

AGE FOR THIS SIN! The fact that there are ages to come, and that this sin is not to be forgiven only to the “age”, leaves the door open for God’s forgiveness in the following age, which is referred to in scripture as the AGE OF THE AGES, OR THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF TIMES. O WHAT AN ALL-WISE, MERCIFUL, AND LOVING GOD! TO HIM BE GLORY...

UNTO THE AGE OF THE AGES!



*September 1*

### THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 13

#### EXAMPLES OF OLAM, AION, AND AIONIOS TRANSLATED CORRECTLY

Matthew 18:8 (King James Version) states...Wherefore if your hand or your foot offend you, cut them off, and cast them from you: it is better for you to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire...

The first and most important thing to take note of in this passage of scripture is: That Jesus is using metaphoric (figurative) language to describe what the punishment (correction) and the consuming fire of God is like. These words are not to be taken to heart in a literal sense, but in a metaphoric sense. For if they are meant to be taken literally, then we must at once begin to pluck out our eyes and cut off our hands and feet, so as to not end up in everlasting fire. Now that that point has been made, let us once again refer to a **more accurate translation** concerning these verses of scripture.

Matthew 18:8,9 (The New Testament In Modern Speech) states...If your hand or your foot is causing you to fall into sin, cut it off and away with it. It is better for you to enter into Life crippled in hand or foot than to remain in possession of two sound hands or feet but be thrown into the **fire of the Ages**. And if your eye is causing you to fall into sin, tear it out and away with it; it is better for you to enter into Life with only one eye, than to remain in possession of two eyes but be thrown into the **Gehenna** of fire...

Notice that the word “everlasting”, when referring to fire, is correctly and properly translated as...**of the ages**...rather than “everlasting” or “eternal”, which it should not be translated as, for it comes from the Greek word “aionios”, which means: of the ages, or belonging to the ages of time. Jesus is here describing the consuming fire of God by pointing to the literal valley of “Gehenna”, in which the fire did consume the refuse which was cast into it. But the point at hand is this: The fire that is spoken of is “aionios” (of the ages), not eternal, which shows us that this fire does indeed have a CORRECTIVE PURPOSE, and is not endless. This is the same fire spoken of in the words...“Holy Ghost and fire”.

THANK GOD FOR THE FIRE OF THE AGES!

## September 2

### THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 14

#### EXAMPLES OF OLAM, AION, AND AIONIOS TRANSLATED CORRECTLY

Let us now turn our attention to one of the most often quoted verses in the Bible in support of the teaching of eternal torture. This verse of scripture is none other than Matthew 25:46. We will first look at this verse from the King James Version, and then from the New Testament In Modern Speech (1910 Edition).

Matthew 25:46 (King James Version) states...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal...

Matthew 25:46 (The New Testament In Modern Speech) states...And these shall go away into the punishment **of the ages**, but the righteous into the life **of the ages**...

Not only does the New Testament In Modern Speech translate this passage MORE ACCURATELY, but it also translates it MORE CONSISTENTLY. It renders both terms mentioned ("everlasting" and "eternal") as...**of the ages**...which is in total agreement with the meaning of the Greek word "aionios" used in this passage. "Aionios", beyond a shadow of a doubt, means: pertaining to, belonging to, or of the ages. **IT DOES NOT DENOTE ENDLESSNESS!** The strongest meaning it can possibly have is: **belonging to eternity, but not lasting through it.** "Aionios", in this passage, describes the kind of punishment (correction), and the kind of life. What is being contrasted in Matthew 25:46 is: **punishment (correction) within the ages of time, and life within the ages of time.** What is also worthy to note is that the word "punishment" used in this passage comes from the Greek word "kolasis", which means: **punishment for the bettering of the offender.** It also carries with it the idea of pruning a tree that has not previously brought forth fruit, that it would bring forth the desired fruit.

HOW RIDICULOUS are the words "eternal punishment"? They are actually a contradiction of one another, and not a proper collection of terms at all! That would be the same as saying... "eternal correction". If correction were to be "eternal" in nature, you would not be able to label it correction, but rather, you would have to refer to it as endless, senseless, and insane torture, having no purpose or end goal in mind but to torture someone for the sake of torture. **THAT IS INSANE!** The other interesting point about this passage of scripture (Matthew 25:31-46) is that it concerns the judgment of...

NATIONS, NOT INDIVIDUALS!



September 3

## THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 15

### AUGUSTINE'S ARGUMENT

**According to Louis Abbott:** "Matthew 25:31-46 concerns the judgment of NATIONS, not individuals. It is to be distinguished from other judgments mentioned in scripture, such as the judgment of the saints (2 Cor. 5:10-11); the second resurrection, and the great white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). The judgment of the nations is based upon their treatment of the Lord's brethren (verse 40). No resurrection of the dead is here, just nations living at the time. To apply verses 41 and 46 to mankind as a whole is an error. Perhaps it should be pointed out at this time that the Fundamentalist Evangelical community at large has made the error of gathering many scriptures which speak of various judgments which will occur in different ages and assigning them all to "Great White Throne" judgment. This is a serious mistake. Matthew 25:46 speaks nothing of "grace through faith." We will leave it up to the reader to decide who the "Lord's brethren" are, but final judgment based upon the receiving of the Life of Christ is not the subject matter of Matthew 25:46 and should not be interjected here. Even if it were, the penalty is "age-during correction" and not "everlasting punishment." (An Analytical Study Of Words, Louis Abbott)

**According to Louis Abbott:** "An argument was introduced by Augustine, and since his day incessantly repeated, that if "*aionios kolasis*" does not mean "endless punishment," then there is no security for the believer that "*aionios zoe*" means "endless life," and that he will enjoy the promise of endless happiness. But Matt. 25:46 shows the "eonian chastisement" and "eonian life" are of the same duration-lasting during the eons, and when the eons end, as scripture states they will (1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 9:26), the time called "eonian" is past and the life called "eonian" is finished, but life continues beyond the eons, as Paul teaches at 1 Cor. 15:26: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." That is, the last, the final one in order. How will it be destroyed? First Corinthians 15:22 gives the answer: "For as IN ADAM ALL are dying, even so IN CHRIST ALL shall be made alive." Death is destroyed when ALL have been vivified, or made alive, IN CHRIST. There will then be no more death. Just as life is destroyed by death, so death is destroyed by life. Our present bodies are mortal and corruptible (1 Cor. 15:44-55), but when mankind is made alive IN CHRIST they will be raised immortal and incorruptible." (An Analytical Study Of Words, Louis Abbott)

After a careful and unbiased study of the terms "olam", "aion", and "aionios", it is overwhelmingly clear that these terms in no way denote endlessness, but rather are time words, which do explain and portray...

THE PURPOSE OF THE AGES!



*September 4*

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 16

UNTO THE AGES OF THE AGES / UNTO THE AGE OF THE AGES

As we study God's purpose of the ages, we must recognize and consider what the apostle Paul talked about in Ephesians 2:7. This verse (Ephesians 2:7) speaks of the ages to come.

These ages that are yet to come are referred to and recognized as:

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (also referred to as...THE AGE or  
KINGDOM AGE)

THE AGE OF THE AGES (also referred to as...THE DISPENSATION OF THE  
FULLNESS OF TIMES)

Let us now focus our attention on the phrase...“UNTO THE AGES OF THE AGES”...that we might discover its meaning, understanding what it refers to.

