



## 2022 4Q On Death, Dying, and the Future Hope—Lesson 2 Death In A Sinful World

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read Memory Text: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12 NKJV).

From where does death come? What is the source of death?

There are two options—the imposed law view or the design law view.

The imposed law view is that death comes from God and is inflicted by God as punishment for sin.

The design law view is that death comes from Satan and sin, from breaking God’s law and severing oneself from the source of life.

What does the Bible teach?

- The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life Romans 6:23
- Sin when full grown brings forth death James 1:15
- Those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction Galatians 6:8
- “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14 NIV84).
- “This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:9-10 NIV84).

Understand, the design law view is that God’s laws are the laws upon which the Creator built reality and life to operate. Sin breaks God’s law, breaks the design for life, and without intervention from our Creator, the only result is ruin and death.

This was acted out in the sacrificial system when the sinner confessed sins on the head of the animal and then the sinner, not the priest, cut the circulation—the life is in the blood (Lev 17:11) and the blood circulates, but sin cuts the circle, severing God’s design and the result is death. God does not inflict death, sin does.

But the imposed law view posits that sin is a legal problem that gets one into legal trouble with the ruling authority. Death would not occur for the wicked unless the cosmic rule-maker used his power to



inflict death upon the wicked and kill them for their rebelliousness. This, in their penal-legal system, is called “justice.” But this teaching is a violation of the law of liberty, to believe this undermines trust in God, destroys love, and spreads rebellion.

Further, this view teaches that life and death have the same eternal source, which is in the heart of their god. This is the root of eastern philosophies that teach for the universe to exist there must be balance between light and dark, good and evil, life and death and that both will exist forever. This is Satan’s dream for both good and evil to exist eternally. And this is what the penal legal theologies teach. But it is a lie. Death does not originate in God nor does it come out from God. God is the source of life, death is what happens when one sins, rebels against God and refuses God’s healing to their terminal condition.

Read the second paragraph, “Having been cast out of heaven...” I like how the lesson wrote that Satan “imagined” a legal solution to the sin problem, that some legal pardon could be devised. Yes, that is correct, the legal theory, built upon the idea that God’s law functions like human law and that the sin problem can be solved by a legal solution is all from Satan’s imagination—it is not reality, it is fantasy.

Some might argue, what about the Ten Commandments, those are not from Satan, those are from God. Correct, they were given by God—but when and to whom, and what do they establish and reveal?

When a parent gives a rule to a child not to play in the street, or they must brush their teeth, is the parent setting up a legal system of justice that requires the parent to kill the child if the child disobeys? Or is the parent, demonstrating grace to protect the child, by adding a layer of rules for the child who cannot understand the actual laws of physics and thermodynamics, how reality works, and how failure to live in harmony with the laws of physics will result in injury and death?

Thus, the Bible teaches in Galatians that the written law was added because of sin so that we could more easily see it. The written law acts as a mirror to expose sin in us, as a protective hedge to protect us in our immaturity, and as a aid to lead us to Jesus for healing and restoration.

So, in our modern language the written law of Ten Commandments is like an MRI but for the soul. The MRI was not made for healthy people but for the sick, to diagnose and expose disease hidden from normal view. But the MRI doesn’t heal, the law doesn’t heal, the MRI is to bring conviction or certainty of one’s sick state and need for healing and lead a person to the doctor who heals. Likewise,

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me” (1 Timothy 1:8-11 NIV84).



What do you think about the idea that Adam and Eve were not even to expose themselves to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

This is classic imposed law think—a law-keeping approach to salvation. Consider this commentary from the book *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*:

The effort to earn salvation by one's own works inevitably **leads men to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin**. For, seeing that they fail to keep the law, **they will devise rules and regulations of their own to force themselves to obey**. [Have you ever seen this with say, Sabbath observance?] **All this turns the mind away from God to self. His love dies out of the heart**, [That is what imposed law does, it violates liberty through coercion and destroys love] and with it perishes love for his fellow men. **A system of human invention, with its multitudinous exactions, will lead its advocates to judge all who come short of the prescribed human standard**. [The imposed law view of things—human standard] The atmosphere of selfish and narrow criticism stifles the noble and generous emotions, and causes men to become self-centered judges and petty spies. MB 123.1

This is exactly what the penal legal view of salvation does. And the lesson suggests a new rule that God did not give and in fact is the opposite of what God wanted—the lesson suggests they were not to expose themselves to temptation at the Tree? They reference Genesis 2:16,17 to support this idea:

And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 2:16–17 NIV84).

Does this text support the idea that God did not want them to expose themselves to temptation? Who put the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden? And where did God put it?

