

Adam & Eve: The mystery of  
man's damnation and salvation

# Adam & Eve: The mystery of man's damnation and salvation

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# Dedication

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This book is dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ.  
“May the Lamb that was slain receive the  
reward of his suffering.” *Pastor Paris Reidhead*

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## Acknowledgements

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A special thank you to my dear wife and children for their support and attending Bible Study every Sunday.

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## Introduction

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Many people have heard the biblical story of Adam & Eve. How the father and mother of modern humans were created by God, tempted by the wily serpent, and ate the forbidden fruit. However, most don't know the rest of the story. Why eating the fruit caused death, strife, evil, war, and decay to enter the world. Or why one act of disobedience made all men sinners - and condemned them to Hell.

In *Adam & Eve: The mystery of man's damnation and salvation*, we reveal the stunning truth of what happened in the Garden of Eden. It is an epic tragedy from which all the stories of the Bible can be understood, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is explained and the nature of God is revealed. I pray you will be blessed.

## In the beginning: Genesis

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“When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” *Genesis 2:5*

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” *Genesis 2:15*

“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the LORD God had form every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

*Genesis 2:18*

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the

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garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I

commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” *Genesis 3:1*

## The fall from grace

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In Genesis 2:25 we are told “And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.” Adam and Eve were as innocent children in the presence of the Lord. Their hearts were pure and God said they were beautiful<sup>1</sup>. Our forefather and mother walked with God, and were in fellowship with the Almighty. But then something happened when they ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Scriptures state, “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.” *Genesis 3:7* Adam then tells the Lord, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

When they ate the fruit Adam and Eve heard a voice in their head. It was not the voice of God and not the voice of the serpent. We know this because the Lord asks them “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrew translation for “good”

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of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>2</sup> The Lord, omniscient, knows what happened so this is not a random question. It is asked in order that you and I will have revelation into a startling truth.

The Lord asks "who told you." So we can assume a voice, like that of a conscience or intuition, told them they were naked. And in the same breath the Lord asks, "Have you eaten from the tree." Therefore, we know this voice in their minds came when they ate the fruit.

But there was more than just a voice. Like infant children their nakedness was natural and everything was good as God had proclaimed. *Genesis 1:31* Then their "eyes were opened." This was not a physical change as they could already see, but something happened in their minds. The awareness of their surroundings and themselves was altered. The perception of their standing before God, once natural and loving, was changed. Adam now said he was afraid and ashamed. The question is why?

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<sup>2</sup> Genesis 3:11

## Good and Evil

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To understand what happened we must go back to Genesis 2:9 and 2:16. “And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” *Genesis 2:9*

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” *Genesis 2:16*

In the Garden our parents had a choice; eternal life or eternal misery. The same choice, we will see later, given to all mankind. The choice that is given to you and me.

When we analyze the Hebrew translations of “good and evil” (tree of the knowledge of good and evil), the Hebrew for “good” is translated as “beautiful, pleasant.” The Hebrew translation for “evil” in this verse means “distress, misery, affliction, adversity, and calamity.” Upon eating the fruit Adam and Eve would be

distressed. Having known beauty in the Lord, they would now be afflicted. They would experience both God and the Devil. Their souls, what God had called good, would know evil. A calamity, a tragedy, was about to unfold.

## The Great Deception

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This was the great deception of the ages. The serpent, the Devil himself, tempted Eve with the prospect of infinite wisdom. She would be like her Father, God Almighty. Eve believed her mind would be opened to a revelation of great knowledge. Yet, upon eating the fruit, wisdom did not come, but instead dread and shame.

Previously they had walked and basked in the glory of God. They were clothed in the radiance and beauty of the Lord whose glory is likened to the sun. *Ezekiel 43:2* But now something in their minds told them their bodies were shameful. A conscience, an inner voice told them they were unfit to be in the presence of God.

However, this was no mere voice; it was a spirit, a force. Adam said fear entered his mind. An anxiety that would alter his emotions and behavior. This spirit would influence their thoughts, desires and perception of God. It would cause the Lord to remove his glory and cast them out. It made Adam see himself as shameful and unworthy before God. The Scriptures would now describe Adam's

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children, you and I, as “sinners,” “ungodly,”<sup>3</sup> and “wicked”<sup>4</sup>; as having a “depraved” and “corrupt mind”<sup>5</sup>; “detestable”<sup>6</sup>; “enemies” of God<sup>7</sup>; and under the “wrath of God.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 4:5

<sup>4</sup> Romans 5:6

<sup>5</sup> 1 Timothy 6:5

<sup>6</sup> Titus 1:16

<sup>7</sup> Romans 5:10

<sup>8</sup> Romans 5:9

## Damnation

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Dear friend, the spirit that came into Adam and Eve was born of the Devil. *Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 3:8* All the offspring of Adam, including you and me, would be called children of the Devil, children of disobedience, the offspring of deceit, and the children of wrath. *Isaiah 57:4, Ephesians 5:6* And who is called the father of deceit? The Devil himself. Our parents were now defiled. *Titus 1:15*