**According to Randy Bonacorso:** “References to the five ages are hopelessly clouded in most translations of the Bible. (I prefer the Emphasized Bible because of its accuracy.) In the original Greek, the ages are set forth in a **variety of phrases, or configurations**. The phrase “age of the age” appears in Hebrews 1:8, “age of the ages” in Ephesians 3:21, and most often “ages of the ages”; as in Revelation 11:15. Despite the fact that these configurations are highly technical, all three are translated “for ever and ever”. To be consistent, why not translate them “for ever and evers” or “for evers and evers”? When one considers it, the translation “for ever and ever” is absurd. If “for ever” means “*forever*”, how can there be a “for ever and ever”? We should bear in mind that all scripture was penned in this present age with a view to the two future ages. THEREFORE “AGES OF THE AGES” MUST DESIGNATE THE REMAINDER OF TIME, **AN EXPRESSION THAT ENCOMPASSES BOTH COMING AGES**. The “age of the ages” is the final and ultimate age. (The “age of the age” also designates that final age. It is the “age” which evolves from the fruit of Christ’s reign during the Millennium.)” (The Gospel Of Maturity, Randy Bonacorso)

Our goal in this ongoing study will be to take a brief look at (and to define) the ages to come. As we see God’s purpose in the ages to come, we will see HIS GREAT PURPOSE OF THE AGES UNFOLD IN GREAT GLORY AND POWER, SEEING THE AGES CLIMAX WITH A TRIUMPHANT VICTORY, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE CREATION HAVING BEEN VIVIFIED AND MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST!

We will now, with great anticipation, dare to look beyond this present age...

LOOKING UNTO THE AGES OF THE AGES!



*September 5*

## THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 17

### THE COMING AGE OF MIRACLES

**According to Bill Britton:** "There is a beautiful clue given us in Hebrews 6:5 about what will take place in the next age. "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come. (Hebrews 6:4-5 New American Standard Bible)." The Amplified Bible says: "the mighty powers of the Age and world to come." Wuest translation states: "tasted the good Word of God, also the powers (miracles) of the age that is about to come." King James says simply: "tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come." They all agree on this - there are Mighty powers reserved for the next age, and we are not there yet. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years, during which the sons of God -- that glorious company of saints without a spot or wrinkle -- will clean up the terrible mess his government has left. Glorious miracles and healings will abound; in fact, they will be the order of the day, the norm for the hour. There will be absolute dominion by the sons of God over all the natural and created forces, as well as over all the powers of darkness." (Writings Of His Unlimited Glory, Bill Britton)

This present age (**the barley harvest**) is for the purpose of gathering in a remnant. This remnant is to be used by God in the ages to come. The remnant will play a part in what the apostle Paul referred to as the MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD, in which ALL the creation will be set free (Romans 8:18-23). The coming age will be for the purpose of gathering the nations unto God (**the wheat harvest**). This can be seen through many Old Testament scriptures.

Isaiah 2:2-4 states... And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more...

Zephaniah 3:8,9 states... Therefore wait upon me, says the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them My indignation, even all My fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one consent...

What glorious promises concerning the coming age of miracles, in which ALL NATIONS shall call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent.

**According to Bill Britton:** "Press on, saints of God! The purpose of God for His church is at hand. This present age of darkness is rapidly coming to a close. The next age, governed by Christ and His sons, is at the door. Praise the Lord!" (Writings Of His Unlimited Glory, Bill Britton)

GOD'S DETERMINATION IS TO GATHER THE NATIONS!

*September 6*

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 18

THE AGE OF THE AGES

**According to George Hawtin:** “Very, very few people are familiar with the truth that there is a coming age which the Bible names the “dispensation of the fullness of times” (Eph. 1: 10), and that that age above all others has been specially set aside for the work of reconciling all things in heaven and in earth and bringing all things into Christ. The age, as I will point out presently, is the “Age of the Ages”. It is the greatest age of all ages and is the time in which the Almighty God brings to completion the unfailing Word spoken before time began, “Let Us make man in Our image and after Our likeness.” There are yet at least two great ages to come, first, the “Kingdom Age”, which in scripture is often referred to as “The Age”, and following this there comes the “Age of the Ages”, which in Eph. 1: 10 is named the “dispensation of the fullness of times”. Our failure to recognize God’s workings in that wonderful age of the fullness of times is the reason so many thousands of God’s good people fail to see the restitution of all things. The “Age of Grace” or the “Church Age”, of which we are now a part, runs from the resurrection to the setting up of the king- The “Kingdom Age”, next in order, will last at least one thousand years. Rev. 20:4. Then follows the “Age of the Ages”, or the “dispensation of the fullness of times”. The term “Age of the Ages” identifies this age as the greatest of all the ages. No age, not even the “Kingdom Age”, can be compared to it. Just as the Song of Solomon is the song of songs, that is, the greatest of all songs, and as the holy of holies is the holiest of all, so the “Age of the Ages” is the greatest age of all the ages, far surpassing even the “Millennial Kingdom” in its power and glory, its revelation of God, and its wonderful reconciliation and restitution. Men today use such terms as “the greatest day of my life,” “our finest hour,” or the “day of days.” It is in this same sense that our Almighty Father speaks of the “dispensation of the fullness of times” as the “Age of the Ages”. Now all ages have to do with time and times, but there comes an hour eventually when time has reached its fullness. When all other ages have run their course, then we have come at last to the fullness of times. Time is full, time is complete, and time shall be no more. At the consummation of the fullness of all time the purpose of God, laid down in the edict, “Let Us make man in Our image and after Our likeness,” is complete, and time shall be no more. The “dispensation of the fullness of times” is the eighth dispensation. The dispensations of Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace and the Kingdom - these seven will have run their course and all will end in judgment, but the “dispensation of the fullness of times” is the eighth dispensation, and it will conclude all former things. It will end death, judgment, pain and tears, and its final act will be the delivering up of a perfect kingdom to the Father of all. Then time will have reached its fullness and will be no more.” (The Restitution Of All Things, George Hawtin)

Incidentally, the number eight in scripture means **new beginning**.

BEHOLD, HE MAKES ALL THINGS NEW!

September 7

## THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 19

### TIME AND ETERNITY

**According to George Hawtin:** “Lastly, let us consider briefly that great age which the Word of God describes as the dispensation of the fullness of times. Ephesians 1:10. Time is not eternity. There are many times and many dispensations, but there is only one eternity. Eternity does not begin; neither does it end, but times, dispensations, and ages all have beginnings and all have ends. It is wrong to assert that, when time ends, eternity will begin, because eternity has no beginning. Neither did it end when time began, as so many charts indicate. Ages have their place in eternity in the same way that minutes have their place in years, except that years end and eternity does not. Therefore it is very important that we make a clear distinction between ages, which belong to time, and eternity, which is timeless. It is more important still that we, in our study of the Bible, search out diligently those passages which refer to time and those which refer to eternity. In making this search, I strongly recommend that wherever possible the searcher avail himself of a good, exhaustive concordance such as Young’s Analytical or Strong’s, available at almost any good book store. Both of these give the correct meaning of every Greek and Hebrew word in the Bible.” (The Restitution Of All Things, George Hawtin)

**According to J. Preston Eby:** “A concept we must immediately grasp in order to understand God’s plan of the ages is that *time is a created phenomena* consisting of past, present, and future just as man is created phenomena having youth, middle age, and old age. No, you cannot smell, touch, or feel time, but it is there, ever-present, always marching into the future. Time was created; it had a beginning, it shall have an end. It is only one thing among countless other things that are part of the entire created universe. It is as much a “species” of creation as, for example, rocks, elephants, trees, and water are species of creation. Before the creation of the universe, there was no time; at the end of the ages when the present material universe is dissolved and replaced by a new, spiritual universe, time shall cease to be. It will be swallowed up into eternity just as all death will be swallowed up into victory, and there shall be no more death. Time - composed of milliseconds, seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, decades, centuries, millenniums, ages was created in the beginning, and will be dissolved at the end of the ages. ETERNITY IS A STATE OF ABSOLUTE TIMELESSNESS, not of unending time. Eternity is a STATE OF BEING, resident in the very nature and person of God in which such concepts as past, present, future, before, after, change, transition, growth, decay, etc. do not exist. It is wrong to assert that, when time ends, eternity will begin, because eternity has no beginning. Neither did it end when time began, as so many charts indicate. Therefore it is very important that we make a clear distinction between ages, which belong to time, and eternity, which is timeless.” (Eternity, J. Preston Eby)

Eternity is that which IS! It is part of the very nature of God. It is for this reason that God refers to Himself as the GREAT I AM, not the I WAS, OR I WILL BE, but the I AM. He is that WHICH IS.

