled the law in Himself and thus nailing it to His cross Colossians 2:14.
- We suggest a thorough reading of Acts Chapter 15 for an example of the Church’s attitude toward the Gentiles which were coming into the faith. There were a few who wanted them to submit to circumcision and to obey the law, Peter however, and the other apostles agreed together that the Gentiles should not have to submit to circumcision or the law, but should just keep from idols, fornication, and blood (meat which had not been properly bled). They

said that neither they (the Jews), nor their fathers were able to keep the law so it seemed good to them and the Holy Spirit to give them no other law. Thus the law was never introduced to the Gentiles as a way of righteousness.

### **Scriptures Revealing the Abolishment of the Law for Righteousness:**

- II Corinthians 3:2-11- (Law abolished including the Ten Commandments written on stone).
- Ephesians 2:12-18- (Law abolished).
- Colossians 2:14-17- (Law nailed to the cross, being fulfilled by Jesus Christ).
- Romans 10:1-4- (Christ is the end of the law).
- Hebrews 8:13- (The New Covenant replaces the old).
- Hebrews 10:1- (The law was a shadow of things to come).
- Galatians 3:10-11- (To be under the law is to be under the curse).
- Galatians 5:4- (If one is under the law he has fallen from grace, Christ has become of no effect to them).

## **The Key to Understanding the Mosaic Covenant**

### ***Is the Mosaic Covenant and its Commandments Eternal, Everlasting?***

**We cannot overemphasize the importance of this portion of study:** This is where many teachers and expositors misinterpret biblical covenant meaning. Keeping with our commitment to keep this study understandable for the general bible student, yet comprehensive enough to challenge teachers; we will follow the following formant:

- Understanding Biblical Covenant Progression.
- Is the Mosaic Covenant and Commandments Eternal-Everlasting-Perpetual?
- Examining Language Interpretation.

**Mosaic Covenant Progression:** One must follow the progression of the Old Testament Mosaic Covenant (Covenant given to Moses by God) in order to follow its evolution into the New Covenant in Christ.

**Promises in the Mosaic Covenant were Conditional for Israel (Notice we did not say the covenant was conditional but that the promises in the covenant were conditional).**

- **Exodus 15:26**- The people were murmuring against Moses (vs. #24) so the Lord said in verse #26 “if you will diligently hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought on the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”



- **Exodus 19:5-** “Now therefore, if ye will obey Me and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me.....” Notice the word “if” ye will obey Me and keep My covenant”.
- **Deuteronomy 28:15-** “But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee.”

Notice God placed conditions on the Jewish Nation, conditional on their being obedient to His commandments and covenant

### **God warns Israel about breaking His covenant:**

- **Exodus 19:5-** “if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant”.
- **Leviticus 26:15-** “And if you will despise, or if your soul abhor My judgments, that you will not do all My commandments, but that you break My Covenant”.
- **Deuteronomy 31:16-** Speaking to Moses God foretells that Israel will break the covenant, “behold thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and these people shall rise up and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers lands, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them.”

### **Israel Breaks the Covenant:**

- **Isaiah 24:5-** The later part of this verse says that Israel “broke the everlasting covenant.”
- **Jeremiah 11:10-** “the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant.”
- **Jeremiah 22:9-** “they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord.”

### **Because Israel broke the covenant, God promises a new covenant:**

- **Jeremiah 31:31-32-** “Behold the days come saith the Lord, that I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.” (Vs#32)- “Not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was a husband to them, saith the Lord.”

Notice the covenant progression: Israel was continually warned and punished because they would not obey the conditions of the Covenant that God gave them. Finally because they broke the covenant, God promised them that He would establish a New Covenant, which of course was through the promised seed of Abraham who was Christ. We should make special note of the portion of **Jeremiah 31:32-** that states the New Covenant would not be like the Old Covenant He made with their forefathers coming out of Egypt, speaking of the law given to Moses for Israel, which included the Ten Commandments.

## **Was the Mosaic Covenant and Commandments Eternal-Everlasting-Perpetual?**

Now we come to the most misunderstood portion of the Mosaic Covenant, the belief that it is forever in duration. We have kept it for last because it is the most controversial. A misunderstanding of this concept will lead to the erroneous belief of the following errors:

- One must obey the outward law to be saved.
- The Sabbath must be kept, even under the New Covenant.
- One must be circumcised to be saved.

*To the ancient Hebrew mind, especially as revealed in ancient Hebrew writings, the concept of Eternity or Everlasting is foreign to them. To the Hebrew of antiquity it is simply that which is at or beyond the horizon and cannot be known: This is called “the olam.” The word ‘olam’ in the Hebrew means “in the far distance.” A common phrase in Hebrew is “I olam va’ed” which actually means “to the distant horizon and again” meaning ‘a very distant time and even farther.’ So you see to the Hebrew mind of antiquity, the words Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual are not understood by them. Which presented a challenge for the translators who were translating the Hebrew Scriptures into English.*

*To help us understand the ancient Hebrews concerning space and time, one must understand their logic and orientation. To the Hebrew mind of antiquity the past is in front of you while the future is behind you, the opposite way we think of past and future. If we try to process that concept looking at our understanding of just the words past and future, we cannot reconcile the two concepts; because to us past is past and future is future, anything outside that frame of reference is nonsensical. However, if we would look at their logic and orientation from their cultural belief, it makes perfect sense. To the ancient Hebrew mind the past is known to them, therefore, it is ever before them. The future however, is unknown consequently hidden behind them; only after events in life take place can they be known thus becoming visible before them.*

*In much the same way ‘Olam’ is understood, it is beyond the horizon and past knowing. Only when combined with the New Testament revelation can Eternity be totally understood, and the Mosaic Covenant revealed as temporary, while God and His plan for creation is Eternal.*

**Understanding the Hebrew Word Translated Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual:** We will examine closely how many bible translations translate the Hebrew word ‘Olam’ into the English words Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual; we will take the time to list the usage of this word ‘Olam’ and its varied usage and translation in scripture.