“In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9).

So God put the Tree of Knowledge in the middle of the garden near the Tree of Life—does this sound like God did not want them exposed, or that God did want them exposed but He wanted them exposed in a way that they were capable of rejecting the temptation and choosing loyalty to Him? Why?

What is it that God wants from all His intelligent beings whether human or angels?

God wants our loyalty, love, trust, devotion, understanding friendship and agreement with Him. And how can God get this? Can God get our love, trust, friendship by programming us like robots? Can God get our love, trust, and friendship by using power and might to threaten to kill us if we don't love Him? Can God get our love, trust, and friendship through withholding the issues from us so that we are never faced with the questions or the lies and therefore never choose Him?



So, what is necessary—for God to be truly righteous and trustworthy and worthy of our love and loyalty—which He is; and for us to have evaluated the allegations of Satan in light of the truth and choose for ourselves to reject the lies and trust God.

Adam and Eve in Eden, before they sinned, had the ability to do this in their own sinless human strength. We do not. But they could have chosen loyalty and they could have developed a sinless human character. But the only way for them to do this was to be exposed to the issues in the controversy and choose to reject the lies and embrace and settle themselves into the truth.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is not the tree of cognitive information—God and the angels had already told Adam and Eve about the rebellion, they already had didactic instruction and warnings about sin. The Tree was the place where Adam and Eve would decide what they would *know* in reality, in experience: would they choose to reject the lies and know love, loyalty, trust, righteousness, and eternal life and have God’s living law solidified into their character, or would they embrace the lies and choose to know fear, selfishness, distrust, shame, guilt, rebellion and death?

So, understanding design law, we understand how reality works, what God wants, the true purpose of the tree, and when we reject Satan’s imposed law lie we realize God wanted Adam and Eve to reject the lies and know the truth in action and deed and become mature children of God. Thus God designed for the most mild exposure to the cosmic issues possible in a protected and sinless world, all for their success.

I came across this quote in the commentary *Conflict and Courage*, which was written by E.G. White, one of the founders of the SDA church, let’s compare this view with what we just read from the quarterly.

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. . . . [Why? Because they were free beings, not robots, capable of love, because God is love and His law of love requires liberty.] They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, **their loyalty must be tested.** [What kind of test? Is it a rule-keeping test or a test of who they will choose to love, who they will choose trust, who they will choose be loyal to, thus a test of whose character, methods, and law they will choose to internalize into their characters.] At the very beginning of man's existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan's fall. [A check, meaning an opportunity to be tempted with self-indulgence, but an opportunity to say no to that temptation. Why? What is the way we mature, gain strength in God’s design? Through exercise, the law of exertion, they could not gain strength, could not mature, if they never faced the question, were never tempted and chose to say no.] The **tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden,** was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our first parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. **They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan;** but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God. . . . {CC 13.2} [They were not to avoid being exposed as the lesson suggests, but were to be exposed, why? So they would



overcome, solidify the truth about God into their hearts and then Satan's lies would no longer have any impact upon them.]

**God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation. [Yes, God could have built robots, but robots cannot love and God did not do this.] Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. {CC 13.3}**

God did not want Adam and Eve to sin. He wanted them to face the temptation and, based on all the other evidences of His goodness, His reliability, His trustworthiness, reject the lies of Satan and choose to know good, to know life, to know Him and internalize Him and His law of love into their inmost being. Unfortunately, they chose to know evil instead.

## SUNDAY

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Read Genesis 3:1-4:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. (Genesis 3:1-4 NIV84).

Read the third and fourth paragraphs, "From the perspective of human logic..." Does this sound right to you or is there something not right here?

What is the idea, message, or thought you think the lesson is advancing with these two paragraphs?

Do you get the sense that the lesson is suggesting you cannot trust your ability to reason and think? Is the lesson undermining reasoning, weighing of evidence, and suggesting that perhaps we are to believe because God gave a commandment or a rule or an instruction and we are not to reason it out for ourselves?

Let's demonstrate the problems with these two paragraphs.

The lesson argues there was no evidence in the natural world of the existence of death. Does that mean there was no evidence in the natural world for them to make a right decision upon?



- Did they have evidence of the existence of God?
- Did they have evidence of the goodness of God?
- Did they have evidence of the love of God?
- Did they have evidence in nature of how life was built to operate and the design laws that govern its existence?
- Did they have evidence of liberty and freedom granted to them by God?
- Did they have evidence of other intelligent beings (angels) being loyal and loving and trusting God?
- Did they have evidence that God gives freely, having given them dominion over the animals on the planet?
- Did they have evidence that God gives liberty of conscience and freedom to choose?

