

The Plan of Salvation

Grace vs Law

This resolves the ‘great debate’ of Law vs Grace and explains the two covenants. It addresses other questions regarding salvation such as:

Who is God? Is Jesus the only way to God? And how has Jesus Fulfilled the old laws (Old Testament) and made them new (New Testament)?

It outlines in detail God’s plan for salvation from Genesis to Jesus, how does his death redeem us, and why Jesus had to die to save us.

Dione A. Nancolas, Ph.D

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7. Sacrifices and Offerings in the Law of Moses. Article constructed by Elder M. Russell/Ballard/www.scottwoodward.org found on the website www.graceambassadors.com
8. A reference was drawn (not a quotation) from the book: The Tabernacle of David" by Kevin J. Conner

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Acknowledgment

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Without God's plan for salvation, I could never get to this place, time, and season of my life, where I could write this document to hopefully teach or tell anyone anything. I thank you wholeheartedly, my God and my Abba for your master plan.

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up to the altar at the said show so I could give my heart to the Lord, and they gave me a place to stay in their home where Trudy handed me my very first Bible and commanded me to “Read it!”. I read that Bible from Genesis to Revelations in less than two weeks and my life has never been the same since. They then took me to their church – Swallowfield, where I would become an active member.

Swallowfield Chapel taught me the importance of evangelizing, reading, and studying the word of God, developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ where I could hear his voice for myself, and more importantly, to live always by the spirit, living out the word in my own life, and to strive towards spiritual maturity. I credit my spiritual growth and knowledge of the word of God to the leadership of that church. I have yet to find another place of worship that places such importance and emphasis on the mentorship of discipling, evangelizing, acquiring spiritual giftings, learning the word, developing a personal relationship with Christ, and growing strong in faith. Swallowfield Chapel, you are unmatched. You gave me deep roots and strong wings!

Introduction

I remember the day I wrote the first pages of what is now this publication back in 2013, and I can say that its contents did not come from my understanding. At the time when I wrote those first pages, I was at a very bad place in my life where I was not even an active Christian. I was in a backslidden state as I had walked away from the church and fellowship that had given me much spiritual empowerment because I felt neglected by the saints while enduring a failed marriage. I became “church hurt”. But God was eagerly awaiting my return like the prodigal son. He pursued me.

The day I put pen to paper on this, was right after I had experienced an almost very traumatic episode in my life. I said ‘almost’ because my mind did not get enough time to process the possibility of it becoming traumatic, as immediately after it happened, God showed up in the room and said to me “You have 60 seconds to decide how you will process this, you’ll either put it on me or take it on yourself.” I felt like he wanted me to move in faith to get past the trauma.

Was it possible to put it behind me in those 60 seconds

and be done with it so easily? I had gone through this same thing before and was still dealing with the negative effects of the first experience. But instantly, before I could even make sense of the severity of the situation or wrap my mind around how this could cost me months of counseling sessions, I rose to the challenge in my backslidden state, and with my then potty mouth, I responded “Lord, this one’s on you because crap happens right?” and I chose to release that experience to God and not pack yet another issue into the spiritual luggage I’d been dragging around. And I never looked back. And just like that, it was over. An unexplainable calm washed over me. It felt like a bad spirit left the room and I could breathe. God then instructed me to go to my room and write a paper on forgiveness, which I did. I completed that paper the same day as the incident, and it taught me to forgive my victimizer. That opened the door for this research to come on the heels of that paper as God’s Spirit began downloading knowledge into my spirit that I could never know, right there even in a backslidden state. It sounds weird, but later I learned why he did that. He used me to document knowledge and truths that would minister to me and lead me back to him in a strange way.

My choice back then to make a conscious decision to put the trauma in God’s hands gave me no time for a pity party. That mess simply had to be turned over to him so I could move on. And that I did. The mind is more powerful than we allow it to be. Then again, I have always been accused of having too practical a mind. Sometimes it helps. It may not be how God would work out an issue with you as he works through all of us differently, but for me, he would often use the grab-the-bull-by-the-horn strategy because of my temperament.

The idea of this manuscript came from God wanting me to write, based on my knowledge and my relationship with him, the explanation of how the work on the cross saves a person. That was big. He told me “There are many ‘undisciplined’ Christians who still do not know how to explain what it is about Jesus dying on a cross that saves them. What in his death, or better yet, his blood that brings about salvation? Why did Jesus need to die to save? And why Jesus?”

And so back then, in my backslidden state, I wrote a 24-page document on the subject in less than two days. Those pages would later become the foundation of this publication.

“But she was a backslider when she wrote this!” you may say, how could my work be authentic if my relationship with God was broken? The fact is, like the prodigal who took all his inheritance and left, and though I too had walked away from God with everything and every knowledge I had acquired while I was with him, he had never left me. He kept pursuing me. And like the prodigal who when things began to go downhill and started to remember how his life was full of power and how he lacked nothing when he was home with God, and because I had to draw from my relationship with God in the past to write those pages, I too started to pine after those ‘good old days.’ It conceived a yearning in me to go back home to my spiritual Father and reclaim my rightful position in him. Later I did just that, and I became fully restored. Laying my trauma on God and writing that document when I did, would become the tool he’d use to completely reopen my heart to him again. I’m glad I gave in and obeyed. I’m a tough nut and God knows exactly how to crack me open.

Still, after that, as I embarked on my journey with him,

and began to experience life in him even better than it was before, God began to move me further towards operating in his divine purpose for me. During that journey, when I was taking my Masters in Biblical Studies for Bible College, and even though I had written other mini books on other important topics, I felt God wanted me to use the 24 pages I wrote on explaining salvation through Christ to expand it into my PhD dissertation, which now has become my first ever published work. Thus, fulfilling a prophecy spoken over my life that I would become an author of published books.

God felt that of all the topics I could write on, The Plan of Salvation was important information he wanted those of his children who struggle with understanding and explaining their salvation to others, to have access to. Therefore, this research is written in spiritual layman's terms so that anyone regardless of their spiritual level could understand it.

I know the contents of this research could be somewhat controversial. Christianity has many different denominations and theologies that produce many different teachings, so there is much debate among the saints. But I am presenting this research work as something you could consider. Based on MY study of the word of God, and how that knowledge has worked itself out positively in my own life and continues to do so I can only conclude that this is sound doctrine. Because subscribing to its teaching, has produced in me much spiritual fruit (evidence), caused me to grow more and more in my spiritual walk, and deepens my relationship with my Heavenly Father. I speak not only from mere head knowledge but from personal experiences, and that I feel authenticates my writing... to me.