Injected into the very DNA of Adam was a spirit that corrupted humanity. This spirit, this human spirit now separated Adam from God. It would lead man away from God, and to do what was right in his own mind. *Isaiah 53:6* What God had created pure and innocent was now tainted with evil. And God abhorred what we had become. *Ezekiel 16:4*

Man now had a conscience, an internal voice that decided right and wrong - apart from God. Man would now act based on his own values, desires and perceptions. In this sense the serpent was right; Eve would “become like God.” Man would not be subject to the law of God nor could he be. Adam and Eve now had a spirit of independence. A spirit of a rebel, a

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spirit of disobedience that separated them from the King. Therefore, the penalty for rebellion, the penalty for sin was death.

## Sin

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Sin is a failure to meet the standards of God. In some Scriptures it is called an offence, a crime against God. The Apostle John says sin is “all wrongdoing.” *1 John 5:17* It is further translated as disobedience, lawlessness, unrighteousness, or violation of law or justice; the utter disregard for God’s law. *1 John 3:4*

Romans 14:23 says “whatever is not from faith is sin.” And faith we are told is trust in God. However, faith is not something that originates from within man. The Scriptures say God gives faith to the redeemed, those rescued from sin. Faith is the persuasion of God that enables a person to follow and love Christ. Thus if God has not given faith to a person, everything that person does is out of his own will. And because it originates from the spirit of man, born of the Devil, it is called sin.

In other words, everything a man does in this world, who is separated from God, is sin. Everything he does is offensive and a crime against God. The Lord Jesus describes the sinner as a “bad tree” that will always yield “bad fruit” and can never bear “good fruit.” *Matthew 7:17* He is a criminal, a law breaker, a

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worker of iniquity who has fallen short of the righteousness and law of God. The sinner is no longer covered in the glory of God. He is naked and shameful in the eyes of the Lord. And God has declared to the world, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23*

## Death came into the world

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“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” *Romans 5:12*

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, two things happened. First they transgressed the commandment of the Lord to not eat the fruit. They committed an offence, a crime against the Lord. But once the fruit was digested, something nefarious happened. Adam and Eve were transformed.

They now saw themselves as naked and shameful. Such is the posture of the sinner, the one who is separate and separated from God. Our parents had become tainted and filthy with a spirit born of the Devil. What was once pure had become unclean and ungodly. When their eyes were opened they saw themselves as God saw them. No longer covered in his glory and radiance, they were bare, exposed and corrupt. They could no longer stand in the presence of a holy God. Thus they covered themselves and hid. What God had called good, was ruined.

And the children of Adam would be called  
“wicked.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Hebrew translation: guilty of sin

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## The human spirit

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In the history of mankind the human spirit is exalted, honored, praised and admired. It is that quality which gives a man grit, determination, and perseverance. This same spirit would drive men to achieve great fame and honor. The human spirit is hailed amongst men. Our leaders, celebrities, and heroes are celebrated for their accomplishments, beauty, morality, talents, sacrifice, genius, and strength. Yet the Lord says, “what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” *Luke 16:15* And again he says “...what is vile is honored by the human race.” *Psalms 12:8*

From this same human spirit the Scriptures say come wickedness. “God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, who seeks after God. Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.” *Psalms 53:2*.

The sons of disobedience now had a desire to worship. And their god was in the image of men and beasts. They would seek leaders, celebrities, sports, passions, religion, and appetites; and some would even worship the

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sun, moon, animals, nature, the universe, and demons. What God called evil, man would call good. What God called good, would be rejected. “All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” *Romans 3:12*

## The Beast

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Out of the human spirit would arise great nations, world powers and demagogues. And out of these would and will come men that imagine themselves to be God. Collectively and individually the Scriptures call this one the “Beast.” The Lord describes him as a brutal, wild animal, set up on the throne and authority of Satan. He blasphemes God Almighty, declaring himself to be the true god. He would and will demand worship, and all humanity, the offspring of deceit, will bow down at his feet. *Revelation 13:8* This will be the final chapter in the condemnation of the world.

## Worthless and damned

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The choice made by Adam to eat the fruit doomed the entire human race. Mankind from the womb is born into sin. “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.” *Psalm 58:3*. Thus the Lord Jesus calls the Devil, “the father of lies.” *John 8:44* The father of the wicked – those guilty of sin.

We are told the god of this world is the Devil. He has blinded the minds of men to keep them from God. *2 Corinthians 4:4* He entices you to seek the desires of your heart. The lust of the eyes (craving for everything we see), the lust of the flesh (physical pleasure) and the pride of life (that which appeals to the ego, ambition and self-fulfillment). *1 John 2:16* Hence we are warned that all who love the world, love the Devil and hate God. *James 4:4*

## Evil in the heart of men

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Everything in man's heart (desires) and mind became an abomination to God. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" *Jeremiah 17:9*

"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;" *Romans 1:28*

"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time."  
*Genesis 6:5*

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts--murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." *Matthew 15:19*

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry,

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sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.”