So when the serpent ate the fruit and spoke to Eve, with all the evidence provided and the warning of God and the testimony of angels, what would be the most logical and reasonable action for Eve to take? To go get her husband, talk to him and together go and ask God before acting. Human logic didn't fail here, human logic and reason wasn't actually applied here.

So, if they were to make an evidence-based decision with the evidence available at the time, the evidence would conclude that the serpent lied.

The lesson states the “human reason is not always the safest way to evaluate spiritual matters” thoughts about this?

How can the authors know this? Would they have had to reason out the reasons why this so? And if they did reason this out, how can they rely on their reason to come to this conclusion? How can they know whether the Scripture should be obeyed, should they reason out whether it is trustworthy or not? And should they reason through which Scripture to obey, should they apply a non-reasoning acceptance to all Scripture, say the apocrypha, the Book of Mormon, the Quran?

How can these authors know to obey the 66 books without reason but not the other various scriptures in the world? Is it that they surrendered their reason to some other humans to tell them what is acceptable to believe without reason and what is not? And in that case are they actually listening to God or to fallible humans who reasoned it out for them?

What does Scripture say?

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (Isaiah 1:18 NIV84).

“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Romans 14:5 NIV84).



What is the Biblical principle? That we must think, reason, weigh the evidences for ourselves and be fully persuaded in our own mind—why? Because this is how truth changes a person.

A person convinced against their will is of the same opinion still. It is not transformative to believe because someone else told you, it is transformative to believe when you understand the truth and why it is true and love and choose the truth.

This is why Jesus said to His disciples:

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15 NIV84).

Jesus does not want the obedience of a well-trained dog, or a slave. He wants understanding friendship, which requires we reason and think through the evidence God has provided.

Let’s consider this historic quote, again documenting a principle that the SDA church was founded upon, and ask, is the quarterly advancing this principle or undermining it?

**All whom God has endowed with reasoning powers may become intellectual Christians.**

God has given abundant evidence of the truth of his word, and he requires that those who would be counted as the followers of Christ should study the Scriptures, that they may be able to give to every man **a reason** of the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear. **He has not required any one to believe without evidence.** Let the inquirer after truth put to the **stretch his mental powers** in diligent study of the word of God. **To neglect this duty is to place the soul in peril of eternal death. Each one is required to understand** the conditions upon which eternal life depends. We must know what saith the Lord, that we may be able to live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord.” **We cannot afford to have another settle questions of such momentous import as those concerning our soul's salvation.** We must open the Scriptures for ourselves, searching the word of God prayerfully, that we may know the truth as it is in Jesus. **We cannot afford to trust to the ministers, to follow idle traditions, to subject our souls to human authority, but we must know for ourselves what God has said.** We are to be laborers together with God, and we must know, we must be determined to know, what are the conditions upon which we may become heirs of salvation. If we neglect this important duty, we shall die in our sins. – The Medical Missionary, May 1, 1892

Now, we are not the source of truth, thus God must reveal truth to us, so the revelation of truth is not something we can accomplish with our human ability, human reason cannot discover divine truths unrevealed by God, but once God has revealed them to us, which He has in His Word, and in nature (Romans 1:20) and in His providences (life experiences), God calls us to examine the truth and compare the truth that He has revealed against with the lies and make a decision on whom we will trust, who we will believe, what we will embrace and choose to practice in our own lives.



What about the idea that the Word of God can appear to be illogical and senseless to us?

If it does, then we are misunderstanding it in some way. The Word of God is always trustworthy, when rightly understood. But the Word of God misunderstood and misapplied causes harm.

When the religious leaders in Christ's day wanted to stone the woman caught in adultery were they applying their own made-up rules or were they applying the Word of God? But did they understand it correctly? Why or why not?

## MONDAY

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Read the last three paragraphs, "Eve's curiosity..." What do you think of the idea she was forced to decide?

Once the lies were presented, it is true that she would have to decide what she believed, who she trusted. But, was she forced to decide at that moment? Did she have the liberty, the freedom to walk away, to think about it, to get her husband, to go to God that evening and gather more information and input before deciding?

Does it sound like they are denigrating the empirical method of observation?

Hmmm...consider this historical quote describing what is legitimate experience to make decisions upon:

As I have before stated, you, my sister, rely upon experience. Your experience decides you to pursue a certain course. **But that which many term experience is not experience at all;** it is simply habit, or mere indulgence, blindly and frequently ignorantly followed, with a firm, set determination, and **without intelligent thought or inquiry relative to the laws at work in the accomplishment of the result.** 3T 68.3 [Now while Eve had no bad habits, did she make a choice without intelligent thought and without full inquiry as to the laws at work?]