If when you think about what the plan of salvation is, and all you could think of was Jesus dying on the cross, then

you haven't even begun to scratch the surface of what that plan comprises. The plan is a masterpiece design of intricate details, like the well-orchestrated thriller and suspense plot of a reality series with many unscripted actors who had to each play their part before the grand finale and the curtain came down... literally. It made its debut the day Satan deceived mankind in the garden, and it continued to work its way throughout the Old Testament until Jesus took center stage as the star of the show. Therefore, before Jesus could die for salvation, a lot of events had to take place on the earth and throughout the lives of mankind before that. And God did this so we could all look back and see the value of the master plan designed by a mastermind to rescue us from sin.

To answer the questions of the what and the why of the plan of salvation, I will have to raise many complexed questions, tackle some very controversial ones, and address some elephants in the religious and theological rooms that people prefer to dance around. This is writing that is stripped bare of any partiality towards any one theology over another. In fact, for the duration of compiling this research, I will step outside of the constraints of my theology and see what truth lies beyond its boundaries, because we all tend to live our Christian lives based on what we have grasped as our theology. But if at the very least the word of God supports the arguments I will put forth, then that is my goal. I feel this work will be very challenging for me, and after I complete this introduction, I'll ask myself what did I get myself into by agreeing with the Lord to choose this topic when I don't know anything more than those first 24 pages I started with years ago. Did I put my foot in my mouth? We're about to find out!

The information I am presenting in this writing is not endorsed by any one of those persons I have mentioned in my acknowledgments. Except for my husband, of course, he is my biggest fan and he believes in me, so if I tell him the sky is teal-pink... he'd buy it! (Note: my husband would beg to differ on that). This is all me, I'm going out on a limb here with a very heavy foot, I'm on my own with this one.

I pray that you will consider this research enlightening and it will enrich your life. But even if you find it is not in line with your own beliefs or theology, then I pray that it would at least cause you to ponder and then research its value. But at the very least, please read it with an open mind.

Here we go...

PART ONE

Setting the stage

– CHAPTER ONE –

Who is God?

We could not begin to speak of God’s plan of salvation without first defining God, its author. This plan is tied to who God truly is and having that knowledge will shed light on how he designed the plan that will ultimately rescue mankind from sin, and more importantly, why he felt such a plan was necessary.

The beginning of The Bible in the first book of Genesis does not define who God is as one would hope. In fact, no one section of The Bible gives you a complete profile of him. However, it would not be before you would read the entire Bible that you could begin to formulate his profile. I feel he is telling us that if we want to get to know him, then one way is to read his word... all of it!

Many writers even from varying non-Christian religions give different definitions of whom they feel God is. I believe God is going to become as much to you as you know of him. People may define him based on certain aspects of his character. Some say, “He is such a loving God”, others say, “He is so ‘judgy’ and full of wrath”, and still others say,

“He is such a great Father and provider.” And even based on where they think he is located, some say “He is up in the sky in Heaven” while others say, “He is right here in my heart.” Yes, God is all those and more. But what many fail to portray about God is that he is a SUPER RELATIONAL being even more than we can imagine. So much so that he can be defined differently by each person based on their own need of him or how they interact with him.

It’s like if you ask the children in a family how they feel about a particular parent, you may get different profiles of the one parent based on how each child relates to that parent. If the child is obedient, then that parent may be just and fair, if the child is disobedient, then that parent may be strict, if the child is spoiled, then that parent may be ‘chill/cool’, or even like the child’s friend. So, with that being said, who is God?

I feel the best way to build God’s profile is not to focus on his characteristics but rather on his composition, and what he represents. Because his character which produces his personality results from what he stands for, and his personality changes depending on the circumstances happening around whomever he is interacting with. It is why at different times God can be strict, wrathful, loving, and believe me he could come off as a ‘softie’ too as he’d seemingly overlook the misdeeds of some without addressing them, even though that is never really the case. Either way, it’s best to look at what makes God’s character so ‘colorful’ and why he does things the way he does them.

The Bible says God is three persons in one, and that is commonly known as the Holy Trinity, the Holy Triune, or the Godhead. Except for the “Godhead”, none of the other terms are found in The Bible, but they all speak to the fact

that God has 3 personalities united in his one spirit entity. Many persons have made attempts to explain this Holy Trinity, and I have read a lot of them, but I was still left with too many unanswered questions, therefore, I wanted to take a different approach to build God's profile based on unpacking just what those three personas are, among other things.

As well, the book of creation in The Bible (Genesis) states that God created humans in His image and likeness. I feel that is another great lead to investigate. Because, if God said he made the humans in his image and likeness, then understanding the composition of God's humans could help us to learn a lot about God. Let's see what I've come up with.

Gender and God

Before I get to his composition, let's dare to determine his gender. As tough as that may sound, it is not rocket science. The answer to this is buried deep in scripture should one choose to search for it. This is a topic many will avoid as it is very controversial especially in our world today. Many feel this is not a question one should ever ask, and we should just leave it at that, while others believe it is way too obvious and have already determined what they feel his gender is. But why should we not ask and answer that question? I need to get to know this God who is the author of the salvation he designed to rescue me. If he is going to ask me to subscribe to something he built and to subject my life to it, then I want to be settled in my spirit by learning as much as I can about him, including his gender. I am created as a gender, and I'm supposed to be made in his image, so what is his gender?

Well, I'm plowing through this topic until I hit a brick

wall that offers me no way through or even around it. But going forward we are going to uncover the profound role that gender plays in the circle of life on the earth, and how it is an important component that links us as humans to God our Creator.

To begin, off the bat I am already referring to God with pronouns such as ‘he,’ ‘his,’ and ‘him’, which could suggest that God’s gender is male. But is this correct? This is very important because there is a distinct difference between a MAN (being) and a MALE (gender). Read that again. Gender refers to if a human being is a male or female. While ‘*man*’ refers to humans overall. Note that The Bible refers to all human beings both male and female genders as ‘*man*’ or ‘mankind.’ Read that account below.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

*¹So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Genesis 5:1-21 (NIV)

*¹This is the written account of Adam’s family line.
When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.*

Here we just read that The Bible said God created *man* (humans) in genders of male and female and that both genders are called ‘*man*’. We will unpack why in a bit.

Of the two genders, we know that God assigns the male gender as the head of a family unit, as its protector, provider,

and life-breeder through procreation, among other functions.