HE IS ETERNAL!

*September 8*

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE - PART 20

CONCLUSION

After a careful and unbiased study concerning God's purpose of the ages ("olam", "aion", and "aionios"), we have proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that all of God's dealings with man, whether it be reward or punishment, are within the confines of time. The Bible then, is God's purpose and plan for man throughout the ages of time. The concept of eternity is hardly to be found anywhere in the entirety of scripture. The **life** that is spoken of in the Bible is "the life of the ages", and the **punishment** (correction) that is spoken of is "the punishment of the ages". Both are said to be "aionios", that is, "of the ages", or "belonging to the ages". The **life** and **punishment** ("of the ages") are also to be seen as a **quality of life**, and a **quality of punishment** within the ages of time. This will indeed produce eternal results, that is, results that belong to the eternal realm, the realm in which God dwells. The reason that the **life** will continue and the **punishment** (correction) will not is due to what the apostle Paul taught us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:22-28. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:25-28 states...For He must reign, till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He has put all things under His feet. But when He says all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all...

If death, which is the carnal mind, is destroyed, including the second death, which is death and hell (Hades - the grave) cast into the lake of fire, then there is nothing left but life, and this is how God will be ALL IN ALL (EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE)!

The only remaining question that is left is...WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS GLORIOUS TRUTH??? Will you believe it, seek to understand it, proclaim it, and teach it? Or will you run from the knowledge of this glorious truth that is now being exposed to you? Many run from it (the truth of the salvation of all men), avoid it, ignore it, or say it isn't so. DO NOT BE BULLIED BY THE TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN!!! STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!!! ARISE AND SHINE; FOR YOUR LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU! IT IS TRUE! BELIEVE IT! RECEIVE IT! WALK IN IT! GOD TRULY IS...

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!!!





*September 9*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 1

### THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

**According to A. P. Adams:** “There is probably no subject in all the range of religious thought so hard to deal with as that of the purpose of evil. Writers on Biblical lore have tried to account of the **origin** of evil; but it seems to me that the real difficulty is the bare fact of its **existence**, whatever may have been its origin. The great question for theologians to wrestle with is this: **How can you account for the existence of evil alongside a supreme, all-wise, holy and benevolent God?** First let me say that there is no help out of this trouble in orthodoxy. In regard to this subject orthodoxy is hopelessly contradictory and utterly absurd. Thus it speaks: “**It was not in God’s original plan that evil should exist, but evil has come into existence and done incalculable harm; yet God’s plans cannot be thwarted nor disarranged in the least, because He is all-wise and almighty. Evil being in existence before man was created, God allows it to come into contact with the man He created when He might have prevented it, knowing full well what the result would be; yet He is in no wise responsible for the consequences of evil. In fact, it is blasphemy to entertain any such idea. Evil having come into existence contrary to God’s will, He cannot put it out of existence, but it will continue as long as He exists, an eternal blot on His otherwise perfect universe and a perpetual offense unto all the purified; yet His will is absolute and sovereign and the redeemed will be perfectly happy. Thus, God is in no wise responsible for either the *origin, existence, consequences or continuance* of evil; yet He can have everything as He pleases, and is the Creator of all things.**” And so Orthodoxy goes on, **stultifying** common sense, **throttling** human reason, and **stupidly expecting** that intelligent, thoughtful men and women will accept its idiotic patter as the infallible utterances of divine inspiration. Cannot everyone see that the entire orthodox view is contradictory and absurd in the extreme, and hence self-destructive and untenable?” (The Purpose Of Evil, A. P. Adams)

Now that we have heard the ABSURD thoughts of organized religion, let us next consider what the Bible has to say about this all-important subject. We will be pleased to discover that there is a grand and...

GLORIOUS PURPOSE FOR EVIL!



*September 10*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 2

### GOD CREATED EVIL

According to A. P. Adams: "Now I hold that the following proposition is self-evident. **Given a God of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, He is responsible for ALL things that exist. And this also follows from the wisdom and goodness of God: All things that exist are for an intelligent and benevolent end.** These conclusions are inevitable from the premises; they cannot be modified except by modifying the premises. For instance, if you say that some things exist contrary to God's will, then it follows that God is **not** all-powerful; and you cannot escape this conclusion by bringing in the orthodox doctrine of man's free moral agency, for whatever a free moral agent may do, He is responsible for it Who made him a free moral agent. If God made man a free moral agent, He knew beforehand what the result would be, and hence is just as responsible for the consequences of the acts of that free moral agent as He would be for the act of an irresponsible machine that He had made. Man's free moral agency, even if it were true, would by no means clear God from the responsibility of His acts since God is His Creator and has made him in the first place just what he is, well knowing what the result would be. **If God's will is EVER thwarted, then He is not almighty.** If His will is thwarted, then His plans must be changed, and hence He is not all-wise and immutable. **If His will is NEVER thwarted, then all things are in ACCORDANCE with His will and He is responsible for all things as they exist.** If He is all-wise and all-good, then all things, existing according to His will, **must** be tending to some **wise and benevolent end.** Thus we come back to my proposition again: If God is infinite in power, wisdom and goodness, then **He is responsible for ALL things that exist**, and all existing things are tending toward some wise and good end." (The Purpose Of Evil, A. P. Adams)

Having stated these things, let us now look to the Holy Scriptures to confirm what has been stated. Colossians 1:16,17 states...**For by Him 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: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist...

Isaiah 45:7 states...I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and **create evil**: I the LORD do all these things...

Isaiah 54:16 states...Behold, I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, and that brings forth an instrument for his work; and **I have created the waster to destroy**...

Amos 3:6 states...Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? **shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD has not done it?**...

Job 42:11 states...Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over **all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him**...

Job 12:16 states...With Him is strength and wisdom: the **deceived** and the **deceiver** are His...

Genesis 3:1 states...Now **the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made**. And he said unto the woman, Yea, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?... (Also read Revelation 20:2.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:11 states...And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie...

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:18 states...And **all things are of God**, Who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation...

We must be honest and come to the conclusion that GOD CREATED ALL THINGS (GOOD AND EVIL), and is responsible for all things.

ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD!



## *September 11*

### THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 3

#### JOB

After having established that **God created all things, including evil**, let us now seek to understand the purpose of evil. This can be understood by looking at the book and story of Job. Job's experiences represent the creation and its experiences with evil as a whole. To understand the story of Job is to understand God's purpose and plan for the creation as a whole. This story involves a man being subjected to evil **by God** for a specific purpose. That God was responsible for bringing evil upon Job is **UNDENIABLE**, and can be seen throughout the entire story. The story ends with a dramatic climax of Job seeing himself for who he was, and seeing God for Who He was. His latter end was to be found **MORE BLESSED** than his beginning, and all due to the fact **THAT THE LORD HAD BROUGHT EVIL UPON HIM!**

With this being said, there is obviously a **PURPOSE FOR EVIL**. The purpose of evil is simply this: to cause us to see ourselves for who we are without God, to repent, turn to God, **learn**, to see God for Who He is, and in turn our latter end will be **MORE BLESSED** than our beginning. The entire book of Job gives us tremendous insight into God's purpose and dealings with man, especially of the **PURPOSE OF EVIL**. We will now call to attention some key scriptures from this book.

Job 1:8,12 states...**And the LORD said unto Satan, Have you considered My servant Job**, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews (declines) evil?...**And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power**; only upon himself put not forth your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD...

Job 2:10 states...But he (Job) said unto her (his wife), You speak as one of the foolish women speak. What? shall we receive **good** at the hand of God, and shall we not receive **evil**? In all this did not Job sin with his lips...

Job 13:15 states...Though **He slay me**, yet will I trust in Him...

Job 42:5,6 states...**I have heard of You** by the hearing of the ear: but **now my eye sees You**. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes...

Job 42:11,12 states...Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over **all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him**: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...

Can we now see that **God is in all things**, and works all things together for our good, including evil?