‘Olam’ comes from the Hebrew root word ‘Alom’ meaning to veil from sight, to conceal, hide in secret. ‘Olam’ therefore means time concealed, generally time which cannot be known past or future; and to the Jew of antiquity ‘beyond the horizon’.

Looking at the complexity of this word one can appreciate the challenge translators faced in translating this Hebrew word ‘Olam’ which appears over one hundred times in scripture.

### Scriptures that translate the Word ‘*Olam*’ as old or longtime.

- **Genesis 6:4-** Speaking of the giants in the land “mighty men who were of old” ‘*Olam*’ (Notice this word ‘*Olam*’ translated in other places as Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual is translated according to its Hebrew meaning old, or undetermined age.
- **Deuteronomy 32:7-** Remember the days of old ‘*Olam*.’
- **Joshua 24:2-** “dwelt on the other side of the river in old times ‘*Olam*’.
- **I Samuel 27:8-** “inhabitants of the land were of old ‘*Olam*’.
- **Isaiah 42:14-** “I held my peace a long time ‘*Olam*’.
- **Exodus 21:6-** Speaking of a slave volunteering to stay with his master the rest of his days, exemplified by having his ear pierced through with an awl “he will serve him always” ‘*Olam*.’
- **I Samuel 1:20-22-** Speaks of Samuel serving in the temple “forever” ‘*Olam*’.
- **Exodus 27:20-** Beaten olive oil for the lamps in the tabernacle were to be for the lamps “always” ‘*Olam*.’

*Notice the above verses are translated by many translators as long time, old or always, and not Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual.*

### A few Scriptures that translate ‘*Olam*’ as Eternal-Everlasting or Perpetual.

- **Leviticus 24:8-** Everlasting Covenant ‘*Olam*.’
- **Psalms 105:10-** Everlasting Covenant. ‘*Olam*.’
- **Isaiah 24:5-** Israel broke the everlasting Covenant. ‘*Olam*.’

It is unfortunate that many of the ordinances of the tabernacle and commandments are translated as Eternal-Everlasting-Perpetual when translating the very same word ‘*Olam*’.

- Circumcision was said to be eternal ‘*Olam*.’
- Lamps burning in the temple said to be everlasting covenant Leviticus 24:7-8 ‘*Olam*.’
- The oil for the lamp stand was an everlasting covenant (Leviticus 24:7-8) ‘*Olam*.’
- Other statutes, even burnt offerings were part of the perpetual statutes ‘*Olam*.’
- The Levitical Priesthood was to be eternal ‘*Olam*.’

Obviously the above statutes for the sanctuary are not eternal nor are they practiced today, which is in accordance to New Covenant and New Testament revelations: Most of them are not practiced by Natural Israel at present. In light of New Testament revelation the awkward translation of the word ‘*Olam*’ becomes obvious and can cause many to error regarding the duration of the Mosaic Covenant and ordinances.

Those of you who speak two languages are well aware of the difficulty of conveying a thought from one language to another. While taking Biblical Hebrew in Bible College I hired a tutor to assist me; often I heard him say- “I am not sure that word will translate into English,” then I knew I was in for a long dissertation of the meaning of the word or phrase. Translating a complicated word such as ‘*Olam*’ would be a challenging task for translators.

**Closing Thought Concerning the Law:** Paul says it best when he speaks of law vs. grace through faith, **Romans 3:28**- “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” And finally in **Romans 3:31**- Paul says “Do we then make void the law through faith?” “God forbid: yea we establish the law.” How can the believer establish the law? By proving that the law has been written on our hearts and by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit we can now obey its demands willingly. The law is no longer an outward demand written on stone condemning man; but an inward principle that guides him. Christ has fulfilled the demands of the law for man at the cross, “**That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**” **Romans 8:4**.

**We will close our study of ‘The Nature of Israel and the Church’ by familiarizing you, with two common errors concerning this subject.**

**Error #1- Two Covenant Theology:** This error can be recognized immediately by its insistence that there exists one covenant for believing Israel, and another for believing Gentiles. This error places believing Israel under the Old Covenant Law, but the believing Gentiles under the New Covenant of grace. Though there are many variations of this misguided teaching the common thread that connects them is the dividing of the believing Gentiles and Jews by two distinct covenants.

**Error #2- Replacement Theology:** This error simply teaches that Israel has now been totally replaced by the Gentiles. This misleading teaching, teaches that God has now discarded the Jewish people completely, and replaced them entirely by the Gentiles; thus the Jewish people have no place in end time events, because God has rejected them completely.

**Summary:** The study of scripture must always be keep in context, Old Testament and New Testament. Most errors and heresy fail to practice this principle--in fact, quite the opposite, most error will present a philosophical view of a doctrine, and then wrap it in a few scriptures.