The Man and the Woman in a Nutshell

The female gender is assigned to being the bearer and nurturer of life and a 'help mate', the balancing companion to her male counterpart. They were both designed to fit and work with each other, and all of creation could not exist without both genders. The woman is by no means lesser than the man as many like to argue. To me, that is ridiculous and short-sighted! If you feel the man is given too much of an important role than that of the woman, then consider that the man in all his glory still NEEDS the woman to survive and to function effectively, and that changes things. We see this when after God created Adam, he existed for a while by himself in the garden before God later declared that the man could not exist on his own and he needed a compatible counterpart, a woman. God was not saying Adam was alone and needed companionship to have sex with. The woman's role is way more than that. God was saying Adam needed BALANCE and BOOST to help him to flourish in his role. Thus, God described the woman as his 'help mate.'

Why exactly would he need her when he was governing and ruling on his own before she came? Because the man in his male gender needs a woman in her female gender to balance him, and more than anything, she could keep him grounded.

When I had to write this brief piece explaining the woman's role, God showed me the vision of the landscape of a river, a waterfall, and the sea. And suddenly I got what he was trying to reveal to me.

The woman is like fluid in the man's life. Like the free-

flowing water that moves around his rock rigidity, contained only by his protective border of his sandy shore. And that makes the rough landscape of a river become alive and filled with beautiful life forms. The man could go anywhere from large boulder rocks to fine sand. Because the woman is the water in between, that moves alongside the rock, gently breaking off small particles from it without completely breaking him down, enough to produce the sand needed for the shore where she comes to rest. Because she knows how to take from him without destroying him and make it into more. All the while his rock secures and guides her flow right there alongside him, while still being tethered to him.

Consider the man as the PLUS SIGN and the woman as the MULTIPLICATION SIGN: God created the man with the authority to possess, provide, and lead. And he created the woman with VALUE built-in from birth with the ability to multiply and bring life to any situation.

Therefore, as his valuable help mate and having been specifically selected and given to him by God, she is her husband's TREASURE and she should know her worth and move in divine function in the order of the Proverbs 31 virtuous woman to add spiritual value to her husband's life, which increases his spiritual net-worth unto God. In other words, she makes his credit score in heaven go up!

Now the man being the head of their family he can pull down more of heaven's currency from God to invest in building their lives! Because he is her spiritual covering, and he builds their kingdom (that she governs), with a mighty fortress around it to keep his TREASURE safe from all harm, and where he alone can access and enjoy it. She would have no need for another, her husband encircles her with everything she could ever need inside their kingdom.

That is the functioning essence of the woman as she is added to the man. It is how God created them and intended them to function differently with one purpose. And as his little gods created them in his image and likeness so they can multiply themselves upon the earth and rule and take dominion over it. Therefore God **MUST BE THE ONE TO CHOOSE YOUR MATE! PERIODT!** It can work no other way. You cannot make light of this kind of divine alliance!

You can never have much value, or be able to function properly to multiply, rule, and take charge over anything if you don't see yourselves the way God sees and created you. You were created as a specific gender that has its own divine role to carry on God's creation. As a woman, it is not about just having children, you have the built-in ability to breed life, to add value by multiplication, to any situation whether it is in love or in business. So if you are not contributing this way to anything or anyone you are involved with, then you have bitten into that fruit Satan dangles at you that causes you to usurp your God-given ability and change your multiplication to subtraction instead! Don't forget, it was the woman that was brought to the man and not the man brought to the woman. She was added to him to multiply him into more. You are supposed to build him up and not take him down. And he is supposed to treasure your worth and not devalue you. You came to the earth already valued so no one can take that worth from you, unless you allow them to because you do not know what your own value is on your blueprint! You are who God made you to be.

Gender is revealed in the animal kingdom as well and even functions in the plant kingdom too. It is where you find two opposite or different things that are designed to be

compatible working together to bring about life. Like beautiful gardens are produced from two different elements as water and the earth working together to produce life forms by watering a seed that is buried in the dirt. Both genders are needed to make the earth come alive with all life forms!

Mankind could not be the same or just one gender. That would stunt the growth of life. The man and the woman not only had to be different but rather opposite in many ways yet similar where it matters, so they could ebb and flow together throughout life and cover more ground.

Did God therefore, create the woman as an afterthought? Quite the contrary. God does nothing by chance but by purposeful design. He waited to create the woman to give the man enough time to learn he could not exist without her and for the woman to learn she is always needed and has divine value to God and all his creation! God himself already knew that before the beginning of time!

God as the head, ruler, and giver of all life forms, is referred to as 'He' because of how he functions. The seemingly male pronouns speak to his FUNCTION as the head, and not of his gender. Therefore, he does not have genitals or rather reproductive organs like the male being. Why?

Neither God nor any of the celestial beings need reproductive organs because they will not be reproducing via procreation (sexual intercourse) to produce offspring of their kind. The celestial beings called angels were not given the ability to CREATE, REcreate, or REproduce themselves. Only God has that unlimited ability, except to procreate... obviously, for he does not need to have sex to create life when he can simply create them from scratch.

There is a difference between CREATING, RE-creating,

and RE-producing. 'Create' means making something from scratch, 'recreate' is changing something created or adjusting it, and 'reproduce' is to make a replica of something already created. God the ultimate life-giver CREATED only two prototypes of mankind and animals, one male and one female, and then tasked them with their gendered reproductive organs to REPRODUCE themselves and replenish or fill the earth, therefore, along with spiritual beings, humans or animals were not given the permission or ability to ever CREATE or RECREATE themselves. Though we know certain humans who would love to violate and counterfeit that law.

I submit that the term '*man*' describes the being which God is. But as I determined earlier, He does not have reproductive organs to define him as either a male or a female, yet we are told he created both genders in his image and are like him. So how does that work? It is simple, something in the composition of God makes him fully relatable and compatible with both genders, male and female! And we will find out what that is in the following topic.

If *man* never had to procreate or reproduce, then there would be no need for genders with reproductive body parts. Imagine what man would look and be like if they were genderless. Remove all their reproductive organs which would be their genitals, and then remove the woman's breasts because she only received those to give her baby food from her body. Then also remove the emotional needs built into *man* that attracts one gender to the other, and all the physical and biological features that distinguish a man from a woman. What does that leave us? The genderless *MAN* being! Which is exactly what GOD is! There cannot be

a male/man without there being a female/woman and likewise, so removing the gender from *man* makes humans simply the ‘man’ being. And because we are made as a type or a kind of the man being that God is, hence the word ‘mankind,’ and because both the man and the woman were made from that same *man* being... it is why they are both categorized as *man*!