*Galatians 5:19*

“For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” *2 Timothy 3:2*

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.” *Isaiah 53:6*

## Your father is the Devil

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As Adam and Eve had fallen from God's glory, so would all men. In Isaiah 64:6 the Lord says, "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

We would not hearken to the voice of God, but to the voice of our desires. The Lord Jesus makes this clear: "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father." *John 8:43*. The desires of the heart, dear friend, are the desires of the Devil.

## The same spirit is in all mankind

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The spirit in the heterosexual is the same in the homosexual. The spirit in the rich is the same in the poor. The spirit in the murderer is the same in the monk. The spirit in the Jew is the same in the Muslim and Hindu. The spirit in the self-righteous is the same in the hate-monger. The spirit in the conservative is the same in the liberal. The spirit in the dictator is the same in the democrat. In one, the spirit shows this way, in the other that way. It is the same spirit which works in all.

Society judges lifestyles, morality and deeds. It will be partial and prejudiced by virtue of race, gender, and ethnicity. But God Almighty shows no partiality. He only sees one thing when he looks upon men; the stain of the Devil.

The Lord Jesus says a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. *Matthew 7:18* There is nothing men can do that will ever be pleasing to God. No amount of feeding the poor, clothing the homeless, caring for the blind, or donations to charity, can cleanse a man's soul.

In Romans 8:7 we are told "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not

submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot." The offspring of Adam and Eve, you and I, would be loathsome to the Lord.

## You were abhorred

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“And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were *abhorred*, on the day that you were born.” *Ezekiel 16:4*

Yes dear friend, the Lord says you and I were abhorred on the day we were born, because our souls were defiled with evil. “...every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.” *Genesis 8:21* The human spirit was hostile, an enemy of God. As a consequence, the Lord Jesus called the people “dead.” *Matthew 8:22* The wrath of God was upon the world. And death was the decree.

When they were cast out Adam and Eve were blocked from the Tree of Life and denied immortality. *Genesis 3:22* Thus the body would perish. This is the first death. But the soul, made in the image of God, still lived. The Scriptures then say there will be a Day of Judgment, where all souls will be judged. On this day the sons of disobedience will

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experience a “second death.” *Revelation 2:13*  
This second death our Lord Jesus calls “Hell.”

## The second death: Hell

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“But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

*Revelation 21:8*

“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” *Revelation 14:10*

“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” *Revelation 20:15*

Hell is this lake of fire which is reserved for the Devil, his angels, and the children of disobedience. The “mark of the beast” dear friend, the mark of the Devil, is upon every human separated from God. It is the stain of man’s sin nature. And everyone separated from God, the Scriptures say, will worship the Beast.

## Eternal anguish

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The Lord Jesus in a parable<sup>10</sup> gives us a picture of Hell and the anguish of the torment. “The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was filled, they drew up on the beach; and they sat down, and

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<sup>10</sup> Luke 16:22

gathered the good into vessels, but the bad they cast away. So shall it be in the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the righteous, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.”

*Matthew 13:47*

In John 15:6 the Lord Jesus warns us of Hell: “If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

“The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.” *Matthew 13:38*

“The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.”

*Malachi 4:1*

And again the Lord Jesus says, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to

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destroy both soul and body in hell.” *Matthew*  
*10:28*

## A consuming fire

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The Scriptures describe the Lord as a “consuming fire” that devours sinners<sup>11</sup>. Dear friend, the lake of fire, Hell, is a stream that comes from the throne of God Almighty. It is a terrifying thing that I can barely comprehend.

At this point things look bleak for mankind. No matter how moral, ethical, religious, or generous one can be, the Lord deems man a “bad tree.” What is most esteemed among men, the Scriptures say is “an abomination before God.” No matter what great things we do, we remain unclean. “For none is good, not one.”  
*Psalms 53:2*

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<sup>11</sup> Isaiah 33

## A God of holiness

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Throughout the Scriptures we are taught that God is holy, that he demands perfect obedience and purity. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD." *Isaiah 55:8* He commands that his children be "holy as he is holy." *Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:14* The holy one is set apart for God's use, without blemish or defect, and free from sin.

The Law of Moses precluded those Israelites with deformities from ministering to God at the altar or through the veil. *Leviticus 21:16* Only those without blemish could minister to the Lord. Israelites were called unclean who touched anything not sanctified by the Lord. Sin within Israel was punishable by death. Disobedient children were put to death by their parents under the sanction of the Law. Failure to abide by the rules and decrees of worship in the temple would result in death and destruction. Enemies of God's people, and thereby enemies of God were subject to complete annihilation. "Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation--men,

women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys.” *1 Samuel 15:3*

In these verses we are faced with the awful consequences of sin. Illustrated in the theater of human drama we see the brutal and absolute horrific nature of judgment. Let no man, no preacher deceive you dear friend. God hates sin. “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” *Hebrews 10:31*

Even Moses, a man loved by God, and assured of eternal life, when he sinned was disciplined. And the penalty was death.