## **‘Theology Made Simple Series’**

**By Jim Daniels M.C.C.**

### **“Condition of the End Time Church, Just Before Jesus Returns”**

**Introduction:** The temptation as we began this study, was to present an all-inclusive Old Testament anthology of prophecies for the Church in the end time. We may include a few Old Testament scriptures for comparison to the New Testament revelation—but we will refrain from relying on the Old Testament, for our reference scriptures.

We thought it best to rely exclusively on the New Testaments revelation, and prophecies, to lay a foundation for our study. There are sufficient scriptures in the New Testament to give a clear understanding of the end time Church just before Jesus’ return.

*As a way of exhortation before we begin our study, let’s remember what our children say when we confront them for not taking responsibility, or thinking for themselves, ‘but everyone else is doing it’! It is so easy to do what everyone else is doing, or conform our opinions on those of others; it feels safe somehow to be part of the crowd. However, the scriptures place us directly responsible of our actions and beliefs, II Corinthians 5:9-10- “Wherefore we labor; that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.” (10) “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad.” Please read the above scriptures in context, Paul is not talking to unbelievers in these scriptures, but rather to the Church. When we stand in that day before Christ, an excuse of saying, ‘but everyone else was doing it!’ Will not work, any more than it does with our children.*

**Please do not rely on a religious conviction once felt, nor a confession of faith once spoken, but rather on a living faith, and daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ!**

#### **Jesus’s Matthew Chapter #24- Discourse:**

In this Chapter Jesus gives the condition of His Church just before His return to the Earth—too many expositors and teachers however, interpret Chapter 24, as just pertaining to the destruction

of the Temple in Jerusalem, in AD 70. Thus failing to understand the question His disciples asked Him.

Let's read these verses in context; Matthew 24:1-2- "And Jesus went out, and departed from the Temple: and His disciples came to Him, for to show Him the buildings of the Temple. (2) And Jesus said unto them, see ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down."

Because of Jesus words about the temple, many teachers interpret the entire Chapter to pertain to the time of the destruction of the Temple in AD 70.

However, let's take note of the questions that the disciples asked Him after His comments about the Temple: Verse # 3- "And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Notice, there were three questions that was asked of Jesus, (1) "Tell us when shall these things be?" (Meaning the destruction of the Temple). (2) "And what shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Meaning His second coming). (3) "And of the end of the world." (Meaning the end time events).

Please understand—Jesus answers in Matthew Chapter 24, gives a reply to all three questions, not just the destruction of the Temple. Part of Jesus answer in verse #14- "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come." This does not apply to just the destruction of the Temple in AD 70. Many other verses we will look at in this chapter, are also not indicative to the destruction of the Temple.

We will include, for the purpose of this study only those verses which deal with the condition of the Church just before He returns. We exhort you to read carefully all of Chapter 24 for other conditions of end time events.

### **Matthew 24 Verses, Pertaining to the Church:**

- Verses #4-5- "And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. (5) "For many shall come in My name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many." *Take note that these people would come in Jesus name, not claiming to be Jesus Christ, but that they were the Christ, the words messiah and Christ mean anointed one. These deceivers would not claim to be Jesus Christ Himself, but 'the anointed one' as the word Messiah and Christ means.*
- Verses #9-11- "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake". (10) "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."
- Verses #12-13- "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." "But he that endures to the end shall be saved." *In the King James above, it says "the love of many shall wax cold," However, in the Greek text and in most other translations it reads, 'the love of the many, or most shall wax cold.' Though much of this pertains to all*

*of Church history, remember Jesus is answering the questions, “what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world.” These signs will be most prevalent at that time.*

- Verses #14-24- The following end time events are given; (1) the gospel must be preached to all nations, (2) the abomination of desolations will appear as Daniel the prophet prophesied, (Daniel 9:27, and Daniel 12:11). (3) Warning to flee from the coming disasters, and the beginning of the great tribulation. (4) Warnings about false prophets again, and then verse #27 says, “for as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Answering the disciples question the sign of His second coming).
- Verses # 25-51- Please read all of these verses carefully, All these verses speak of His second coming and of the conditions after the great tribulation. (1) His return to the earth will not be a secret event, but “every eye shall see Him.” (2) Immediately after the tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, then the sign of the Son of Man shall be seen by all the tribes of the earth. And He will send His angels with the sound of the trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from one end of the earth to the other. (Please read the other events that will take place by reading all of Matthew chapter 24.

### **The Great Falling Away Before His Return: (Apostasy)**

- Matthew 24:12- “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many (the many) shall wax cold.”
- II Thessalonians 2:1-3- “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of the Lord Jesus (second coming), and by our gathering together unto Him,” (2) “That you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ (second coming) is at hand.” (3) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin (anti-Christ) be revealed, the son of perdition;”
- I Timothy 4:1-2- “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons.” (2) “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”
- II Timothy 3:1-7- Verse #1- “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” (#2) “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.” (#3) “Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good,” (#4) “Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;” (#5) “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” *Notice, all these scriptures are speaking of the Church and not unbelievers, for unbelievers do not love God, nor do they have a form of Godliness.*

### **Other Conditions of the Church in the End Time:**

- II Timothy 4:3-4- “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;” (#4) “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