MAY GOD BE PRAISED IN ALL THINGS!



*September 12*

#### THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 4

##### SUBJECTED TO VANITY

Romans 8:20-22 (The New Testament In Modern Speech) states...For the Creation fell into subjection to failure and unreality (not of its own choice, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it). Yet there was always the hope that at last the Creation itself would also be set free from the thralldom of decay so as to enjoy the liberty that will attend the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole of Creation is groaning together in the pains of childbirth until this hour...

This is one of the most interesting, informative, and glorious scripture passages in all of the Bible. It does indeed declare God's purpose for the entire creation from beginning to end. It shows that **GOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING SUBJECTED THE CREATION TO FAILURE AND UNREALITY**. We can also see that the creation was also **CONDEMNED TO HAVE ITS ENERGIES MARRED AND FRUSTRATED**. This was not the creation's choice, but it is to be seen as God's will and purpose, **FOR HE IS THE ONE WHO SUBJECTED THE CREATION TO THIS STATE OF BEING**. For it was God Who created all things, including: good, evil, principalities, powers, the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the serpent (Satan) who did deceive Eve. **HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FALL OF MAN AND THE REDEMPTION OF MAN**. It was God Who first created Adam (mankind) in the Spirit (Genesis 1:27), and then lowered him into the soulish realm, in which he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). After having been lowered into this realm, it was then possible for Adam to fall. This would then enable God to carry out His purpose that is stated in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:22,23, which states...For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order...

After taking these things into account, it is easy to see the **STUPIDITY** of the traditions and doctrines of men, which state...God is responsible for nothing, but rather, He just reacts to man's choices and decisions. It is much better for us to **stop trying to protect God, for He does not need**

**to be protected!** He simply wants to be understood and known in the earth, for that is why He gave us the Holy Scriptures. It is time to start believing and proclaiming the scriptures, rather than man's **pitiful attempts...**

TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE PURPOSE OF EVIL!



*September 13*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 5

### THE PURPOSE OF EVIL

**According to Randy Bonacorso:** The following is a passage from: The Gospel Of Maturity, Randy Bonacorso... "When we begin to understand the purpose of evil in God's plan, we begin to see past the pain. The writer of Deuteronomy tells us that it was God Who "led Israel through the great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water." Then we are told why: "That He might prove them, to do good to them at their latter end" (Deuteronomy 8:15,16). The deepest truths are often the simplest truths. And this one is simple: If it weren't for the darkness of sin we wouldn't know the light of God's grace. Good and evil are both gifts of love. The Samaritan was a "good" Samaritan because he performed an act of kindness to someone in need. Need provided the occasion. For God to have created a perfect world without sin and suffering would have been pointless. If God hadn't found us in the gutter, He would have had no opportunity to reveal His love. There would be no hymns of gratitude, no "Amazing Grace." Seeing that God created His own opposition, it's easy to see why He will reconcile the enemy in the end. What a miscarriage of justice it would be if God created Pharaoh to be the enemy and then sentenced him to endless torment for what he did. As we have seen, God did not merely allow Pharaoh to do what he did; Pharaoh was "raised up" to do it. Pharaoh provided an occasion for God to make a name for Himself throughout the earth. As well, Joseph's brothers cast him into a pit and left him for dead. A group of Midianites rescued Joseph and took him into Egypt where they sold him as a slave. Every child who has attended Sunday school knows the story of how Joseph rose from Pharaoh's dungeon to become the governor of Egypt. Years later, when Joseph was reunited with his brothers, he explained to them, "But as for you, you thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good" (Genesis 50:20). Joseph's brothers had merely performed God's will. God used them to demonstrate His power to take Joseph from the dungeon to the throne. And so, in the end, love will more than compensate for evil. It will "superabound!" Pain is the breaking of the shell that imprisons understanding. And one day we will see that pain and suffering were indispensable in bringing man to a full revelation of God's love." (Randy Bonacorso)

The purpose of evil...

IS TO BRING ABOUT GOOD!

September 14

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 6

### LUCIFER

**According to Ray Knight:** "Tradition has taught over many years that "Lucifer" is Satan. This tradition, we are told, comes out of two chapters . . . Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 which we will look into with great care. First of all let us acknowledge that the Devil or Satan (as laid out in 're-think' No.11) never did start out with any wisdom, holiness or glory. "Lucifer" was in the garden of Eden ... says Ezekiel's account; so "Lucifer" has to be either God (that's not possible) or the Serpent or Adam . . . there was just no-one else! It is between the Serpent (Devil) or Adam! Let us investigate this challenging problem. The word "Lucifer", from the Hebrew, is "HEYEL" and is translated "*Shining One*", "*Morning-Star*" or "*Lucifer*". "Morning-Star" equates with "Day-Star". Here is the only mention of "Lucifer". (12) *How are you fallen from heaven, O "Lucifer", son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!* Adam was the 'son' of God, his Father. It was Adam who 'fell' from God's presence . . . the Devil is controlled! (13) *For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 'Man' wants to 'run' the congregation!* (14) *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* The Serpent offered this position to Adam and he fell for it! Page 777 (Amplified Bible), footnote 'n' informs us that "Lucifer" being Satan is erroneous. "Lucifer" comes from the Latin equivalent of "PHOSPHOROS" which is used of a title for Jesus in 2 Pet.1:19 and corresponds to the name "bright and morning star". Luke 10:18 has been incorrectly used to lead us astray. Adam had the ability to think heavenly thoughts and then he fell to the earthly realm of thinking producing demonic thoughts which can be overcome in us by the power that God has provided in Jesus Christ." (Lucifer?, Ray Knight)

As we do a proper study of the name "Lucifer", Isaiah 14, and Ezekiel 28, we will see that these all agree and point to ADAM'S FALL IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN. They do not speak of a fall of Satan, for Satan had no fall, but was a murderer from the **beginning** (John 8:44). It was ADAM who was in Eden, the Garden of God (Ezekiel 28:13), and was perfect **until** iniquity was found in him.

As we stated, the Devil was a murderer from the beginning; he sinned from the beginning; he was the father of lies, there was no truth in him. However, Adam was perfect, being in the image of God...**until iniquity was found in him.**

**According to Ray Knight:** "Adam was "Lucifer" who fell and lost all, dragging all mankind down with him . . . no longer being "The Shining One". "Lucifer" today is the fallen Adamic natural-reasoning carnal nature in us. The Second Adam (Christ) has restored all that the first "Lucifer-Adam" lost that we may be clothed upon with Light and Beauty (Psalm 52:1). So Adam fits the 'bill' of who "Lucifer" was! And so now, today, we see why 'carnal man' is so very responsive to the Devil's (Serpent's) authority and suggestions!" (Lucifer?, Ray Knight)

After a proper explanation of the name "Lucifer", we are now free to explore the true origin of Satan. We will look to the Holy Scriptures to understand and comprehend...

SATAN AND HIS PURPOSE!

*September 15*

THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 7

THE DRAGON, THAT OLD SERPENT, WHICH IS THE DEVIL, AND SATAN

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "Orthodoxy had long taught that Satan was, in the beginning, a high and beautiful archangel in heaven. The theologians and preachers recite over and over how Satan was originally "the anointed cherub that covers ... the most beautiful and wise of all God's creation!" This being was, so they say, the ruler and leader of the angelic beings and apparently led them in their praise of God and shouts of joy ...the greatest being God ever created, one who had unequaled strength, wisdom, beauty, privilege, and authority, and was next to God Himself. This blameless, perfect one, named Lucifer, was created without any form of evil and with the greatest intelligence of any created being. Then, we are told, this Lucifer, suddenly realizing how beautiful and intelligent he was, became inflated with power and pride and his heart was lifted up in rebellion against God. According to the story, Lucifer gathered one-third of the heavenly angels to his cause, mustering an army with which he planned to knock God off His throne and supplant himself as king and god of the universe and there was war in heaven! Luckily, God won, cast Lucifer out of heaven and he became, instead of a holy angel, the Devil that he is today." (The Serpent, J. Preston Eby)

Is this the most ridiculous thing that you have ever heard in your life, or what? Can you imagine an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, and all-wise God, Who created all things, knowing the end from the beginning, being snuck up on by one of His created beings. As well, orthodoxy then leads us to believe that God found Himself in a war that He could barely overcome, hoping He would not be defeated. THAT IS INSANE, ABSURD, AND DEFINITELY NOT THE TRUTH! IT IS THE TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN, ALONG WITH TRYING TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE BY MEANS OF THE CARNAL MIND!