“That very day the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession. And *die on the mountain which you go up*, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, *because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel.* For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there,

into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel.” *Deuteronomy 32: 48*

Dear friend, the Lord God hates sin just as much in the vilest sinner as he does in his children. Thus we have the proclamation in the Scriptures, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.” *Proverbs 9:10*

“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.”  
*Proverbs 16:6*

## Anger at God

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There are those who would shake a fist at the Lord. They would accuse him of being unjust, hard and harsh. Instead of weeping and mourning over their sin, they say, “Let us drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.” And to this attitude the Lord responds:

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?”

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your

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transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.” *Ezekiel 18:25*

“Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?" *Romans 9:20*

"What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong!' Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?' *Isaiah 45:9*

“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Let him who argues with God give an answer.” *Job 40:2*

“You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? *Isaiah 29:16*

## Man's law vs. God's law

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The man who says "I am a good person," or "I have done nothing wrong," sees himself through the lens of his conscience. "There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness." *Proverbs 30:12*  
He says he has lived a moral life, or a life doing good things for others. He believes there are many paths to heaven, nirvana, and peace. This man has declared in his own mind what is good. And by default, calls God Almighty "a liar" and unjust. *1 John 1:10*

That man has defied God who has proclaimed "all have sinned." *Romans 3:23* He has called the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sinners unnecessary, and he tramples on the blood of the Son of God. To these "good" people the Lord says: "And yet you say, 'I have done nothing wrong. Surely God isn't angry with me!' But now I will punish you severely because you claim you have not sinned."  
*Jeremiah 2:35*

On the Day of Judgment "good" people will be asked one question: "Did you love the Lord God, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? And did you love your neighbor as

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yourself?" *Matthew 22:36* And who is your neighbor? Everyone you have met in life. How will you answer? With every fiber of your being, did you give your all to obey, love and serve God Almighty? Did you love all people, or were some despised and ignored?

There is only one person who lived that can say "yes" to God's greatest commandment. The Son of God, Jesus Christ. He who had no sin. 2 *Corinthians 5:21* It would seem we are all without hope. Our fate is Hell, the lake of fire where the worms that eat the body do not die, and the fire is never quenched. *Mark 9:48* Thus we cry as did the prophet Isaiah, "Woe is me! For I am undone." *Isaiah 6:5*

## Merciful and compassionate

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Despite the woes of man, the Scriptures describe the mercy and compassion of God Almighty. “And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” *Genesis 3:21* After they were cast out of the Garden, no longer clothed in his glory, the Lord still cared for Adam and Eve. His righteousness demanded justice and justice would be served. But the Lord loved us. Patient and kind, his love does not rejoice in wrongdoing but bears all things. Not only did he clothe our parents, but we see his mercy in their sons, Abel and Cain.

Cain, the first son, the Apostle John tells us belonged to the Devil. *1 John 3:12* “By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.” *Ephesians 2:3* “For I was born a sinner--yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.” *Psalms 51:5* However, their second son Abel, the Lord God called righteous. *Matthew 25:35* How was this? What did Abel do that freed him from sin? Was it because he sacrificed a lamb to God? Was it by chance he was born innocent and pure, without the DNA of Adam?

We see the same thing with Jacob and Esau. At birth, the Lord said he loved Jacob, but Esau he hated. *Malachi 1:2* Was one twin born righteous and the other born evil?

“For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.” *Romans 9:14*

Not deserving a pardon, the Lord declares Abel righteous by virtue of his mercy – not by any action of Abel. The Lord shows us there is yet hope for mankind. However, the righteousness of a holy God demands that sin be punished and the unclean be destroyed. So how could God be just and the justifier of the wicked? How could Abel and Jacob be declared righteous?

The heavens and the earth would be witness to an act of love never seen. To satisfy his judgment on the soul that sins, the Lord God would take the arrow aimed at every human heart, bare his breast and plunge the dagger into himself. The Lord Jesus would drink the full cup of God’s wrath. *Matthew 26:39*

My God, my God, look oh man on what the Lord has done. “For by the power of the eternal

Adam & Eve

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Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.” *Hebrews 9:14*

## For God so loved the world

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

*John 3:16* A proper reading of this verse is critical to understanding the mercy of God.

"Jesus Christ gave his life for those who would come to know and love God, so they that love God would have eternal life."

The sacrifice of Christ for sin offers no benefit to the unrepentant. It brings salvation only to those who turn to God. "But wait a minute," you might say, "doesn't the text say I only have to believe in Christ? Where does it say I have to repent and love God to receive eternal life?"

The Greek translation for "believe" in this verse means "trust in, have faith in, to be persuaded by." The Lord Jesus tells us plainly what it means to trust him. "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them." *John 14:21*

So what were the commandments given by Christ? What did he preach? There were only

two great messages preached to sinners by the Lord, “repent or perish” and “love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” Those that believed in Christ both repented (turned from the world to God), and loved the Lord.