## Hard Sayings and Warnings from Scripture:

- Matthew 18:15-17- Jesus says, if your brother trespass against thee, go to him and talk it over, if he will not hear you then take two or three witnesses with you, if he will still not hear you, go to the Church, if he still won't hear the Church treat him as if he were a heathen.
- Romans 16:17-18- "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them." (#18) "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple (vulnerable)."
- I Corinthians 5:9-11- "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:" (#10) "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world." (#11) "But now I have written to you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioners; with such a one no not to eat."
- I Corinthians 5:1-7- There was a man in the Church who was committing fornication; Paul tells the Church to put him out of the Church and turn him over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh—so the man may repent. The reason given is so the man will recover himself and his spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord Jesus. (In II Corinthians Paul tells them to bring this man back into the Church, because he has repented).
- II Thessalonians 3:6- "Now I command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."
- I Timothy 6:5- "Perverse disputing's of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."
- II John 10-11- "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine of Christ, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed." (11) "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." *The doctrine of Christ he is speaking of is denying that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, i.e. virgin birth.*

All of these are hard sayings, mainly because of the liberality and permissiveness of the Church today. It is important to know that throughout the Church ages, the above principles have been practiced. Only in the past few decades has the Church become so lax as to allow sin to stay in the Church.

Many scriptures have been discarded for the sake of conformity, and social acceptance. We have, for expedience sake, changed doctrine to suit ourselves and our culture, to become conformed to the world's social justice narrative.

**We often misapply scripture for our convenience. For example: The scriptures tells us to not judge one another, and then again it tells us to judge one another! What is the meaning, and how do we apply it?**



### Scripture Examples for Not Judging:

- Matthew 7:1-2- “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” (#2) “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” *This verse is used as a shield for people to leave us alone. We use it mainly to protect ourselves; i.e. someone catches us in a fault (sin) and confronts us to be careful, we whip out our shield and say, ‘the bible says not to judge or you will be judged.’*
- Matthew 7:3-5- We are warned not to look at the splinter in our brothers eye when we have a board in our own.

### Scriptural Examples Telling Us We are to Judge:

- I Corinthians 5:12-13- “For what have I to do to judge them also that are without?” ”Do not you judge them that are within.” (13) “But them that are without (the heathens) God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.” *Please read all of Chapter #5.*
- John 7:24- “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”
- I Corinthians 6:1-3 Paul is exhorting the Church to take care of matters in the Church, rather than going before the worlds courts to have them judge among the brethren. Verse #1- “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?” (2) “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters.” (3) “Know ye not that we shall judge angels, how much more things that pertain to this life.”

**Summary:** In Matthew 7:1-5- Many use these verses to mean the Church can never judge some ones actions. Yet in I Corinthians 6:1-3, and the other above scriptures, Paul, by the inspiration of God, rebukes the Church for not judging among the saints. If we would read Matthew 7:1-5, in context of what Jesus is saying, we would see that one is not forbidden to judge among the saints, but rather is telling us the principle of judging. Jesus said that with what measure we judge, will be the measure that we will be judged. If someone is a judgmental person and is always judging others yet is not applying those same principle to his/her life, we will be judged ourselves harshly.

Jesus therefore, in these verses tells us to not look at the splinter in someone’s eye when we have a beam in our own. He then says in verse #5- “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of your own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote of thy brothers eye.”

### Scriptures to Consider:

- Galatians 6:1- “Brethren, if a man be over taken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
- James 5:19-20- “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him [turn him from his err];” (20) “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error

of his way shall hide a multitude of sins.” *Notice, these verses are not speaking of those outside the Church, because a heathen cannot err from the truth, for he never knew the truth to begin with. These verses are speaking of turning a brother from his/her err, and sin.*

If we would look at scripture in its entirety, keeping in context all scriptures, we will see the following principles involved when making ‘righteous judgment:’

- We first must be mature in our faith, and do everything in the spirit of meekness and love.
- We should never be judgmental in our attitude, but always have the individual’s welfare in mind.
- We can never judge someone’s salvation, we can know them by their fruit, but God is the ultimate judge. We can never judge another’s salvation.
- In the way we approach someone, they will know that our heart is right and have their best interest in mind.

**Example:** When I was the Director of Chaplaincy Programs in five prison and jail facilities, we had a great many volunteers from the Church community to minister to inmates; we also had five staff Chaplains.

As I sat in my office one day, my secretary said that one of the volunteers wanted to speak with me; I asked her to show her right in. The volunteer was a middle aged African American lady who was well known in the ministry, and had a loving heart.

She approached my desk and said the following, “Brother Daniels, I know you are busy so I will not take much of your time, but I have noticed you have been putting on a lot of weight as of late, and I want you to know; you are too good of a looking man to let that happen to you, and it is not healthy, you need to take better care of your health. You need to lose some weight!” “That’s all I wanted to say, have a great day,” and then she exited my office with a big smile on her face.

God had been dealing with me for some time to eat better and lose weight, however, I kept putting it off. After she left, I smiled and said, “thank you Lord, I hear you, bless that lady who had the honesty to warn me.” Needless to say, I began to lose weight.

I believe you are getting the idea. Our heart and attitude has everything to do with how we approach our brothers and sisters. If they are mature enough, they will hear what you have to say, if you approach them in a loving spirit.

**Proverbs 9:8- “Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.”**

**Lastly:** During Paul’s ministry he continually had to battle error in the church, yet continued to keep the Church mature and in unity. As the end of his ministry drew near, and he knew it was time for him to be martyred; he gave the Church a warning, Acts 20:29-30. “For I know this, that

after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock,” (30) “Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

Paul was martyred roughly AD 62-64. John the apostle however, did not die until approximately AD 91-95 according to most Church historians. John’s revelation on the isle of Patmos, was given him sometime during that time. Please notice, from the time of Paul’s warning in Acts Chapter 20 above, some thirty years later John wrote the book of Revelation. It is interesting to note the condition of the Church, which was described by John in Revelation Chapters two and three. Paul was therefore correct in his concern for the Church after his departure. In just thirty years the Church disintegrated to the extent Christ was warning to remove their candlestick (His presence, anointing and light).