Let us GROW UP! It is time to stop being swept away by the FOOLISH TEACHINGS OF MEN! The Bible clearly tells us about the origin of Satan. Our problem is that we have been **so indoctrinated** by the teachings of MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT (THE MAN-MADE, ORGANIZED CHURCH), that when we hear plain truth we think it is heresy and blasphemy.

Our next goal will be to show the origin of Satan, his purpose, and essence. It is much easier to believe the truth...

THAN TO BELIEVE THE LUDICROUS TEACHINGS OF MEN!



*September 16*

**THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 8**

**WHERE DID THE DEVIL COME FROM? - #1**

**According to J. Preston Eby:** “Man says that Satan IN THE BEGINNING was holy, but later fell from that estate. JESUS said of Satan, “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a MURDERER (not an angel) **from the BEGINNING**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he, speaks of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it. (Jn. 8:44). In these studies on the Garden of Eden we are searching out the BEGINNING, probing into the very midst of the past, the times before this age and past ages, that we might understand the grand and glorious purposes of our omnipotent and omniscient Heavenly Father which He has purposed from the beginning of the world. How authoritatively the Lord Jesus reveals that way back there, in THE BEGINNING, in even HIS beginning, Satan WAS A MURDERER! MAN says that Satan IN THE BEGINNING was perfect and sinless. But the apostle John, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned these words in regard to Satan’s origin: “He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil SINNED FROM THE BEGINNING” (I Jn. 3:8). This could not be rightly said of Adam. According to Genesis 2 and 3, it was not until **after** Adam was created in spirit essence, **after** he was lowered into the realm of flesh, **after** he was placed in the Garden, **after** he named all the animals, **after** the woman was taken from his side, **after** she listened to the serpent and ate the forbidden fruit - it was **AFTER ALL THESE THINGS** that Adam sinned. Adam was not a sinner from the beginning. But the Devil, according to I Jn. 3:8 **WAS A SINNER FROM THE BEGINNING!** Now, if we are to believe the Bible means what it says - and I believe it does - we must believe that from his very beginning SATAN WAS EVIL.” (The Serpent, J. Preston Eby)

In our next teaching we will look at more scriptures that confirm that Satan was created by God, and that Satan’s origin was that of evil from his very beginning. God did not (as we have stated) create Satan as a “good guy” at first and then he became a “bad guy”. He was created evil ON PURPOSE, FOR A PURPOSE, THAT HE MIGHT BE A TOOL IN God’s hands, being used to bring about the grand and glorious purpose that God had in store for the entire creation. GOD KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE IS DOING! HE IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS, INCLUDING...

THE DEVIL!





*September 17*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 9

### WHERE DID THE DEVIL COME FROM? - #2

The following scriptures testify that God is responsible for ALL THINGS, has created ALL THINGS, AND THAT HE CREATED THE DEVIL, and that the Devil was evil from his beginning:

Genesis 3:1 states...Now **the serpent** was more subtle than any beast of the field which **the LORD God had made...**

Revelation 20:2 states...And He laid hold on the dragon, **that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan...**(Note: THE SERPENT, WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE, WAS THE DEVIL.)

Job 12:16 states...With Him is strength and wisdom: **the deceived and the deceiver are His...**

Isaiah 54:16 states...Behold, I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, and that brings forth an instrument for his work; and **I have created the waster to destroy...**(Note: Remember...Satan comes to kill, steal, and to **destroy**.)

Colossians 1:16 states...For by Him 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...(Note: This would of course include Satan, for the words "all things" are all-inclusive.)

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "Did GOD create the Devil? Well, we know he did not create himself! And he did not "just happen"! The reason some have held the view that Satan was originally an angel is because it seems to relieve God of the responsibility of evil and sin in the world. When they are asked if a good God created a bad Devil, they can reply: "No, He did not create the Devil; He created a beautiful and powerful angel who later **became** the Devil!" This sounds good **on the surface**, but when the Spirit of wisdom and revelation comes from God, this line of reasoning is seen to be but shallow inductions of the natural mind." ([The Serpent](#), J. Preston Eby)

In our next teaching we will define the terms: "Satan", "Devil", and "Serpent". After defining these terms, we will begin to see that Satan has a definite purpose, and was **CREATED BY GOD** to perform specific tasks. We will see that **OPPOSITION WAS NECESSARY** for God to produce overcomers. How could we, as believers in Christ, learn to overcome Satan IF THERE WAS NO SATAN TO OVERCOME??? (THINK ABOUT IT!)

WHAT AN ALL-WISE GOD!



September 18

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 10

### THE PURPOSE OF SATAN - #1

**According to Ray Knight:** “SATAN — this title means ADVERSARY ... one who always GOES AGAINST or is opposed to YOU EXPRESSING CHRIST. SATAN DESPISES THE CROSS. WHEN PETER OPPOSED THE DEATH OF JESUS, he was addressed by Jesus as Satan .. *Get behind Me, Satan* (Mark 8:33). Subtle Satan operates in the RELIGIOUS realm for he is very religious! Well ... there is *the synagogue of Satan* (Rev.2:9) mentioned. “Synagogue” means ASSEMBLY or GATHERING ... thus the above title can be placed upon any gathering/fellowship that opposes or ignores the work of the cross in every life even to the point of opposing the Holy Spirit in His liberating work! **DEVIL** — this title means ACCUSER or SLANDERER. **SERPENT** — this title means TO HISS which is derived from a word meaning TO WHISPER ... just like a person speaking behind their hand to get your attention — saying ‘*Pssst*’ (meaning *listen to this!*). The serpent started out preaching in the Garden of Eden ... but preaching the opposite to God’s Word! ... And he is still doing it today! The serpent’s word encompasses all the opposition consisting of lying, slander, twisting utilizing scriptures against those who have been awakened to the plan and purposes of God. His greatest work is to replace the things of Christ ... hence expressing the **anti-Christ** (remember, “anti-Christ” simply means ‘INSTEAD OF CHRIST’). The Devil is like a ‘mallet’ on God’s carpenter bench. When the project is complete, the mallet is no longer needed. Because God is in control you will never be tested more than you can handle to overcome in order to walk victoriously. God’s chastening rod is the Devil just like He used the Philistines mostly to spank His people Israel in the Old Testament. The enemy is used by God to test God’s sons: however, you will not be tested above that which you can overcome and be the stronger for it.” ([The Devil - Satan - Serpent](#), Ray Knight)

If you can believe it, GOD CREATED SATAN FOR A PURPOSE. He is actually able to teach us, and is used by God for specific purposes in our lives. The apostle Paul understood this, not hesitating to tell us how that Satan was used of God in bringing about God’s purpose in the lives of Hymenaeus and Alexander.

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:19,20 states...Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom **I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme...**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:5 states...**To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus...

So as we can see, Satan’s purpose is to teach us not to blaspheme, destroy our flesh (carnality), and cause our spirit to be saved in the day of the Lord. WHAT AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD! WHAT A TOOL!

WHAT A PURPOSE!