## Repent or perish

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“From that time on Jesus began to preach,  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come  
near." *Matthew 4:17*

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel  
of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and  
the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and  
believe in the gospel." *Mark 1:14*

“I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too  
will all perish." *Luke 13:5*

“Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer  
and rise again from the dead the third day, and  
that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be  
proclaimed in His name to all the nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem.” *Luke 24:47*

## Love God with all your heart

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“Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” *Luke 14:25* “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” *Luke 14:33*

“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in

heaven: and come, *take up the cross, and follow me*. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

*Mark 10:17*

“The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.”

*Psalms 91:14*

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.” *Proverbs 8:17*

“So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.”

*John 6:53*

Dear friend, nothing could be plainer, the Kingdom of Heaven is for those who love God.

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Men and women who turn from the desires of their heart, to seek God in utter and complete surrender. These believe and trust in the Son of God. Thus the Lord describes the love of God as consuming, all-encompassing, and the forsaking of all things.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.” *Matthew 13:45*

## He is kind to the ungrateful

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“And he healed every kind of disease and illness.” *Matthew 4:23* There are many who have a good life. Healings, miracles, or good fortune is their experience. Their cry is “God is good!” and “I am blessed.” But on the Day of Judgment, the Lord tells them “I never knew you.” Why, what happened? Their grave error was to assume they had escaped the wrath of God, because God is good. Beloved, the kindness and love of the Almighty is meant to bring us to repentance. *Romans 2:4* To that place in our renewed hearts, where broken in spirit and humbled in mind, we say “Lord Jesus I love thee, my life I give, not by my strength but by thy mercy I received.”

## The lament of God

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“Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” *Mark 10:17*

Dear friend, in this verse we see the heartbreak of Jesus Christ. Here was a man that lived a righteous life, a son of Abraham, and “Jesus loved him.” But God gets right to the crux of the matter. The Kingdom of Heaven is a choice of the heart. To love Christ or love the world. A choice between life and death.

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?' *Ezekiel 33:11*

“But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. “How I wish today that you of all people would understand

the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.” *Luke 19:41*

“Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” *Isaiah 55:7*

## War and rumors of war

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While there are periods of prosperity and peace on earth, the Lord says there will be wars and rumors of war. He says wickedness on earth will increase.<sup>12</sup> Fear, death, evil, mass murder, and decay will continue until the end. For governments and societies are a reflection of men and the heart of men is evil. In quiet towns, schools and tranquil communities, suddenly evil arises and the innocent are killed. Fear grips society. There is no safe haven, no community so remote to escape the evil within.

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<sup>12</sup> Matthew 24:4-14

## Brother, what shall I do?

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By this point I pray you have a revelation of the dire strait of mankind. The situation you are in. I pray you can see that no religion can save your soul. Only an act of God, the mercy of the Lord can save men from their fate.

I know a man who attended church for 40 years and who declared himself safe from Hell because “he decided to become a Christian.” He assumed he was in control of his fate. Yet, when I talked to him about the Lord, he said “Who can know God, he is invisible?!” He was blind to a knowledge of God. The Lord did not know him and he did not know the Lord. This man was on a cruise liner named religion. It had music, fellowship, and activity. Sweet words filled his cabin, saying Jesus loved him. It was a ship headed towards disaster and tragedy.

It was this man, and many others like him, the Lord Jesus warned in these parables: the 10 virgins (*Matthew 25:1*), the talents (*Matthew 25:14*), the sheep and goats (*Matthew 25:31*), the rich young man (*Matthew 19:16*), the wedding feast (*Matthew 22:1*) and those who called him “Lord, Lord” (*Matthew 7:21*).

In each story the characters sought to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. One obeyed the Ten Commandments, some lived a religious life, others communed in church, and many believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Listen to their testimony on the Day of Judgment: “Did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?” “We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.” *Matthew 7:22, Luke 13:26*

In every case Christ called these people “worthless,” “foolish,” “law breakers” or said “I never knew you.” Not one could testify they loved God with all their heart. No one knew the Lord, and he did not know them.

Dear friend, this is the anguish of my soul tonight. I have seen the devastation to come. The unfathomable disappointment. The horror on the faces of those denied the Kingdom. This is why I write, by the grace of God, that some may be saved.

## Does God know you?

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In his parables the Lord Jesus says “I never knew you” and “get away from me” to those banging on the doors of Heaven. *Matthew 7:23* The Greek word for “knew” used in this text is ginóskō. It is the same Greek word used by Mary when the angel of God told her she would bear a son called Jesus, and Mary responded unto the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” *Luke 1:34*

The word “know” used in both verses implies a sexual intimacy. Dear friend you must catch this, it is the difference between eternal life and eternal misery. This is the difference between professing Christians who are called “worthless” *Matthew 25:30*, and those who belong to Christ.