A diligent study of Church History, will reveal that the Church has been continually in and out of maturity, much like the history of the Jews—though Jesus Christ has always maintained a remnant of His faithful. I suggest to you that in today’s Church, we have forgotten what the ‘fear of the Lord’ really means. For the last four decades, the Church has made a paradigm shift in our understanding of God; we have gradually made God in our image, rather than us conforming to His image. By not understanding God’s true nature, as revealed in scripture, we have made Him impotent and emotional like man. Please refer to the beginning of the Theology Series, ‘The Nature of God.’ We will not repeat here what we have already covered in great detail.

**Colossians 3:10- “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.”**

# ‘Theology Made Simple Series’

*By Jim Daniels M.C.C.*

## “The Doctrine of Angels and Demons”

Angel (Greek-Anggelos): Meaning messenger.

Angel (Hebrew-mal’awk): Also meaning messenger.

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Why study angels? It’s an interesting topic for one thing! Even those outside the Church are fascinated by the subject, and many are the movies and TV shows made about angels: yet the biblical view of angels is very seldom taught. They (angels) remain these mystical creatures who are widely misunderstood.

Many in the faith, believe angels to be inactive today, and a topic which is best left to the science fiction writers. Some have even fallen into the error of the Sadducees, Acts 23:8- “For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit.”

The importance in studying angels, is not only to have a clear understanding of the doctrine of angelology, as depicted in scripture, but to gain a perspective of the immensity of Gods Kingdom, and His eternal plan—which is accomplished predominantly by man and angels, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation,” (Hebrews 1:13-14). Man has a calling, and a destiny, which can only be understood when our eyes, like Elisha’s servant, are opened-II Kings 6:16-17.

### Angels

We will begin by laying a foundation of scriptures on which to build, starting with basics, this will insure we all start on the same level and progress from there.

#### **The created order of angels, and man:**

- Psalm 8:4-5- Man created a little lower than angels, but still crowned with glory.
- Hebrews 2:6-10- New Testament quoting of Psalms 8 above.
- II Peter 2:11- Angels are created with more power and might than man. (*We must reiterate at this point however, that Paul in I Corinthians 6:2-3, says that a time will come when the “saints shall judge the world,” he also says, “know ye not that we shall judge angels.”*)

*John tells us I John 3:2, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He (Christ) shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” Paul again makes it clear in Romans 8:18-21, that the groaning creation (animals and plant life), were made subject to suffering because of man’s sin, but will be delivered from such bondage at the, “manifestation of the sons of God,” meaning the eternal state after Christ’s return.*

### **How many angels are there?**

- Hebrews 12:22- (An innumerable company of angels).
- Revelation 5:11- “Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” (Most expositors believe this to mean hundreds of millions in number).

We might ask ourselves at this juncture—why would God need so many angels? As we progress in our studies this will become more evident.

Angels are always spoken of in scripture in the masculine gender, never in the feminine. Usually angels are described as men when they appear. *This blows the image of angels as babies (which stems from mythology) with wings, and bare behinds shining as they play harps floating on clouds: nor are they depicted as beautiful women with long flowing robes, and bright shining wings with feathers.*

So as not to confuse those who have not studied the book of Zechariah, we will insert a brief comment on Zechariah 5:5-11. The vision which is given Zechariah in these verses is a vision of two women with wings of an unclean bird, who are carrying an ephah (an ephah is a measuring instrument to measure grain—about the size of a bushel basket): this ephah has a woman setting in it. A lid is placed over the ephah, as the two women with wings of an unclean bird, are carrying it to Shinar (Shinar meaning Babylon). The book of Zachariah is a series of visions of the restoration of Israel in the end times, including a prophecy of the Messiah (whom we know to be Christ Jesus), who is called the BRANCH in chapter six.

These two women carrying the woman in the ephah, depict the removal of false religion, and wickedness from Israel in the end time. These women are not angels, because of the identification of the wings which are of an unclean bird; sometimes women in scripture depict false religion, most likely because of Jezebel in the Old Testament. Jezebel was Queen of Israel, wife of the weak King Ahab. She introduced Baal worship again in Israel, and killed many of the prophets of God. When she heard that Elijah had killed some of the prophets of Baal, she ordered him killed, causing Elijah to flee to the wilderness. Fulfilling a prophecy from God, Jezebel fell from the wall of the city, and was eaten by dogs.

Revelation 17:1-18, depicts the end time false church as a harlot, and Revelation 2:20, calls a woman who claims to be a prophetess, Jezebel, after the Jezebel described above.

**Note:** Nowhere in scripture does it say, or intimate that angels have wings! Only the seraphim, and cherubim’s are said to have wings (multiple sets of wings), and these are called living creatures in scripture. (More details will be given later).

### **Angels, wimps, or John Wayne's of the sky?**

- Luke 1:19-20- Zachariah, John the Baptists father, was struck dumb by the angel who spoke to him, because Zachariah doubted the message given by the angel. The angel therefore, struck him dumb that he could not talk until after John the Baptist was born.
- Acts 12:7- An angel smote Peter in the side to wake him, when Peter was being released from prison.
- Acts 12:23- An angel smote Herod, and he was eaten with worms because Herod would not give God the glory for his proclamation.