I am not suggesting that one could ever remove gender from humans or even animals, you simply CANNOT. Gender does not refer only to reproductive organs; it is much deeper than that. It also affects our biological form and is embedded into the intangible parts of our being, such as mental and emotional. It affects the way we think, act, and even sound, and activates our relational and intimate needs for our opposite gender. It is built into our DNA, shapes our skeletal form, and flows through our blood and every cell in our body. Let’s look at the following online article from <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/teaching-resources/written-bone/skeleton-keys/male-or-female>

The human skeletal

How do investigators and scientists tell if a bone or skeleton belongs to a man or a woman? The clues lie in the bones themselves.

A skeleton's overall size and sturdiness give some clues. Within the same population, males tend to have larger, more robust bones and joint surfaces, and more bone development at muscle attachment sites. However, the pelvis is the best sex-related skeletal indicator, because of distinct features adapted for childbearing. The skull also has features that can indicate sex, though slightly less reliably.

How do investigators and scientists tell if a bone or skeleton belongs to a man or a woman? The clues lie in the bones themselves.

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*Figure 1 - The male and female pelvis skeletal
[Left] Male pelvis. [Right] Female pelvis. Smithsonian photo*

The differences between a male and female pelvis are compared below.

Pelvic Inlet

- *Male: narrower, heart-shaped*
- *Female: open, circular*

Sciatic Notch

- *Male: narrower*
- *Female: broader*

Pubic Bones

- *Male: narrower sub-pubic angle where the two bones meet*
- *Female: wider sub-pubic angle where the two bones meet*

Hip Bones

- *Female: more outwardly flared*

If our skeletal structure was designed to distinguish a man different from a woman, then how much more would the cells, membranes, blood, and emotions depict gender differences as well? Those were all built on top of the human framework, which is the skeleton. This confirms there is no way humans could ever change their gender, even if they managed to change out their reproductive organs. Gender is tangible, intangible, and lies within one's DNA. And this topic deserves a whole book by itself that I could mention only briefly here. Breaking down or taking away someone's gender while they live on the earth makes a human less than whom they are created to be, and they become broken and non-functioning.

As I stated earlier, gender is not just about childbearing. While everyone will not have the ability to produce children, a man will always secure/protect, provide, and have charge over anything he possesses while a woman always brings balance and life to anything she possesses, whether it be in the family, business, or church... ANYWHERE! She has the

God-given ability to balance, nurture, and bring life to anything!

So, what is God's gender? Neither! he is GENDERLESS. But is a 'he' because of how he functions in his leadership, protective, provisional, and authoritative role over everything, and he passes that right down to his creation to the male gender as the head. However, both genders are embedded into his spiritual DNA and make him relatable to both as his mankind! And this is one instance where we as humans were indeed created in his image. Amazing!

The Holy Trinity

Now, let's look at God's composition. God describes himself in The Bible as a spirit, which simply means he cannot be seen, and he exists in the spirit realm or spirit world. The Bible states that he is made up of three different components, which we know as a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit. What does this mean?

Firstly, note that God's composition is different from *man's*. While God's is Father, Son, and Spirit, *man's* is Body, Soul, and spirit. God does not have a physical body in his composition like how he made man. A spirit means the non-physical or intangible part of a person or being, therefore this means all three of God's components are invisible as he is indeed a spirit.

In God's three components of a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit, we see the word 'Spirit' again! First, it says "God is a spirit" overall, then goes on to add a Spirit as one of his three components. Does this mean that the Father and the Son components are not spirits also? And if God is a spirit overall, why go back and make one of his components

a Spirit again? Wouldn't the Spirit component become redundant?

Well, here's the thing. That indicates that the Holy Spirit component of the Trinity means something quite different than God being a spirit in general! The Father, Son, and Spirit components of the Godhead are referring to how they 'function' rather than mere titles. Just like referring to God as a 'he' is how he functions as opposed to his gender.

I believe the word "spirit" in the context of "God is a spirit" translates to the word 'embodiment' which means something you can visibly see from something intangible. In other words, it is like how something intangible like an idea or feeling is manifested visibly.

For example, when we use the phrase "the spirit of America", in that context, we are not saying that America is invisible, rather we are referencing the qualities that best describe how that country functions. America's qualities have mostly been referred to as being proud and brave, so the spirit of America is its ability to function as being proud and brave. So it is with the triune components of God, they are functions. Therefore, let's change the declaration of the Godhead to say: God the spiritual embodiment (function) of a Father, God the spiritual embodiment (function) of a Son, and God the spiritual embodiment (function) of a Holy Spirit! Indeed, making all three components of the trinity operate as functions as opposed to mere titles. Now let's look at each component:

The embodiment of the Father spirit: What is the spirit of a Father? This component is the head of the Trinity. It is the part of God that is among other things authoritative, a leader, a ruler, and the one in executive charge. As a father, he is the life-giver, nurturer, and sustainer of all life forms,

the component that seeks to create. This is also where all his character resides, in the Spirit of the Father. God constantly refers to Himself as Father, Creator, and God of all, therefore, we can conclude the qualities that the spirit of the Father in the trinity embodies, is Highest in authority, Creator, and sustainer of life.

The embodiment of the Son spirit: No this is NOT Jesus as you may think, and I'm daring to say that. But Jesus was not even a PERSON until he was planted as a seed in Mary's belly. Remember, the spirit of the Son in the Godhead like the other two components is a function and not a title or a particular person. The Son component is the regenerative section of the trinity. Just like a son, it is an extension of God in his lower self. The Son spirit carries the desire in God to be reproduced or regenerated to extend itself outside of the Godhead's existence with the need to love, care, and nurture. The submissive and loyal Son spirit needs its authoritative Father spirit to guide, provide for, and to protect it. It desires to be needed, loved, and is relational. The embodiment that could later be fitted into a human body as a seed in Mary's belly to be called Jesus, to carry the entire Godhead into the earth!

The disciple John gave some insight into this spirit of a Son component of the trinity when in introducing Jesus at the beginning of his epistle, he first referenced the Son spirit function in the Godhead before it came to the earth as a man. Look at those scriptures:

John 1:1-2,9,14 (NIV)

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was with God in the beginning.* ⁹ *The true light that gives light to*

everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John was speaking of the spirit of the Son component before it became the person of Jesus himself. Note he did not even mention Jesus by name in that reference. John defined what the essence of the spirit of the Son in the Godhead was as the ‘Word’ and that it was with God (as part of the trinity) and would later come to earth as the true light and walk among men as Jesus in human form. The ‘Word’ translates to the ‘truth’ of what the Godhead is. Therefore, to define the spiritual embodiment of the Son component, we can say it is TRUTH, LOVE, and LIGHT. That was the spirit Jesus embodied when he was manifested on the earth. Because the spirit component of the Son fulfilled its ultimate mission by coming to earth in the form of Jesus to light the way that paves the path to save a world of humans for God. It proves it is the component that desires outward connections with others in love, and this component is what makes God very relational.