**Real experience is a variety of careful experiments made with the mind freed from prejudice and uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits.** [What is real experience? It is careful experiments, problems solved in a variety of ways, with a mind free from prejudice, bias, opinion, habits, preconceived ideas in order to observe what is actually happening—how reality works. It is the outworking of God's design laws in reality in contrast to Satan's imposed laws] **The results are marked with careful solicitude and an anxious desire to learn, to improve, and to reform on every habit that is not in harmony with physical and moral laws.** The idea of others' gainsaying what you have learned by experience seems to you to be folly and even cruelty itself. **But there are more errors received and firmly retained from false ideas of experience than from any other cause, for the reason that what is generally termed experience is not experience at all; because there has never**





**been a fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principle involved in the action. 3T 69.1**

What trial by experiment could Eve have conducted that would have enabled her to know that the serpent was lying?

How about waiting and giving time to see what happens to the serpent after eating of the fruit?

How about calling God over to the tree and having God and the serpent confront each other and observing the interaction?

Imagine, she calls God over and God casts Satan out of the serpent and she sees the fallen angel in his true form—what might that have done to Eve’s understanding and perspective of things? Would it have been evidence of someone trying to deceive her?

But there is a principle the lesson is trying to help us embrace, which is a righteous principle and that is trusting God and remaining loyal to Him when we don’t currently have all of our questions answered or enough evidence to comprehend the issues involved. Job, for instance, didn’t understand why things were happening. He did not have the behind-the-scenes information about the drama playing out in heaven. But Job had enough evidence and personal experience with God to trust God and remain loyal to God giving God opportunity to explain things to Him.

**This is correct, we are not to make decisions merely and only on our own ability to understand events, but we are to make decisions based on our ability to understand God, His methods and principles and to trust HIM!**

## **TUESDAY**

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The lesson explores the question of Satan’s lie that if Eve should eat the fruit she would not surely die.

The question of whether sinners die or not can be explored from a variety of perspectives:

- What did God mean when He said they would die if they ate the fruit?
- Did it mean physical death?
- Did it mean as some suggest, spiritual death?
- Did it mean God would inflict death?
- Did it mean that eating the fruit would cause death?
- Is the death the first death, the sleep death from which there is resurrection, or the second eternal death from which there is no resurrection?



Satan's lie is that sin does not result in death, that both the righteous and the wicked live eternally, it is just the place where they live, the condition in which they live, and how God treats them is different.

We can approach this question by comparing the various Bible texts about sin resulting in death while eternal life is only for the righteous etc.

A Bible text examination approach presents a compelling case Biblical that sin does result in death and the eternal life is a gift from God for those who are restored to righteousness, but there is another, more impactful line to explore on this question, and that is what it says about God.

The underlying premise that many people hold that causes them to believe that unsaved sinners live eternally in a place of suffering is that in Eden, when God created Adam and Eve, that at that time, before they sinned, He created some part of them, whether soul or spirit, that is immortal and can never die.

The Bible doesn't actually teach this, but this is the assumed premise. You can approach this premises with Bible texts that say the soul who sins will die (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). But the more impactful approach is to ask, if this premise is true, what does it say about God?

- Did God foreknow that Adam and Eve would sin before He created them?
- Did He foreknow they would have children born in sin and conceived in iniquity?
- Did He foreknow that billions of their descendants would live very short earthly lives of sin and die without salvation?
- And if God foreknew all of this and created them with some aspect of their being that could never die and therefore created conditions He foreknew would result in billions of people suffering for all eternity in the torments of hell for being born into sin that they never chose, what would that say about God?
- What kind of a god would God be if this were true?
  
- On the other hand, of the Open Theists are correct (which they are not but let's argue their view), that God doesn't know the future and God didn't realize Adam and Eve would fall, what would that say about God?
- Did God get caught by surprise? Did God not even have enough wisdom to anticipate the possibility this could happen?

Either way, the argument that humans are inherently immortal, created by God in Eden with immortality, says horrible things about God and ultimately undermines trust in God.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read second paragraph, "Genesis 3..." From where does fear, guilt, and shame come? Does God inflict this or is it the natural result of what sin does?



And what impact does fear, guilt, and shame have upon people? What does it result in within the sinner and how does it impact relationships?

Fear is inherent to the sin condition—we are born afraid, shame immerses around 18-36 months and guilt begins about age 4.

Babies will startle and be afraid this is an inheritance from Adam's fall. As we grow up, we find focuses for our fear—fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of environmental things (germs, heights, water, darkness, black cats), fear of God.