***What is the moral of this story? Don't mess with angels as they work, they are serious about their jobs!***

### **Why do we not see angels today?**

- Some say they have, and are mocked for it. Saying you saw an angel today, ranks up there with saying you saw an alien from outer space. *Please take note! This author does not believe in aliens from outer space: this was stated only for comparison sake. I have learned to qualify such statements, so as not to be misquoted.*
- Hebrews 13:2- "some have entertained angels unawares."

### **Angels interested in monitoring Church activities:**

- I Peter 1:12- "which things the angels desire to look into."
- I Corinthians 11:10- (Talking about obedience to the divine order) "because of the angels."
- Ephesians 3:10- Angels learn by observing Church activities.

### **Scripture reveals that there is a hierarchy of angels, with divisions of responsibility and powers. This applies to good angels as well as evil angels.**

- Daniel 10:12, 13, 20, and 21.
- Romans 8:38- angels, principalities, and powers.
- Ephesians 3:10- "principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God."
- Ephesians 6:11-12- "Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places."

### **In the hierarchy of angels (good and bad), we notice that there are leadership roles:**

- Daniel 10:12-13- The angel Michael was called one of the chief princes.
- Satan is called the, "prince of the power of the air", in Ephesians 2:2.
- The prince of the power of Persia in Daniel 10:13, was most likely a fallen angel.
- The prince of the power of Grecia (Greece) Daniel 10:20, also a fallen angel.

### **The angel Michael: (Chief war angel (Archangel) for Israel, and the Church).**

- Daniel 10:13 and 21.
- Daniel 12:1.
- Revelation 12:7.

- Jude 9.
- I Thessalonians 4:16.

**The angel Gabriel: (Messenger in the true sense of the word).**

- Daniel 8:16.
- Daniel 9:21.
- Luke 1: 26.
- Luke 1:19, Gabriel stands in the presence of God.

**Seraphim:**

- Isaiah 6:2-6. (Said to have many wings, hands etc.).

**Cherubims:** They have different faces, wings, and wheels (not wheels as we know them today but rather whirling motions as they move from place to place).

- Ezekiel 10:1-22.
- Exodus 25:19- Moses told to make Cherubs above the mercy seat in the temple.

**Living creatures at the throne of God (King James calls them Beasts): (Probably Cherubs and/or Seraphims).**

- Revelation 4:6-8.
- Revelation 6:1-7.

Note: Much like Elisha's servant witnessed, when his eyes were opened to the warfare taking place in the heavenly realm, II Kings 6:16-17. Every action taken by believers on earth for the Kingdom of God; has a corresponding action in the spiritual realm by angels. This puts a whole new perspective on our prayer life, and business about the Kingdom's work. Jesus said, "*Whatsoever, things you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, whatsoever, things ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven*" Matthew 18:18-19.

**Do we have guardian angels? Yes! (Read the following scriptures)**

- Matthew 18:10.
- Hebrews 1:14.
- Acts 12:14-16.
- Psalms 34:7.
- Psalms 91:10-13.

**We are told not to worship angels:**

- Colossians 2:18.
- Revelation 19:10.
- Revelation 22:8-9.

**Angel of the Lord:** Sometimes depicting a vision of the pre-incarnate Christ, known as a theophany. At other times this phrase can be used to depict only an angel. The only way to distinguish the difference, is to observe if the angel receives worship. If the angel is worshiped, and receives it, then it is a theophany. If the angel will not receive the worship, then it is an angel (Example Revelation 19:10).

**Who was created first, man, or angel?**

- Job 38:4-7 shows that during the creation period of earth, angels were rejoicing and singing. Therefore angels were created before man.

**Other names for heavenly beings:**

- Sons of God: Job 1:6; Job 38:7. (Angels are sometimes called sons of God).
- Morning Stars: Job 38:7. (Angels are sometimes called stars symbolically).
- Watchers: Daniel 4:13, 17, and 23. (Watchers are also called the holy ones in these verses). Most likely the watchers-holy Ones are ranking angelic beings. These watchers can also decree things to come to pass.

**Review:** Remember we talked about God remaining sovereign over His creation, including evil angels, and demons. God has never lost control of His universe; Old Testament or New Testament. In Job, which is one of the oldest books of the bible (as most theologians believe), Satan had to seek permission from God to afflict Job. Jesus during His earthly ministry controlled the actions of demons. The demons said to Him in Matthew 8:29-“have you come to torment us before our time?” Notice, they knew that there was a time that they were to be tormented, and also knew that it was not yet time for that to take place. Jesus then cast them into a herd of swine as they requested.

**God uses evil angels in the Old Testament to do His bid:**

- Judges 9:23- (God sent an evil angel to do His bidding).
- I Samuel 16:14-17. (God sent an evil spirit to trouble King Saul).
- I Samuel 18:10. (Once again an evil spirit sent to trouble King Saul).
- I Samuel 19:9. (The same evil spirit to trouble Saul).

**God sends a lying spirit to lie to Israel’s prophets, and priests, because they had forsaken His word, and the king did not want to listen.**

- I Kings 22:19-23.
- II Chronicles 18:22.

## **Origin of Demons**

In our study of the origin of demons, I will not endeavor to present our view of the origin of demons; but instead only look at the different philosophies of scripture dealing with this subject. The scriptures say we see through a glass (mirror) dimly; God gives us enough to trust Him, and walk by faith, but often does not give us details of all things. (Objections by expositors to each view will also be given).