The embodiment of a Holy Spirit’s spirit: What is the spirit of a Holy Spirit? It speaks to the emotions and attributes of God as a spirit that is holy and all things RIGHTeous. The Holy attributes and emotions of God reside in this component. That is why often in scripture God says, “my spirit is grieved, or vexed or stirred up,” The Holy Spirit component is also the powerful executor of the Godhead. This is where everything God needs doing, gets done. This Spirit component listens for the authoritative instructions from the Father spirit and deploys it to be executed. It is the

worker and doer of the Godhead. It is the component that puts angels to work and equips mankind with power on behalf of the Godhead. It is the Project Manager of heaven. Whenever God moves on the earth it is through this powerful agent. It is the heart and the soul of God, the glue that bonds all the components together, the most essential part of the Godhead. This is why scripture says you can be forgiven if you blaspheme against the Father or the Son spirits but blaspheming against the trinity's Holy Spirit... forget it, it's over for you.

Its spiritual embodiment is that it empowers, and equips for divine holiness, and carries out all the duties of the Godhead. That is the spirit of the Holy Spirit.

So, what is God? In a nutshell, we can say he is the genderless being who is the life-giving creator, most high in authority, truth, and light. He is all things righteous and divine that are love, and that desire to extend his attributes to others in personal relationships. Voila!

Trinity components in function

That being said. Whenever God interacts in the earthly realm, depending on the thing that needs to be done, the appropriate components are deployed. Let's look at two popular examples:

Creation of the earth

Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV)

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said,

“Let there be...

All three components of the Godhead were deployed here but the Holy Spirit component takes center stage. In verse 1 it states, “In the beginning, GOD CREATED the heavens and the earth”. Since ‘created’ is a verb or action word, this is like the headline news announcing that God with his three components worked in achieving this feat of creation. Next from verse 2 down to the end of day 6 in the creation story is where the details of the headline news were reported, and we see all three components contributing to the execution of this project.

Verse 2 makes a distinction that the SPIRIT OF GOD was HOVERING. It did not say God was hovering but rather his Holy Spirit. This “hovering” seems to imply that the worker of the Godhead was waiting around for instructions to jump into action. Then it said in verse 3, that GOD (via the spirit of the Father that gives executive instructions) said “Let there be... light, sky, land, vegetation, heavenly bodies, and living creatures. He kept authorizing creation’s existence by speaking commands down to day 5, of things he needed to get done. Therefore, the words God spoke of “let there be,” was him speaking from the position of the authoritative spirit of the Father, and the spirit of the Holy Spirit that was hovering, heard the WORD the spirit of the creator Father commanded and moved from hovering or idle mode into execution!

But then finally on day 6, we find God getting his hands dirty (pun intended) to personally create man from the dirt of the ground. He was about to fulfill his desire to be relational and to love and nurture and be extended outside of his existence by creating his very first son Adam, from the

position of the spirit of the Son. For 5 days God spoke creation into being, but for man, he worked on his complex design himself and ‘*suscitated*’ him by blowing the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man’s lifeless form became alive and breathing! Mankind means that much to him! *Man* is valued over all of creation.

Here's another example. Jesus’ conception, where Mary is being impregnated with Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

²⁰ *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”*

²² *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until*

she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Again, we see all three in the Godhead being deployed, but this time the spirit of the Son is featured in a more profound way than its role in creating Adam.

In verse 20, an angelic being appeared to Joseph with a message from the Godhead via the executive spirit of the Father informing him that the executor spirit of the Holy Spirit has executed the job of placing the seed (sperm) of the spirit of the Son into Mary's womb. Then the angel tells Joseph in verse 21, that the child is to be named Jesus.

As opposed to Adam, where God created him from the POSITION of the spirit of the Son, for Jesus, placing the spirit of the Son of the Godhead into the human womb of a woman to be born, meant God is about to enter the earth physically into the form of his human son!

Verse 23 confirms this as it referenced when God told the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14) that a virgin will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel, which translates to mean that GOD (the entire Godhead) is with us!

All through the scriptures, God kept referring to the event when Jesus would come to the earth as God himself. Between God and Jesus, they would keep going back and forth referring to themselves as Father and Son. Look at what God said in the following scripture.

Zechariah 12:10 (NIV)

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me**, the one they have pierced, **and they will mourn for him** as one mourns*

for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Did you catch the sentences in bold? In that one scripture, God was previewing a scene of Jesus' death that was to come and inserted Himself into the scene as if it were him though obviously, we know it was Jesus. Note he narrated the scene both in the first and third persons, "me" and "him"? And Jesus once said, "If you see the Father then you see me". This is because they are moving in one spirit but in different functions of one spirit. Jesus coming to earth was the spirit of the Father component busting at the seams to be reproduced and manifested into the earth! This way he gets to be both the Father and the Son!

This is confusing to many when it really should not be. Some would ask whom Jesus was praying to in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus in human form was praying to his heavenly Father, but Jesus as the spirit of the Son was connecting to the spirit of the Father as well because the trinity has both a Father and a Son spirit!

By now you should have a general vision of God's composition to compile his profile. But I have one final lead to research to complete this. We must now look at the composition of *man* as well since they are an extension of God since we now know that God's humans are another reason that God from the position of the spirit of the Son, created them.

Composition of mankind

Later, as I unpack the contents of the plan of salvation for mankind, we will see how God interacts with his human beings and how much they are truly likened to him. So, to

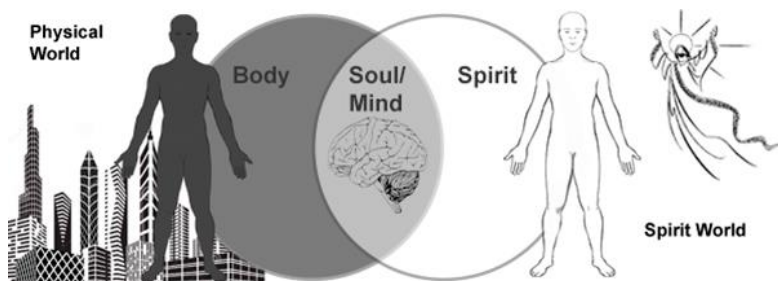
know who God is, we must look at man's composition as well to see how it points to God's profile. After all, it is the humans that need to be saved hence the reason the plan of salvation was forged.