Fear turns the mind to self and self-protection and results in the drives to survive, the kill or be killed principles, the justifications to harm another in order to advantage self. Fear and love are opposites, when we love others we will sacrifice self for their advantage, to benefit them, a mother sacrificing self to save her child is a perfect example.

Shame requires social connotation, and just like guilt there is appropriate and inappropriate shame.

But shame is used by evil to destroy, to isolate, and to obstruct God's healing solution.

Shame causes one to feel, and then believe, that no one could love them and accept them if people knew about their sin, their shameful. Thus shame leads to secrecy, isolation, social mask-wearing, and false theologies that teach we will never be truly known for who we are, but will remain hidden behind the shield of Christ's righteousness who covers our shameful histories.

The reality is that we will not have shame when we are in Christ because the old has died and we have new identities in Christ.

One of the roles of a healthy, godly, church is to help people experience the grace and love of God that overcomes the shame. It is to experience being known and being loved despite our shame.

The woman caught in adultery experienced this. She had real shame and once Jesus dispatched the crowd, He did not condemn her. He saw her. He saw the real her, deep down into her soul and He still loved her, but more than this, He saw who she could be if she were freed from fear, selfishness, guilt, and shame and thus He treated her in that moment with love, with grace, with acceptance as a person while He didn't accept the destructive behaviors and fearful and shameful thoughts and feelings. This knowing her and loving her and accepting her while rejecting the sickness of sin that was infecting her, is called imputed righteousness.

Jesus imputed to her, in the way He treated her, what He knew she could be if she trusted Him. He imputed His love to her, He longing for her recovery, healing, wellness; He imputed in how He treated her the perfection of who she could be if she trust Him. And because of the imputed righteousness that she experienced from Him, she was won to trust in Jesus and opened her heart and He imparted His



righteousness to her which transformed her to a new creature who became righteous, just as it says in 2Cor 5:21.

Read the fourth paragraph, “Adam and Eve...” What law lens do you understand God’s words through?

If we accept Satan’s lie that God’s law functions like human law, then the text is read as God pronouncing a death sentence against them which He will one day enforce.

But if we return to design law, then we recognize God is merely diagnosing their condition for what it is—a terminal state of being that without remedy will result in death.

Consider, if someone were exposed to a fatal dose of radiation, do they die in that moment? No, we have heard news reports of people being assassinated with polonium. They do not die the day they ingest the polonium, but they are degrading and returning to dust—do we say they are sentenced to death? No, they receive a change in their actual condition that results in deterioration and death—unless and remedy and cure can be applied.

This is what Adam and Eve did, they changed their state of being and God veiled His life-giving glory, they no longer had access to the Tree of Life, and their biological systems began to decay in harmony with the 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics and they eventually died the first death experience turning back to dust.

This was not a legal death sentence; it was a diagnosis of their terminal condition.

## **THURSDAY**

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Read Genesis 3:15:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15 NIV84).

This is the key to understanding the entire Old Testament. Once Adam sinned no human could be saved without Jesus, our Messiah, coming and overcoming where we could not. The entire OT narrative is the battle between God’s forces working to bring the Messiah to save humanity and bring an end to Satan and sin and secure the universe unfallen, and Satan warring to prevent the coming of the Messiah.

This gives us insight into why the Bible focuses our attention on the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and then Judah, because it is through them that the Messiah comes.



It gives insight into why God intervened with the Flood, Sodom, and many other places, it was all about keeping open the avenue for the Messiah, because without Jesus no human being could be saved.

The text gives us insight also into God's intercessions or interventions. Once Adam sinned God intercedes in three places or ways, this text reveals one of them. God intercedes in human hearts with the Holy Spirit to convict of sin, to instill a desire for Him, for right, for life. Without this intercession in our hearts there would be a perfect union between fallen human beings and fallen angels. We can still see that in individuals who reject the workings of the Holy Spirit and sear their consciences and harden their hearts, they become fully united to Satan and under his demonic influence. But the entire human race would be in that state if it wasn't for God interceding in our hearts in this way.

God also intercedes in holding back the principalities and powers of darkness, putting up a hedge of protection around the righteous.

And God, interceded in the natural result of sin within the human species by Jesus becoming incarnate and destroying the carnal infection and restoring God's living law back into the human species, thereby become the second Adam and opening a new a living way back into the presence of God for us.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**OCTOBER 8: Grand Opening of Our New Facility is Scheduled for October 8 at 10 a.m. Please join us for our first Bible Study class in our new facility and then plan on staying afterward for potluck. So please bring enough food for your family and a few others.**

**NEW MAGAZINE: Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 & 17: Discovering Untold Truths to Prepare for What Comes Next!** is now available.