**Philosophy One:** Demons are the spirits of evil men whom have died. This view does not have many proponents, and has no scripture to substantiate it; unless scripture is drastically taken out of context.

**Objections to this view:**

- No scripture to prove it.
- Jesus made it clear when speaking of Lazarus, and the rich man, (Luke 16:19-31), that men are not able to move to earth after death.

**Philosophy Two:** Demons are fallen angels who fell with Satan (one third of the angels of heaven are said to have been affected by Satan's fall, Revelation 12:4). This philosophy is by far the most popular among modern expositors of today; however, this has not always been the case, many of the early Church fathers taught otherwise. Those who subscribe to this view, believe that some angels who fell became demons, and some remained as evil angels in the air (spiritual realm) with Satan, because both are depicted in scripture, however, scripture never suggests this view.

**Objections to this view:**

- Demons, and fallen angels are never associated together in scripture; fallen angels are viewed as being with the prince of the power of the air (Satan), and not on earth with men like demons are. Demons and angels are never referred to interchangeably in scripture?
- II Peter 2:4, and Jude 6, speak of angels who kept not their first abode, and are being held in chains of darkness locked up till the Day of Judgment. If these verses speak of the angels that fell with Satan, then they have been in chains of darkness since before the flood; who then are the principalities, and powers in heavenly places that scripture speaks of, which we battle now, for example, (Ephesians chapter six, Daniel 10-21 and Revelation 12:7)?

**Philosophy Three:** Demons are a fallen race, which existed before the creation of the world. Proponents of this philosophy claim God would never create a world that was void, and chaotic, because He is a God of order, thus they say God destroyed that world that then existed, and they now have become a demon race.

**Objections to this view:**

- There is no scripture to support it.
- This view relies entirely on conjecture.

**Philosophy Four:** Demons are a race of spiritual beings, half angel, and half man, which resulted from the marrying of the sons of God (angels), and women of men, Genesis 6:1-8. At the flood, God placed the angels, who married these women, who kept not their first estate, in chains of darkness. When God destroyed man by the flood this also included the offspring of these angels and women; however, because the offspring of these mixed marriages were half human and half angel, their spirits became the demons which resist man today. The proponents of this view believe that because demons once had bodies (which perished in the flood), they now seek to indwell man to control a body.

- 1) Genesis 6:1-8- show that angels and women married, and had children. They sight Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and the above verse Genesis 6: 1-8, all referring to angels, who are called sons of God.
- 2) II Peter 2:4-7 which compares the angels that sinned in Genesis six, with Sodom and Gomorrah, who also were punished because of sexual sins.
- 3) Jude 6-7- also compares the angels which kept not their first estate, with Sodom and Gomorrah once again illustrating sexual sin.
- 4) Matthew 12:43-45 Jesus said, when an unclean spirit is cast out of a man, it goes into dry places seeking rest, but finding none returns to the person, finding it clean (not filled with the Spirit), he brings with him seven other spirits, and the man is worse than he was before.
- 5) Several of the early Church fathers also taught this view.
- 6) Josephus, the reputable Jewish historian, AD 37-c. 100, confirmed that the Jews of antiquity also ascribed to this philosophy, (Josephus, book 1, chapter 3, and section 1).

#### **Objections to this view:**

- Some say that the sons of God in Genesis chapter six are not angels, but Seth's sons (Seth who was born after Able), who married Cain's evil daughters. *Scripture does not however confirm this theory.*
- Some say that Jesus words, that in the resurrection, man are like the angels, and do not marry nor are given in marriage, Matthew 22:30, thus proving (they say) that angels are unable to take on human identities to the existent they would be able to procreate. *Proponents would argue that Angels are referred to only in the masculine sense, thus making it possible for angels to marry with human women; therefore the sons of God (angels), which are only referred to a few times in scripture, could take on human identities that would make it possible. Angels in the Old Testament were able to eat food like man, which they say, shows the adaptability of angels in human form. **You be the judge!***

## **Satan**

#### **Names of Satan in Scripture:**

- Lucifer-(Hebrew-hay'lale) day star, light bearer (used only before his fall).
- Satan (Hebrew-saw'tawn) adversary.
- Satan (Greek-satanas) adversary.
- Devil (Greek-diabolos) accuser.
- Serpent (Genesis chapter three, Revelation 12:9, Revelation 20:2)

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In our study of angels, we have learned that God has never lost sovereignty over His creation. In the Old Testament, as well as the New, God has always maintained complete control over Satan,

demons, and evil angels. As we have discussed before, Satan could not afflict Job without God's permission. Jesus before the cross exercised control over demons in His earthly ministry.

Who then is at war with Satan? It is man that is at war with the forces of darkness, Satan having stolen man's place of dominion (Remember, God gave man authority over the works of His hands), thus Satan became the god of this world, II Corinthians 4:4. It was man that had to win victory over the power of Satan, and it is man who has defeated the power of the enemy; the Man Jesus Christ, God incarnate (God taking on flesh).

Hebrews 2:14-“For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same: that through death He might destroy (bring to naught) him that had the power of death, that is the devil;”

I John 3:8- “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy (render powerless) the works of the devil.”