As I stated earlier, *man's* composition is different from God's, in that *man*, also being a triune being, is composed of a body, a soul, and a spirit, unlike God's triune components which are all invisible spirits of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Man's* composition has a physical body component unlike God's, then a human spirit component (common 's') as opposed to God's Holy Spirit component (capital 'S'), and finally a soul component that is neither spirit nor body but rather the condition or state of the man's mind.

Additionally, unlike God who can exist only in the spirit world/realm because he does not have a body to live in the earth. The *man* was made more flexible, because his components have both a spirit and a body along with the soul, which means man can live in the physical world/realm via his body yet access the spirit world as well via his spirit!

This is key to note. Remember I stated earlier that the Son spirit of the Godhead is God's need to be relational and extended to others, note that God gave the *man* a connection back to him via their human spirit! Look at the *man's* composition in the picture below and let's discuss each one in detail.

Figure 2: Body, Soul, & Spirit



Spirit: God created *man* with a spirit like he has a Spirit component. But the function of *man*'s spirit is to enable *man* to access the spiritual world/realm/dimension where God is, but this is also where all spirit beings both good and bad live as well. Man's spirit existed with God BEFORE his body was FORMED. And his spirit holds the raw data of the intention, plan, and purpose God had for him because he is God's creation, and he was created for a specific purpose.

Let's elaborate on this. In Jeremiah 1:5. God interrupted Jeremiah's normal life to CALL him to his divine appointment during a time when the nation of Israel was deep in sin and idolatry. Jeremiah was to be God's representative to give Josiah, the King of Israel, important direction. But Jeremiah was only around 17 when God "called" him. So naturally, young Jeremiah complained to God that he was too young to do what he was being asked and was scared. Jeremiah recounted God's response to him:

The Call of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ *The word of the Lord came to me, saying,*
⁵ *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

⁶ “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

⁹ Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Based on the scriptures above, what did God KNOW before he formed Jeremiah? HIS SPIRIT! What did God set apart and made unique in Jeremiah? HIS SPIRIT! What holds Jeremiah’s appointment, and purpose? HIS SPIRIT! What therefore defines who Jeremiah truly is and what he was to do on the earth? The data in HIS SPIRIT! Additionally, in verse 9 when God reached out and touched Jeremiah’s mouth, he was activating the data of those divine purposes stored in Jeremiah’s spirit and “calling” them to life to be super-imposed over Jeremiah’s purposeless and disconnected human condition! Jeremiah must now choose to rise to that call, which he eventually did. Because everyone has free will, even the “called” of God.

Man’s spirit was created filled with the data of his purpose and everything God wanted *man* to do on the earth. The very essence of who each human is lies within his spirit, this is God-given data. But upon birth, *man’s* spirit is dead to God because Adam and Eve gave into Satan’s temptation and disobeyed God in the garden, and it brought sin upon

them, so they died spiritually to God and lost connection to their divine purpose. So, for *man's* spirit to become alive to God again, there has to be a reconnection between God's spirit and *man's*, and this is where salvation comes in whether it is directly from God as in the case of Jeremiah before the time of Jesus' death or being spiritually reborn through Christ because of his death (more on that later). Either way, when the reconnection is made, *man's* spirit gets plugged into God's Spirit and it is resurrected (become alive again) like a spiritual resuscitation! But, just as a *man* can access God in the spirit world using his spirit, they can access the evil spirits in the same spirit world as well, and those spirits can also access him. Because the spiritual world comprises God, angels, and demons, all spiritual beings!

Soul: Let us first make a distinction between the mind and the soul. Understand that they are distinctively different. Many in the secular world say that *man's* composition is body, MIND, and spirit because they do not want to make a connection between humans and their Creator. If *man* has a soul, then he is created by God and accountable to him because the soul is the data God reads to determine if a *man* is saved. So, they place priority on *man's* mind over his soul so that the *man* is on his own and they tell him he has the power to change himself without help from God, using his mind. He can therefore use his spirit to tap into the evil spirits in the spirit world that gives him their power to become a god unto himself and rule his destiny, totally bypassing God. Later in the book, you will learn where this behavior comes from. But I disagree with that theory and submit that *man's* composition is rather a body, SOUL, and spirit. Let's elaborate.

The soul refers to the substantial nature of man because

of his faculty ability to think and reason in his mind. Therefore, the results of man's belief system from what he has conjured up in his mind create his nature or the condition of his being, which is his soul. And man acts out of what is in his nature, or he becomes his nature. Since it is the mind that sends its data to form the soul that produces *man's* nature, then this makes the soul the higher component over the mind and qualifies to be recognized as an official component of *man* over simply the mind. If man has no soul and the buck stops at his mind, then there is no accountability to check the status of man's being. Because the mind cannot be seen, whatever it does shapes the condition of the soul, that in turn tells the body to show what the mind has become! The Bible constantly refers to man's soul as the entity that needs to be saved by renewing or retraining the mind. The mind is the battleground where good and evil are fought and whichever between good and evil wins, it affects the soul. The soul could also be referred to metaphorically as the heart, as a man's heart is his soul. The soul as indicated in the picture above where the body overlaps with the spirit suggests that the soul or man's nature is generated/determined/affected by both the physical and spiritual components of man!

Body: This is the tangible physical component of *man*. This is where man acts out what his nature or soul has become because of the battles he has fought and won in his mind. It is the component that enables man to live and interact in the physical world. The body is the vehicle that carries *man's* spirit around in the earth. However, unlike *man's* spirit which is eternal and goes back to God when a *man* dies, the body is subjected to wear and tear with age over time, and when a *man* dies, his body goes back to the

ground and disintegrates to dirt after it has decayed. Therefore, unlike the eternal spirit, the body is temporary, though still of huge significance, because, without the perishable body, the eternal spirit cannot live in the earthly realm. In essence, *man* is a spirit that happens to be in a body, and not the other way around.

Now that we understand the components of both *man* and God. Let's conclude what exactly the scriptures meant by "*man* is created in God's image and likeness" because based on the difference between both *man* and God's components, they are not the same though they are super compatible. It expressly means we are made as an extension of God to possibly carry his nature and character traits. We were made as his spirit of Sons or children. Additionally, when you think of God's composition compared to *man's* and you get right down to it, God has a component that DESIRES us, his Son spirit, and we have a component that NEEDS him... our human spirits! Together we have a built-in connection and are compatible with each other so therefore we are likened to him... in his likeness!