*September 19*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 11

### THE PURPOSE OF SATAN - #2

**According to J. Preston Eby:** “Jesus declared of Satan, “The THIEF comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). Out of God’s own mouth proceeds the assertion, “I have created the WASTER to destroy” (Isa. 54:16). We gather from this passage that Satan is a created being with a definite purpose. That purpose is stated in the opening words of the above quoted verse: “I have created the smith (the Devil) that blows the coals in the fire, and that BRINGS FORTH AN INSTRUMENT for his work.” The “Smith” that “blows upon the fire” is also the one who heats the furnace seven times hotter! “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to **try you**, as though some strange thing had happened unto you.” (I Pet. 4:12). Our trials and testings are associated in the Word of God with the ministry of Satan. You never thought of Satan having a MINISTRY? “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be TEMPTED (tested) OF THE DEVIL. And when the Tempter came to Him, he said, If You be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread” (Mat.4:1-3). “Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: behold, the Devil shall cast some of you into prison, THAT YOU MAY BE TRIED ... be faithful... and I will give you a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has desired to have you, THAT HE MAY SIFT YOU AS WHEAT: but I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not: and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren” (Lk. 22:31-32). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same AFFLICTIONS are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (I Pet. 5:8-9).” (The Serpent, J. Preston Eby)

As you can clearly see, Satan has a definite purpose. His purpose is to be a force of OPPOSITION, giving the sons of God obstacles to overcome. These obstacles cause us to learn how to access the overcoming power that is available to us IN CHRIST. He is an instrument created by God, even being brought forth by God, in which he is to be used for a specific work in the hearts and lives of God’s people. Let us recognize this truth by submitting to God...

FOR HE IS IN CONTROL OF SATAN!



*September 20*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 12

### THE ESSENCE OF SATAN

**According to Ray Knight:** “**SATAN IS A SPIRIT.** It is a known fact that **Satan is a spirit**, for in John 13:27 we read that Satan entered into Judas . . . ‘man’ cannot enter into man!” (Lucifer?, Ray Knight)

Let us remember that Jesus also referred to Peter as Satan in Matthew 16:23. Jesus said... Get behind Me **Satan**...Ephesians 2:2 refers to Satan as **the prince of the power of the air, THE SPIRIT that now works in the children of disobedience...**

Now we are able to see and understand the essence of Satan. We see who and what he is. HE IS THAT SPIRIT THAT NOW WORKS IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE. He is not a winged creature with fangs, a pitchfork, a tail, horns, and a red cape. That idea of Satan was borrowed from Greek Mythology. HE IS A SPIRIT! HE IS THAT SPIRIT THAT NOW WORKS IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE, CAUSING THEM TO ACT IN A WAY THAT IS ANTI-CHRIST (AGAINST, OR INSTEAD OF CHRIST).

As a spirit, Satan creates thoughts in people. These thoughts are anti-Christ. That is why the apostle Paul told us to **cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ: (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5)...** This is what it means to see SATAN AS LIGHTNING FALL FROM HEAVEN (Luke 10:18). When Jesus made this statement (I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven), He was not referring to a creature that He saw falling through the clouds. He was referring to His time of temptation in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. During this time Jesus was tempted by the Devil. As the spirit of Satan came against His mind, bringing thoughts that were contrary to the will and Word of God, what did He do? HE CAST DOWN THOSE IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT DID EXALT ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF GOD. Jesus overcame the prince of the power of the air. In essence, HE SAW SATAN (THAT SPIRIT) FALL LIKE LIGHTNING FROM THE HEAVENLY REALM (HIS MIND). He then left out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit of God, declaring the gospel of the Kingdom!

JESUS OVERCAME SATAN!



*September 21*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 13

### SATAN...A DOG ON A LEASH

**According to J. Preston Eby:** “Dear saints of God, don’t believe for one moment that anything in all God’s great universe is out of control! God is GOD, He IS in full control of every sphere of activity, and Satan himself is under the province of God. May God enlighten our minds to perceive the truth that Satan has no power at all except that which God delegates to him. Do you REALLY believe that Satan could cause all the trouble in the world UNLESS GOD HAD ORDAINED IT? My friend, if you believe Satan is a problem to Almighty God, then your God is entirely too small! Satan is no thorn in God’s side Who made him in the first place, Who binds his hands daily, Who sets his boundaries and limits his power and marks his path. Oh, yes, those who would be sons of God MUST OVERCOME HIM. Beloved, when that purpose is accomplished, Satan will have completed his course as an INSTRUMENT in the hand of God Who has everything under control! Hallelujah!” (The Serpent, J. Preston Eby)

**Yes...Satan is a dog on God’s leash.** He is only able to do what God either allows or commissions him to do. **STOP** thinking of Satan in terms of him being able to do anything he wants. He can only operate inside the boundaries of God’s SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS GOD WHO WRITES HIS “PAYCHECK” AT THE END OF THE WEEK, FOR HE IS ON GOD’S PAYROLL! Satan does what he is told. (Read the story of Job.) If this is the case (and it is), then man will find his real battle to be with God and **not the Devil**.

The battle that man finds himself in is one of SUBMISSION TO GOD! James 4:7,8 states... Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you...

**It is not our job to try to fight the Devil, but to submit to God, Who created the Devil, and is in charge of the Devil!** THIS IS THE BATTLE OF THE AGES! Once that we recognize God as sovereign, we will STOP trying to blame everything on the Devil, realizing that there is a purpose for all of our fiery trials. Satan is not fighting against God, but rather, he is WORKING FOR GOD to accomplish His (God’s) purpose, which is to produce overcomers. It is not the DOG ON THE LEASH that we are to be concerned with. Remember...It is the Master of that dog...

THAT CONTROLS THE LEASH!



*September 22*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 14

### STRONG DELUSION

**According to Martin Zender:** "GOD PURPOSELY SENDS DECEPTIONS INTO THE WORLD - even in the form of mistranslated scripture - to separate truth lovers from the lovers of injustice. I'm glad you're here. I will quote you three scriptures to support this disturbing point. Proverbs 25:2...It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to investigate a matter...1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:19...For it must be that there are sects also among you, that those also who are qualified may be becoming apparent...2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:11,12...And therefore **God will be sending them an operation of deception (strong delusion)**, for them to believe the falsehood, that all may be judged who do not believe the truth, but delight in injustice...In the last days, GOD HIMSELF will send an operation of deception. This is hard for many to take. They say God would never do such a thing, or anything like it. BUT HE WOULD. HE HAS DONE IT BEFORE. In 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 22:23, GOD HIMSELF put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of King Ahab's prophets, to cause the king to fall at Ramoth Gilead. God wants people to SEARCH, and He makes it so they have to. HE HIDES TRUTH - or situates it at an oblique angle - and then says, GO FIND IT. Show Me how badly you want it. If you want it, you'll get down on your hands and knees if you have to." (Martin Zender Goes To Hell, Martin Zender)

We must also understand the concept of **darkness** and **light**. **Darkness** is associated with deception, and **light** is associated with truth. God starts everything in **darkness** and then brings in **light** to dispel the **darkness**. This is the story of the Bible. It is able to be seen from the very outset of the purpose and plan of God. Genesis 1:2,3 states...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**...

Can we now see that God is saving us, bringing us out of **darkness** into His marvelous **light** (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9)? God knows that we see the **light** better from a position of **darkness** (deception / delusion), for in **darkness** it is easy to see A BRIGHT LIGHT! Everything pertaining to man starts in **darkness** (deception / delusion), but God is bringing us to the **light**...

FOR GOD IS LIGHT!



*September 23*

## THE PURPOSE OF EVIL - PART 15

### CONCLUSION

According to A. P. Adams: "We have seen that one of the purposes of evil is to develop in our characters attributes akin to God: pity, mercy, compassion, charity, gentleness, etc. Now suppose we lived in a world of absolute justice where no one suffered except what they strictly deserved to suffer, where the innocent never suffered, but only the guilty, and they suffered just so much - no more and no less - as was due to their transgression and as would be beneficial to the transgressor. Suppose we lived in such a world as that. At first thought it would seem as though it would be a very nice kind of world; but how could we in such a world develop the godlike attributes above referred to? There would be no room for heavenly compassion and sweet charity and pity in a world of absolute justice. We would not be likely to pity very much a person who we knew was receiving only the punishment due his fault and that in the end would be for his benefit and blessing. Is it not plain that just this **kind** of evil, i.e., the evil of injustice, is needed in order that those crowning attributes of God, the tender and loving qualities of our Father in heaven, may be developed and perfected in His human children?" (The Purpose Of Evil, A. P. Adams)

Evil, for the time being, is a thorn in our side. With that being said, though, evil is to be seen as part of the purpose and plan of God. Evil did not take God by surprise, but rather, GOD CREATED EVIL FOR A PURPOSE! It is used by God to TEACH His creation, bringing mankind to a desired end. Romans 12:21 tells us to NOT BE OVERCOME WITH EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD...