### **Brief Commentary:**

In the fall, Satan enticed Adam and Eve to disobey God by partaking of the fruit God had forbidden them to eat; man, as God promised, died a spiritual death, thus alienating himself from the life of God, (Ephesians 4:18). Man was expelled from the spiritual realm, God's Garden, where spiritual fruit was available, and where man walked openly with God. An angel with a flaming sword, was placed at the entrance to keep man from entering again. After the resurrection, man will once again have access to the spiritual presence of God, and His spiritual dimension.

In being expelled from God's spiritual dimension, man was placed in a world of chaos, death, and pain which was the result of Adam's sin; Satan's influence was now a ruling force to be reckoned with, which was evident by Cain killing his brother.

God promised the destruction of Satan's influence over man, by the woman's seed; notice it is not woman who provides the seed, but man, this then was speaking of the virgin birth of Christ, Genesis 3:15.

The above verses, as well as the entire context of the New Testament, reveal the victory that *the Man, Jesus Christ*, won over Satan, thus freeing all mankind (who are in Christ) at the cross.

- Galatians 3:27-“For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Romans 6:3-12-Those who have been baptized into His death, have also been raised in the newness of life, that we should not serve sin, but walk in life.
- Romans 6:14-Sin has no more dominion over us.
- Luke 10:19-He has given us power over the enemy, nothing shall hurt us.
- Ephesians 1:23-“Which is His body (the Church), the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” (Notice, the Church is called the fullness of Christ who fills all).
- I John 2:6-“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.”

## **Satan's Origin as a Heavenly Cherub**

There are times in scripture when the author of a book, a chapter, or a verse, will (under the inspiration of God), begin to give prophetic utterances within the context of his message, which will contain a dual meaning; for example, David speaking of his own distress, and persecution in Psalm 22:16-22, begins to also prophesy of the sufferings of Christ on the cross. This also occurs in Psalm 2.

When dealing with the origin of Satan as an anointed Cherub, the scripture reveals his existence, and prophetic end, in much the same fashion. There are two such examples in scripture of Satan, and his origin.

Ezekiel 28:12-18: In these verses Ezekiel is given a commandment to take up a lamentation against the king of Tyrus, yet at the same time, he is speaking about Satan's prior existence in heaven, and his eventual fall. The following description is applied to Satan:

- Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty, verse 12.
- He was in the Garden of Eden, and adorned with precious stones (these stones are the same stones found later in the priests of Israel's ephod, however, the priests of Israel had 12 stones, here we find Lucifer with only nine), verse 13.
- He was an anointed cherub upon the mount of God (in heaven), before the throne of God, which is described as stones of fire, verse 14.
- He was perfect when created, until iniquity was found in him, verse 15.
- He had great responsibilities in locations of heaven, before he sinned, verse 16.
- His pride, his beauty, and wisdom, caused him to fall, verse 17.
- He desecrated his sanctuaries (indicating his authority in worship), verse 18.

Isaiah 14:12-15:

- His heavenly name was day star/son of the morning-Lucifer, verse 12. .
- His pride caused him to want to exalt himself above God's throne, verse 13.
- He wanted to exalt his position to be like God, verse 14.
- He will be destroyed, verses 15.

### **Examples of Satan as Our Adversary**

- I Chronicles 21:1- Satan stands up against Israel.
- Job 1:- Satan stands up against Job.
- Zachariah 3:1-3, Psalm 109:6- Satan stands up against God's priest.
- Matthew 4:9-10- Satan tempts Jesus.
- Luke 22:31- Satan stands up against Peter.
- Acts 5:3- Satan stands up against believers.
- II Corinthians 11:14- Satan withstands the Church as an angel of light.
- II Corinthians 12:7- Satan stands up against Paul.
- I Thessalonians 2:18- Satan hinders Paul.
- I Peter 5:8- Satan stands up against the Church.

**The Church under Christ's authority, uses Satan during Church discipline:**

- I Corinthians 5:5. (Put the man who sinned out of the Church, and turn him over to Satan).
- I Timothy 1:20- Paul turns two Church members over to Satan for punishment.

### **Resisting the devil:**

- James 4:7-“Submitt yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee.”
- I Peter 5:8-“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- I Peter 5:9-“Whom resist steadfast in the faith,”
- Ephesians 6:11-“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- I John 5:18-“Whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself and the wicked one toucheth him not.”
- Ephesians 4:27-“Neither give place to the devil.”
- I Timothy 3:6-7-Don’t fall into the devil’s snare.

### **Angel Study Summary:**

As we close our study on Angels, and Demons, it is evident that we are in the midst of a spiritual battle, and indeed exhorted in scripture to fight the good fight of faith, I Timothy 6:12. We have an enemy who comes to kill, steal, and destroy; however, in Christ we have everything we need to overcome the assaults of the enemy. We have been given the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us, armor to protect us, and the word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit, along with prayer as spiritual weapons. Now we must take our place alongside those who went before us, and contend for the faith Jude 1-3.

We draw your attention to the complexity of the spiritual dimension, with all its intricate players. Looking through the eyes of faith, and the window of scripture, Gods interaction with man includes a multitude of complex angelic beings, interacting with man to fulfill Gods eternal plan. We trust your vision, and opinion of the universe, and God’s eternal plan has now been greatly expanded; and that our mission, and purpose in the scheme of things, more apparent.

As always we trust you will review all the scriptures that have been given in this study, and we pray, *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” Ephesians 1:17-18.*

**We trust this study has been a blessing to you, and has encouraged you in your faith. We now challenge you take what you have learned and disciple others—as Christ commanded us, Matthew 28:19-20.**