The children of God are entered into by the Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of God, the seed of Christ, comes into those God has forgiven of sin and gives them a new heart, a new spirit. This was the only remedy for the children of Adam when he became corrupt in the Garden. The only hope for you and me.

## Regeneration

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Those who were awakened to their true condition, who saw themselves as God saw them, sinful and dying, and turned to God for mercy would experience a miracle. Washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ, the repentant would receive a new spirit. He would be “born again.” *John 3:3*

“At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person.” *1 Samuel 10:6*

And they would be made clean and pure. Thus the Lord Jesus could say, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” *Matthew 5:8*  
And the Psalmist could cry “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” *Psalms 51:10*

“As all of us reflect the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, we are becoming more like him with ever-increasing glory by the Lord's Spirit.” *2 Corinthians 3:18*

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his

Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” *Romans 8:29*

It is the Spirit of Christ that turns the ungodly into a lover of God. Thus the Lord Jesus could call you his brother and sister. And God the Father could call you his son and daughter and a joint heir with Christ. *Galatians 4:7*

Those that receive the Spirit of Christ become intimate with God. These are the people the Lord knows. You will hear his voice, you will feel his presence and he will hear your prayers. “Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.” *Isaiah 58:9* Beloved, the hand of God will be on you and you will be called blessed. The Apostle Paul describes this phenomenon as when a man joins with his wife and “the two become one flesh.” *Galatians 5:31* God declares that we are his and he is our God. “He died for everyone so that those who *receive his new life will no longer live for themselves*. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.” *2 Corinthians 5:15*

## Jesus Christ is salvation

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Dear friend, salvation is Jesus Christ; not a religion, not baptism, not a profession of faith. Christ comes into the blessed and gives life. This is a gift, an act of mercy and grace by God Almighty. This gives understanding to the verse, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6* No one will see the face of God whose soul has not received the Spirit.

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” *John 3:5* Repentance (water) must come first, then the Spirit will be given. We hear this very thing from John the Baptist: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” *Matthew 3:11*

The Greek for “baptize” means immersed. Literally, one who turned to God would be immersed in his Spirit. And those who did not repent would be immersed in the fire of Hell.

When the Spirit of the Lord enters a man he becomes wedded to God. No longer a free spirit but a bondservant of Christ. Then a change in the mind and heart takes place. We now desire God, we want to please God. Things of the world no longer satisfy as they once did. We begin to see the evil and sin in our bodies. We mourn over sin that lingers, and mourn over those who are perishing. We have a thirst for the Lord and a meekness unto God that never existed.

## The Good News

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If the Lord has provoked and disturbed you, and the question arises, “Brother, what shall I do?” I have good news. The Lord Jesus said he came to “seek and save the lost.” *Luke 19:10* The Greek word translated as “lost” means “perishing, devoted to eternal misery.” The Lord Jesus came to save men and women, separated from God and enslaved to sin, from eternal death and affliction. The Lord came to deliver the remedy to what happened in the Garden of Eden. He came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

Earlier we said the Lord abhorred us at birth. *Ezekiel 16:4* But now we see his plan of redemption, his love for those who receive Christ.

“And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.”

“And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare. “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.”

“Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. And your renown

went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.” *Ezekiel 16:4-14*

## A crown of beauty

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“You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.” *Isaiah 62:3* When Adam and Eve were created, the Lord called them beautiful. It is the desire of God to make us beautiful once again; to remove the stain of sin. To bestow on us the blessings of God, to make us radiant, and to sit us with the Lord Jesus.

“And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more nor mourning nor crying nor pain, they will be no more, because the former things have passed away.” *Revelation 21:4*

“And those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” *Isaiah 35:10*

“And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of

life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” *Revelation 7:15*

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” *Isaiah 41:10*

The Lord did not come to make people rich, make peace on earth, create good will, feed starving children, clothe the poor, or create a religion. While we praise God for those who care for their neighbors, the Apostle Paul says “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners --and I am the worst of them all.”

*1 Timothy 1:15*

## The Gospel

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It was August 23, 2007 at 2:30 am, after eight months of seeking God, when my Lord touched me and changed me. He witnessed to my heart as I fell in tears. I knew then that my sins were forgiven and he blessed me with a heart to love him. And every year since, I am being transformed into the image of his Son. Praise God for what he has wrought in the hearts of undeserving, sinful men.

This is the good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is hope for the prisoner on death row. The Lord Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for those that would receive life. He satisfied God's demand that the soul that sins must die. And the Lord accepted his life as a ransom for those who would repent. Thus the Lord fulfilled his promise to sinful men.