God, in this present age, is dealing with, selecting out, and **QUALIFYING** a remnant of overcomers. These overcomers, by the Spirit of God, are learning to OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD. This is necessary for God to produce overcomers. God has created and placed **OPPOSITION** (evil) in the path of those who are destined to be overcomers in this present age. **THIS OPPOSITION WILL PROVE TO BE THE SALVATION OF THE ENTIRE CREATION!** Romans 8:18 states...the sufferings of this present time are NOT WORTHY to be compared with THE GLORY which shall be revealed in us...This same remnant is to be used to set the entire creation free in the ages to come! We must look at the BIG PICTURE, for God is teaching the creation to OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD! Now we can see...

THE PURPOSE OF EVIL!



*September 24*

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 1

### SOVEREIGNTY EXPLAINED

**According to George Addair:** “By the Sovereignty of God, we mean the supremacy of God. We mean His Kingship and Headship. It literally means, “the Godhood of God”. To declare that God is sovereign is to declare that He is God. It is to declare “That He is the most high, doing according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him, What have You done?” (Daniel 4:35). To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He “is the Almighty, the possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will” (Psalm 115:3). To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is “The governor among the nations” (Psalm 22:28). He sets up kingdoms, overthrows empires, and determines the course of dynasties as pleases Him best. To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is “The only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of Lords” (1 Timothy 6:15).” (The Absolute Sovereignty Of God, George Addair)

According to Webster’s Dictionary, the word “sovereign” means: supreme; preeminent; indisputable: sovereign power. The word “sovereignty” means: supreme and independent power and authority.

This is the way that we should view our God. The scriptures declare that God has created all things, orchestrates all things, is before all things, controls all things, and is responsible for all things. That, my friend, IS SOVEREIGN!

**According to George Addair:** “Such a God is revealed in the pages of the Sacred Scriptures. However, God is not described as such in modern times. The God presented to people in this twentieth century is practically helpless. He is presented as an effeminate being who commands the respect of no really thoughtful person. Even from the pulpit, the preacher presents God as one who should be pitied rather than one to be respected. I heard one preacher, when describing the state of affairs on earth today say, “Poor God!”. The message proclaimed in most churches today implies that God has failed because mankind has rejected Him. Few people seem to realize that He is working ALL THINGS according to His own will (Ephesians 1:11).” (The Absolute Sovereignty Of God, George Addair)

Our goal over the next several days will be to prove (from the scriptures) that **GOD IS SOVEREIGN!** He is not the weak and emaciated God that is presented in modern day Christianity, but...

IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS!





September 25

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 2

### THE PURPOSE OF GOD ACCORDING TO ELECTION

Romans 9:10-13 states...And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (*For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand*, not of works, but of Him that calls;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated...

The above mentioned scriptures speak of one of the aspects of God's sovereignty that is little talked about and little understood. It speaks of THE PURPOSE OF GOD ACCORDING TO "ELECTION". The word "election" simply means: to choose, or select for oneself. Does God CHOOSE certain people over other people? Does God harden or soften people's hearts to do or not do certain things? Does God have mercy on some and not on others? Does God choose certain people to be vessels of wrath and others to be vessels of mercy (vessels of dishonor and honor)? YES! YES! YES! YES!

Romans 9:17 tells us that GOD RAISED UP PHARAOH, AND THEN HARDENED HIS HEART, that His (God's) name would be declared throughout all the earth. If there was no Pharaoh, and no slavery of God's people to this Pharaoh, then there would be no need for a mighty deliverance of God's people, which included mighty plagues, and the parting of the Red Sea. Can you see why it was NECESSARY FOR GOD TO HARDEN PHARAOH'S HEART? It was His purpose according to "election".

The scriptures also tell us that the disciples of Christ did not choose Him, but that HE (Jesus) CHOSE THEM (John 15:16). The apostle Paul is also referred to as a CHOSEN VESSEL in Acts 9:15. As a matter of fact, ALL BELIEVERS in this present age are referred to as A CHOSEN GENERATION (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9), for we have been elected according to the foreknowledge of God the Father (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:2). Ephesians 1:4,5 states...According as **He has chosen us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having **predestinated us unto the adoption** of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ...

The next aspect of God's sovereignty that we will attempt to speak of will be the foreknowledge of God. As we recognize God's sovereignty, WE ARE ACTUALLY MAGNIFYING AND GLORIFYING HIM to the extent that His name would be declared throughout all the earth. The more God's sovereignty is understood, the bigger He becomes in our eyes. Remember...

GREAT IS THE LORD, AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED!



*September 26*

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 3

### FOREKNOWLEDGE

“Foreknowledge” is a divine attribute of God, whereby God sees all things in the present tense. There is no past, present, or future with God. Neither time nor space mean anything to Him. “A day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day” (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:8). According to Webster’s Dictionary, the word “foreknowledge” means: knowledge of something before it exists or happens. This attribute of God is to be seen in Psalm 139. Psalm 139:1-8 states...O Lord, You have searched me, and known me. You know my downsitting and my uprising, You understand my thought afar off. You know my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have beset me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Where shall I go from Your Spirit? or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend up into heaven, You are there: if I make my bed in hell (the grave), behold, You are there...

This divine attribute of God (“foreknowledge”) is obviously one of His most AWESOME attributes! SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS TOO WONDERFUL FOR US; IT IS HIGH, WE CANNOT ATTAIN UNTO IT. We must admit that God’s “foreknowledge” is something that we can only recognize and talk about, but will not be able to fully comprehend. It is what makes Him Who He is. It is what makes Him GOD ALMIGHTY, knowing the end from the beginning. He knows all our past, present, and future.

Being aware of this divine attribute, we should have confidence in God, for He knows what is ahead. With this in mind, we should consider what this teaches us about God. This attribute (“foreknowledge”) brings us to the conclusion that: GOD DOES NOT REACT, BUT RATHER, HE CREATES, CAUSES, AND COMPLETES! Remember...Jesus is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith...The Bible tells us that...Jesus was delivered by the **DETERMINE COUNSEL AND “FOREKNOWLEDGE” OF GOD** (Acts 2:33)...

In conclusion, we are now able to see that the whole purpose and plan of God is based on His “FOREKNOWLEDGE”! Without “foreknowledge”, there would be no Jesus, no creation, no fall, no salvation, and no restoration. Without foreknowledge, GOD WOULD NOT BE GOD!!! But let us be thankful, for our WONDERFUL GOD IS A GOD OF “FOREKNOWLEDGE”! There is none like unto Him. 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 (Romans 11:33)!



September 27

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 4

### PREDESTINATION

Romans 8:28-30 states...And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the **called** according to His **purpose**. 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. Moreover whom He did **predestinate**, them He also **called**: and whom He **called**, them He also **justified**: and whom He **justified**, them He also **glorified**...

Ephesians 1:4,5 states...According as **He has chosen us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: **Having predestinated us unto the adoption** of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...