It was very important to build an understanding of the make-up of both God and man because this information means everything in the why and how of God's plan of salvation. Hopefully, now you have enough information that lays the solid foundation upon which the plan of salvation is built on.

– CHAPTER TWO –

God Is Love

This important topic needs to be brought to center stage as it completes God's profile by explaining why he is the way he is. As I was writing this research, God began to open a new understanding to me that many would bother to try and wrap their minds around; the topic of 'God IS Love', or 'the Love of God'. This research could not be complete without this topic. Understanding God's LOVE is key to understanding who he is and his plan of salvation for humans. Because the essence of that plan rides on his love for mankind.

Do we truly understand HOW or WHY God loves or even THAT he loves? I don't know how much we can relate to that. I believe this topic is a whole book by itself, but I feel that for us to understand God's Plan of Salvation, I had to include even one chapter on God's love. Because it is ultimately for LOVE that God created mankind!

Our Intimate God

Before tackling the extraordinary explanation of God's LOVE, I wrote about his relational character which is one

aspect of his love attribute. But I want to talk about another side of that attribute, his intimate side, and how it shows up in our lives.

A few times in my writing I will state that God tells me this or that. In a relationship with God, he desires to speak directly to all of us as Christians. Many of us have developed the ability to hear him speak audibly whether by a real voice that you hear or a voice in your head, while many still struggle with hearing him speak at all. But it is a requirement nonetheless if you are to become an effective follower of Jesus Christ and have a personal relationship with God; you **MUST** hear God speak to you and have a dialog with him. In this kind of relationship, he wants to share things with you that are dear to and current in his heart. This is what is happening as I am writing this research; he tells me things not found in scriptures but found in his heart.

“What is she talking about?” you may ask. I’ll explain because it is not farfetched.

God has mysteries and deeper secrets that are hidden in his heart. Those things are not written in his Bible but reserved to be shared on a level of intimacy between him and someone he shares LOVE with and who seeks to converse with him. I don’t believe God would place everything in The Bible, that book could never hold everything he wants us to know. Some things he holds back for the intimate times with his beloved, his people, those who have developed a personal and intimate relationship with him. You must remember that The Bible is a book that outlines true historical events that took place thousands of years ago as well as the future projections for our world. In fact, in its purest sense, The Bible documents God’s plan of salvation and what he projects will happen after that till the end of time. It is not a

biography of a God that existed only in the past or is dead. he is still alive this very day thousands of years after The Bible was written and he is still speaking, so his current thoughts in his heart about us today and the world around us still need to be communicated to us today. Let's examine scriptures as God speaks to one of his prophets Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 33:1-3 (NIV)

¹While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the Lord came to him a second time: ²“This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it—the Lord is his name: ³‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

Here we see the prophet Jeremiah being ‘courted’ by God. A prophet is selected to speak on God’s behalf of his divine plans for the earth and its people. They are privy to his mysteries, secrets, and current things. A prophet’s gifting is activated from having a deep relationship with God where they hear his voice clearly and talk with him. This relationship of intimacy is not reserved only for prophets today, but for anyone who desires to be close to God on an intimate level. God wanted to reveal to the prophet Jeremiah, one of many called by him that chose to share intimacy with him, of his plans for the devastation that would happen to Israel, which would ultimately lead to their restoration.

Incidentally, in the above scripture, note that God introduces Himself to Jeremiah using his triune components by first declaring his position as Creator of all (spirit of the Father), and then encouraging him into a relationship with

him (spirit of the Son) by adding that if he would “call out to him”, (a ‘calling out’ means a yearning honest need for information or help, and the need to be heard) he would share with him (via the spirit of his Holy Spirit) “GREAT and UNSEARCHABLE (undocumented) things, that he DOES NOT KNOW”. Makes sense? God begins his relationship with Jeremiah by introducing himself as the three functioning personas of the Godhead!

But let’s jump back to God being intimate with his humans. Hopefully, you don’t share EVERYTHING about yourself with everyone, even with your spouse. But I bet that due to the intimate moments shared among your spouse and close confidante(s), they each became privy to some of the deeper recesses of your heart. They’d know more about you than anyone else does, and it is because of the deeply established relationship you formed with them because they proved themselves worthy of your trust, to be told of the things hidden in the inner sanctum of your heart.

Someone may one day write my biography if I pass away and include in it enough important information about me that the public would need to know to form an honest impression of me. But if you needed to know the guarded parts of me to put that book together, you would not find it easily. You would have to find someone I trust with my private and personal things. Only such trusted person(s) would hold that information because I would never share those things with anyone unless they were a part of my ‘inner circle’. God’s ‘secret things’ are being shared only with his ‘trustees’ today, those who choose to become a part of his inner circle.

This is one way we see an intimate God desiring intimacy with the ones who manage to get close to his heart.

God tells things to his intimate friends that are unsearchable; undocumented and cannot be found anywhere except inside his heart. I am happy to be called one of his trustees and intimate friends whom he shares some of his instructions, knowledge, wisdom, secrets, and the longings of his heart with. This kind of need for intimacy and its benefits adds a new layer of paint to the picture of God's LOVE character.

That information also opens the door to truly understanding how God IS Love, and why out of this LOVE did he create mankind.

God's Desire and Love for Mankind

Because God is a relational being that desires intimacy and relationships, it was out of this desire that he wanted to create humans that would mean more to him than the relationship he already had with his angels. These humans could become his friends, his children, and his trustees. God created mankind as an expression of his desire to LOVE them with the hopes of them LOVING him back. This takes us right back to the spirit of the Son component of his triune being. The desire to extend himself, to nurture, and love.

Acts 17: 27-28 (NIV)

²⁷God intended that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though He is not far from each one of us. ²⁸'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'

I believe God was so excited at the thought of these new beings that he may have told his angels; "Hey, I'm going to

create a kind of man like me (in his likeness) that mirrors my character (in his image)!” God was about to CREATE humans to be relatable to him and them likewise, so he could have a unique relationship with them that he did not share with his angels. But even though these beings will be created by him as he created the angels, they too would be given free will to act on their own and to make a choice to LOVE him back.