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you

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will be careful to observe My ordinances. “You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.” *Ezekiel 36:25*

## A matter of the heart

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A man I knew told me of his brother, a drug addict, who sought God. After a period of attending church he stopped going. When asked why he stopped, he said, "I tried Jesus and it didn't work." He wanted Christ to solve a problem for him; he wanted a need to be met. There was no intent to repent. His heart would never surrender to God. Therefore, he was rejected. *1 Samuel 16:7*

"...the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him." *2 Chronicles 30:9*

"If you will seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy, if you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you and restore your rightful habitation. And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." *Job 8:5*

## Have mercy

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The last story I tell is of a young woman who was a missionary in Peru. Her life had always centered on the church, youth groups and Christian activity. So it was natural when she left home to go abroad and preach the Gospel of Christ. But once on the mission field she had an epiphany. As she worked alongside another worker, she noticed something strange. There was a stark difference between them. He was there for God, and she was there, well, because “that’s what a Christian was supposed to do.” The realization set in that her work had become a chore, a job, an obligation.

She began to ask herself, “Am I really a Christian?” A voice in her head kept saying “Of course you are!” Why, she was baptized, blessed and a leader. All she had known was Christ and preached him crucified. Yet she felt no peace, her heart was troubled. Then one day a known prostitute came to a church service. As her eyes followed the woman, she heard another voice. “The only difference between you and that woman is the clothes you have on.”

Suddenly guilt and remorse struck. It was the Lord who had been troubling her. And in that moment he gave her a mirror – what she saw was a vile, condemned sinner. She knew the Word of God but had never known God. She had religion but not Christ. Her parents, pastors and peers said all was well with her soul. Men said she was clean and pure. Men declared her fit for God’s Kingdom. But the Lord said, “You are a sinner. And the soul that sins shall surely die.”

So that very night she did the only thing a sinner can do. She said, “I wrestled with God, pleading for mercy.” Before the morning sun had risen, the Lord answered her plea. He reached deep inside, seized her heart and made it new and pure. Halleluiah, Halleluiah sang the angels of God. And she could now cry, “The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.” *Exodus 15:2*

Dear friend, examine thyself to know if Christ lives within, if thy desire for God rules over sin. If meekness and the Spirit say you are born again. Hear no man but hearken unto God. To him whom all glory and honor are due, Amen.

## The Ballad of Adam & Eve

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### *Adam*

Made in the image and likeness of my Father and his only begotten son, I was pure and innocent. My soul was without sin. I could think and feel. I loved and was loved. My mind was great and so my Father had me name the birds of the air and the animals of the fields, thousands of creatures he gave to me.

When I sang even the angels listened. My Father placed me in paradise and surrounded me with everything pleasant to the eye. In my soul was everything pleasing to my Father. My voice could lift up angels and with my hands I painted life and the beauty I saw. The beauty of my Father was in all and all was in my Father.

I could laugh and rejoice in all that was given me. When I looked at him I was in awe. Magnificent and breathtaking, no words could describe what I saw. And he saw it was not right for me to be alone and thus from my flesh he created woman. Eve I named her for she was flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. Intimacy I would know. And my Father said it

was good to be fruitful and bear children. I knew her and loved her.

From my soul I could love. My Father gave this to me. I felt joy. Empathy was in my soul. My eyes could not only see but would weep when I felt sorrow. My soul was in my Father's likeness and image. And he said I was beautiful. I walked with him and talked to him. My Father, my creator, Jehovah, God Almighty, Lord. And there was his Son, the first begotten, with eyes like flames and a face that shone with the light of stars. My soul was in his likeness, my Lord and my Lord.

I was a child, naïve like a lamb and innocent as first fallen snow. My Lord said "All I give to you but this I command, do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die."

*Eve*

I am Eve, flesh of man's flesh, bone of his bone. Innocent and naïve, beauty I could perceive. To be wise, like my creator was something I desire. Fear I knew not, neither shame nor guilt. My Father called me beautiful, and I was told to be fruitful and multiply. My husband knew me and I him. I was made in the

image and likeness of my Lord and Father. Bring forth children he commanded, and nurture and care for them. Bring forth children for me he would say. I bore life in me, as I was in Him, he was in me.

My Father adorned me with a necklace and earrings. Rings he gave my fingers and toes. He called me beautiful and pure. I walked with my Father and talked to him. I was a child, naïve like a lamb and innocent as first fallen snow. My Lord said “All I give to you but this I command, do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.”

My soul could think and feel. In my soul was no fear, nor shame or guilt. I would dance for my Lord and sing. Freedom and paradise he gave me. And in my soul I had love for my Father, love for Adam and love for the children I would bear. My soul aches to love and care. This is how he made me, in his image and likeness I was made. Woman I was called, because from man I came. Laughter would pour from my soul, and joy. Empathy he gave me, to be a mother to his children. “Be fruitful and multiply,” my Father said, “Fill the earth with my children, so they may honor and glorify me.”

I walked with him and talked to him. My Father, my creator, Jehovah, God Almighty, Lord. And there was his Son, the first begotten, with eyes like flames and a face that shone with the light of stars. My soul was in his likeness, my Lord and my Lord.