**According to Andrew Telford:** "What does the word "Predestination" mean when you look at the etymology of the word itself? "Predestination" is made up of two words. The first part is "pre", which means before, or beforehand. The last part of the word is "destination" which means the climax, end or farthest extent. The little word "pre" has to do with something beforehand. The word "destination" has to do with the farthest extent. We understand by this then, what "Predestination", according to the precise meaning of the word has to do with: something beforehand and something at the farthest end or termination. "Predestination" has nothing to do with anything in between. The time is designated by the word "pre" and the farthest extent is designated by the word "destination." "Predestination" is God doing something beforehand, and doing something about or concerning, or relative to the farthest extent. "Predestination" does not deal with anything in between these two points. We notice in Romans 8:29 the purpose of "Predestination". It is, that we might be conformed to the image of His Son. Now when will that take place? We read in Romans 8:23 that it will take place when the body is redeemed, and that is the time of my adoption. This is the definite purpose of God in "Predestination". He has "predestinated us unto the Adoption". Keep in mind the definition of the word. "Predestination" is a divine act of God, whereby, God makes that goal which is Adoption, certain for the believer. The purpose of God in "Predestination" then is Adoption, and when we are Adopted we shall be Son-placed. When we are Son-placed we shall be like Him, we shall then be in the image of His Son." (Subjects Of Sovereignty, Andrew Telford)

Our next goal in this study will be to give an explanation of the word...

ADOPTION!



*September 28*

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 5

### ADOPTION

Romans 8:15,23 states...For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father...And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body...

**According to Andrew Telford:** "What does "Adoption" really mean? It does not mean what we usually take it to mean. Neither does it mean the "adopting of a child." "Adoption" in the Bible does not mean the same as the word "Adoption" when used in relation to the legal transaction of receiving into the family as a son or daughter, a child who has been born of other parents. Evidently the translators failed to find a word in the English language that would express to us clearly, the full meaning of the transaction of God Almighty, when God by a divine act, placed a certain destination and position for the believer. The translators have used the word "Adoption" as the only word at their disposal, to express this act of God. "Adoption" means to be "Son-Placed", not "son-made". You are made a Son the moment you are saved by God's grace. Now, as a son there are certain privileges and benefits God by His sovereign acts has provided for those who are saved. No one has been "son-placed" as yet. One time you will be. You belong to the Lord Jesus Christ now, just as much as you ever will. You have not arrived at the goal which God has predestinated you to-which goal is "Adoption" (Ephesians 1:6). In the early days of the Roman Empire when a boy was born into the family, he was cared for by his parents till he was twenty-one years of age. At the age of twenty-one, they took the child and there placed him in the market place before the public. He was "son-placed". From that time on he could sign his own name to legal documents, and went forward with the full authority of a man. This act at the market place did not make him a son; he was a son when he was born into his parents' family. At the age of twenty-one he was "son-placed". "Adoption" is a definite act of God whereby God sets a goal for the believer. What does Paul mean by the "firstfruits of the Spirit"? The "firstfruits" in the life of any believer is pardon, forgiveness, acceptance, security, sanctification. Do you notice that "Adoption" is not mentioned here among the "firstfruits of the Spirit"? "Adoption" belongs among the "last fruits" of the Spirit. Paul tells us that we should have the "firstfruits of the Spirit", groaning within ourselves and waiting for something to take place. What is that something that Paul and the saints in Rome were waiting for? It is called by the Spirit of God in this verse the "Adoption". He then tells us when it will take place --at the redemption of our bodies. This verse gives us two reasons which tell us that the time of "Adoption" is future. The first proof or reason that "Adoption" is still future is that we are waiting for the "Adoption" to wit. It could not have taken place if they were waiting for "Adoption" to happen at some future time. In the closing part of the verse, it tells us that it will take place at the redemption of our bodies. We now have redeemed souls in unredeemed bodies." (Subjects Of Sovereignty, Andrew Telford) This will take place for the overcomers...

AT THE FIRST RESURRECTION!

September 29

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 6

### SOVEREIGNTY VS. FREE WILL

According to John Gavazzoni: “Everything that occurs, occurs within the sovereign will of God. Nothing is accidental. All has been foreseen by Him because all things come to pass by His decision, so that everything has occurred by Him, either doing something to make it come to pass, or by deliberately refusing to act so as, by that absence of His action, to trigger certain consequential results. The Old Testament prophets gave a preview of this principle, saying, to quote just one representatively, *“I will put My Spirit within them and cause them to walk in My statutes”* (Ezek. 36:27). And the New Testament confirms this with such statements as, *“Who works all things after the counsel of His own will”* (Eph. 1:11). Now some, completely indoctrinated by the dumbed-down notion of “free will”, upon being confronted with what I’ve just shared, without any depth of thought at all, would accuse me of making man out to be a mere robot. But, I ask, if God has a “free will”, and brings man into participation with that will, how can freedom be defined as robotic? Freedom by definition, involves not being controlled by another. The relationship of God’s will to us, is not one of making us do something against our will, but by bringing our will into union with His. This is not coercion, this is causation, and it is causation by the force of love which ultimately worked by God leaving us to ourselves to do what we would do left to ourselves; which was to crucify His Son, and then to love such enemies back to Himself by the power of forgiving love.” (Free Will, John Gavazzoni)

In simple terms, man is able to make choices, but our choices can only be made inside the realm of the sovereignty of God. Remember...God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah made a choice to go in the opposite direction. GOD, BY HIS SOVEREIGNTY, SENT JONAH ON A FISHING TRIP (speaking of Jonah in the belly of the great fish)! Jonah made another choice. This time his choice was in line with what God wanted him to do. What made the difference? THE FISHING TRIP, OF COURSE! Without the divine intervention of God (having Jonah thrown overboard into the great fish), there would be no choice from Jonah to go to Nineveh. So you would have to say that without the sovereign act of God, Jonah, who was headed in the opposite direction of what God wanted him to do, would not have gone to Nineveh.

According to John Gavazzoni: “The truth is that the only One in the universe Who has true “free will” is God Himself. As is true of every good thing, “free will” is something found in God’s very nature and we can only experience “freedom of will” by God causing us to participate in His freedom by causing us to become *“partakers of the divine nature”* (II Pet. 1:4); and that is His choice not ours. That is, He causes us to participate in the divine ability to desire something, then foreordain it, predestine it, and make it come to pass. That’s freedom; to be without constraint, without hindrance, without anything that can, in any degree, stop or hinder one’s desire. The scripture is quite clear that God will bring to pass His desire for all men and for the entire cosmos.” (Free Will, John Gavazzoni)

Think of God’s dealings with Pharaoh, Esau, Jonah, and the apostle Paul, just to name a few. It won’t take long for you to admit...

THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

*September 30*

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 7**  
**THE SOVEREIGN BLINDING OF ISRAEL**

Romans 11:25-32 (Today's English Version) states...There is a secret truth, my friends, which I want you to know, for it will keep you from thinking how wise you are. It is that the stubbornness of the people of Israel is not permanent, but will last only until the complete number of Gentiles comes to God. And this is how all Israel will be saved. As the scripture says, "The Savior will come from Zion and remove all wickedness from the descendants of Jacob. I will make this covenant with them when I take away their sins." Because they reject the Good News, the Jews are God's enemies for the sake of you Gentiles. But because of God's choice, they are His friends because of their ancestors. For God does not change His mind about whom He chooses and blesses. As for you Gentiles, you disobeyed God in the past; but now you have received God's mercy because the Jews were disobedient. In the same way, because of the mercy that you have received, the Jews now disobey God, in order that they also may now receive God's mercy. **For God has made all people prisoners of disobedience, so that He might show mercy to them ALL...**

If we are not able to get excited about a passage of scripture such as this, then there is not much that will excite us. This passage is referring to the sovereign act of God, in which He initially blinded the Gentiles and showed mercy to the Jews, and then blinded the Jews to show mercy to the Gentiles. It states that...**GOD MADE ALL PEOPLE PRISONERS OF DISOBEDIENCE, SO THAT HE MIGHT SHOW MERCY TO THEM ALL.** This sovereign act is to be seen as the wisdom and knowledge of God. It will result in the **RECONCILING OF THE WORLD!**

Romans 11:11,12 states...I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?...*(Read also Romans 11:15.)*

We must see that God is responsible for this sovereign act. **It is God that gives the spirit of slumber, eyes that can not see, and ears that they should not hear** (Romans 11:8)...God is using this sovereign act to reconcile **ALL THINGS AND ALL PEOPLE UNTO HIMSELF.**

**HE WILL SHOW MERCY TO ALL!**