*A mystery*

The angels looked on earth, at what God had done. Curious to see, wondering at the plan of the Lord God, Jehovah is his name, Elohim and Yahweh to some. What was man, made below the angel? Curious to see, they wondered and gazed at man. What is this soul, made in the image of God? Not gold or silver which he has made, nor angels would please him, but the souls of men and women. What is this soul, more precious than silver and gold, pearls and diamonds? What is this soul more precious than the seas and mountains? Of the soul of man and woman my God has said, "I love thee, thou are beautiful to me."

A likeness and image unto him, the soul glorifies the Lord. Oh how precious is the soul. That which thinks, feels and loves. The soul which laughs and weeps. The soul rushes the body to dance and sing. From the soul we imagine, and bring to view lush green

mountains and soft clouds with blue skies in painted landscapes of bronze and tin.

Look oh heavens, wonder ye angels, at the soul of man which the Lord has made. Nothing more precious. Beautiful is the soul and precious to Him. "I love thee, thou art beautiful to me, paradise I give and my love you breathe."

Oh how precious is the soul. Nothing more valuable, nothing to add, nothing to say but what God has said, "I love thee, thou art beautiful to me." The soul of man, made in the image and likeness of God and his only begotten.

*Holy, Holy, Holy is God Almighty*

The Great I Am he is called. God Almighty and Elohim. The creator of the heavens and earth. Yahweh, Jehovah he is called, the author of mankind and life itself. Who art thou, Oh God? A consuming fire, in whom there is no darkness. Perfect in every way. Pure and clean, a light shed abroad in which nothing impure can fall. All before him are purged of dross, that which is worthless and wrong. And on that Day stubble and hay will burn, consumed by his fire are they that do not turn.

Beauty and good he is called, Lord and Master.  
Perfect obedience, devotion and worship he  
commands. Black and white, no compromise or  
doubt in his hands. The Holy One of Israel he is  
called. A voice like the sound of roaring oceans  
and thunder proclaims his word. Alpha and  
Omega, the first and the last, no other before or  
after. The potter who forms the clay and  
breathes life into the nostrils of men, beasts and  
birds. God Almighty who formed the stars, sun  
and moon. Who can stand before him and not  
be consumed? Who is deemed worthy and  
pure? I am doomed.

Eternal and without boundary of time or space.  
Who art thou Oh God? Merciful and kind.  
Giving rain and sunshine. Generous to the  
righteous and wicked. Loving those who love  
me. Giving wisdom and mercy to those who  
seek me. Eternal father to all who call on me.  
Obedience and love I demand of thee.

Honor and glory are due God Almighty, King,  
Master and Lord. Eyesight he gives for all to  
see. Do you see oh man, created for fellowship  
with deity? All life is his to create and destroy.  
My maker, in whom there is no darkness. A  
consuming fire that burns stubble and hay, that  
turns night to day. A light that replaces  
darkness and the imperfect. Who can stand

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before him? Who art thou Lord? Merciful and kind. Patient and steadfast, unchanging with time. Long-suffering and gracious to mankind, the wicked and ungrateful, giving mercy to the sinful.

*The soul that sins shall surely die*

I have made man, formed his body out of dust. And I breathed life into him, made him just. His soul I have made in my image and likeness to reflect my glory and kindness. I am the Lord, God Almighty, King and Master. Holy am I, set apart and above. As the Master is so shall the soul I created act in love. All souls are mine to give and take. I create and destroy, raise up and pull down. I am the Lord, God Almighty, King and Master, hear my renown. I declare the soul that sins shall surely die. This I have decreed for in me there is no lie. For the unclean and impure shall burn, I am the Lord. Oh man why will you die? Turn, turn, come to me and I will cleanse thee, make ye white as the first fallen snow. Just as you were when I first made Adam and Eve. Oh man, why will you die? The unclean and impure shall burn.

The created must bow and serve the creator, with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength. I give thee time and length to seek and find. I am

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the Lord God Almighty and this I have decreed. In my image and likeness I have created man and woman, to be holy and sanctified, set apart in me. The soul that seeks its own is far from me. No longer pure and clean. Misery and affliction I have decreed. Oh man, why will you die? Return to me and I will cleanse and forgive. Mercy and my Spirit I freely give, oh man return to me and live.

*Repent*

Turn not to religion, man nor denomination. Turn not to the evangelist, pastor or church on the corner. Turn your face to heaven, drop to the knee and plead mercy on me. Vile and filthy you have become. A monster of iniquity, law breaker, a sinner art thou. Full of sin and depraved, poor in spirit and unclean you have become. Man, woman and child are undone. But hope avails, in the Holy One of Israel. He has made a way, paid the price and shed his blood for the evil spent. A path to God has been made for thee. Seek and ye shall find, call and he will answer, a promise to the diligent heart and mind. Return to God and peace you will find. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the true vine. Placed in him, like branches grafted in, our

savior and Lord, the good shepherd, he who  
turned water into wine.

The soul that seeks its own is far from me. No  
longer pure and clean. Misery and affliction I  
have decreed. Oh man, why will you die?  
Return to me and I will cleanse and forgive.  
Mercy and my Spirit I freely give, oh man  
return to me and live.

Amen