With all that I’ve covered so far regarding who God is and why he created mankind, we can determine that creating mankind was not an afterthought after the creation of the Earth. I believe it’s the other way around. In my mind, I see God searching out the Universe for the perfect real estate location to create a home for mankind. The first five days of creation were about God preparing planet earth for man’s holistic existence. Please pause and reflect on what that truly means. This shows God’s heart and the high value he places on mankind that he would thoughtfully prepare a whole planet for them in the huge expanse of the galaxies and the universe.

The earth was created for mankind and not mankind created for the earth. Here’s an analogy. Think of how excited a young couple feels after they get married and are planning to start a family of their own and are looking for a new house to call their home. While they are excitedly shopping for this house, they have other things in mind than their own need to occupy it. They are thinking that soon they will have their children living in that house, so they choose or build the house based on that projection. It had to be in a safe environment that minimizes the risk of harm to them and their children, in a good neighborhood with good neighbors, situated close to good schools, with room enough

in the house for the children, and maybe a sizeable fenced in backyard for the kids to play freely and safely. All this thought is given before a child is even born!

So it was with God, mankind was the sole reason he created the earth and prepared it specifically for them. Science would later prove that the planet Earth is the only planet that all life forms could exist on, simply because of its precise coordinates in the universe. Not its location, a location suggests a general area, but coordinates suggest a precise point. Because of the position of this precise coordinate in the universe that the earth's axis sits and rotates on, this makes it occupiable for God's creation because this coordinated position places the earth at the only safe distance away from the sun and the moon and that provides the right atmosphere for all life forms to exist on it. If this position were even one coordinate off, it would become either too hot or too cold and therefore uninhabitable for God's creation.

Here science confirms this as *The American Museum of Natural History* (AMNH) states this theory on their website: <https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/planet-earth/why-is-the-earth-habitable>

A special planet: the habitable Earth

What makes the Earth habitable? It is the right distance from the Sun, it is protected from harmful solar radiation by its magnetic field, it is kept warm by an insulating atmosphere, and it has the right chemical ingredients for life, including water and carbon. The processes that shape the Earth and its environment constantly cycle elements through the planet. This cycling sustains life and leads to the formation of the

mineral and energy resources that are the foundation of modern technological society.

God's selection for the home of mankind was very well thought out! I Imagine he pointed to the only single dot in the universe that was perfect for mankind's home, recorded its coordinates in heaven, and then built the planet around that single dot and caused the earth to stay in that position for all eternity rotating on its axis! How remarkable! He created everything mankind would need to thrive on the planet in the first 5 days, and then finally, he created *man* with his own hands and moved them into their new home.

I'm beginning to see another layer of God's love character being formed. This must have been very exciting for him. Finally, he is going to have a whole planet of 'little gods' after him that would rule the planet and exhibit his likeness and character and form a deep relationship with him. What is even more exciting is that those who will become his friends, the children through the plan of salvation, he'll charge his angels to serve and minister to them as the angels do for him! This therefore, places the children of salvation over the celestial beings on the hierarchy of the created things with God as their Father and the angels as their servants. Even the angels would serve us? How doggone cool!

Psalms 91:1, 11-12 (NIV)

¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Highest will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

¹²they will lift you up in their hands, so that you

will not strike your foot against a stone.

Hebrews 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

But something tragic happened that shook the core of Heaven and God's heart, and it changed the course of mankind forever. A great war broke out in heaven headed by an angel whom God loved who became greedy for more. That angel lost that battle, and God evicted him and all the angels he managed to deceive out of heaven down to the earth. Was this betrayal the reason why God had such a desire for a new kind of being? Who knows whether the chickens came before the eggs or the other way around, either way, I believe that God was affected tremendously by what that angel that he loved so much did, that it would justify his yearning for another form of relationship on a deeper level.

We need to see God as the ultimate being that has emotions and acts out of them. He also has characteristics. He is JUST, he is RIGHTEOUS, he is POWERFUL, he is the MOST-HIGH, he is ALL-KNOWING, and he is OMNIPOTENT among other amazing things.

But he is also LOVE. God has emotions. He gets ANGRY, he shows LOVE, he experiences GRIEF, he experiences DELIGHT. And by God being capable of LOVE, it comes with the downside; HURT and JEALOUSY. God emotes them all. He says in scripture that he is a jealous God.

Please read into that as something great because one gets jealous, hurt, or even angry when they feel someone betrays

their love or loyalty to them. That's how much God loves us to the point that we can hurt him and cause him to become jealous. God indeed has character traits and emotions and he made us with all those traits and emotions too for we were created in his IMAGE and LIKENESS. Now we see where our good character traits and emotions came from.

When God lost his connection to mankind through Adam's sin in Eden, it must have hurt him too. I feel at times we interpret scriptures to portray God's heart whenever mankind messes up as if he was devoid of feelings and he moved into harsh action without them. That is not so.

We can see God's hurt and his desire for love through his plan of salvation to restore mankind. We see him doing everything possible and arranging circumstances to achieve that. And when all else failed, he came to the earth Himself in the form of a man Jesus, his son, and he lived among us. He was 100% God and 100% human through Jesus Christ. This mission would be the greatest expression of love for mankind, that he would Himself come as a human, knowing all he would endure in his human form.

God's spirit of the Son in Jesus also had every character, emotion, and experience that humans exhibit. Through Jesus God became COMPASSIONATE, HUNGRY, TIRED, ANGRY, REJECTED, he WEPT, and most of all... he DIED. God left his throne to come and live among us and was treated like anything but a King of anywhere.

God literally loved us to DEATH. That's where that statement came from. How much deeper can you love than unto death? When Adam betrayed God in the garden because of Satan, we can deduce that it hurt God a lot as he had to declare the curse that all the players of the betrayal scene in the garden had brought upon themselves, as opposed to the

great things he wanted for their destinies. That hurt activated the mission of salvation. If we understand how much God loves his humans, then we'll see his need to redeem them (win them back). God is ultimately the author and creator of LOVE. So, whenever we say that God is LOVE, we are to remember that not only does God LOVE, but he has a desire to be loved in return.

PART TWO

The Action Plan

– CHAPTER THREE –

God's Masterplan of Salvation

What is this plan? Why is it necessary? Because indeed it is. As we read God's word from beginning to end, a picture begins to develop of how he works through his created humans on the earth. From creating them, then losing them, to his attempts to regain them to Himself. As I stated before, that's literally what The Bible is about in its plainest sense. Documentation of God's plan for mankind of saving them. In between those points, we see the elaborate design and work of God, of how he works out everything and anything he can to guide mankind back onto the path he created for them, all while still honoring their right to operate of their own free will.

And what of this free will? Is that important? Indeed, it is. God gives us free will, then applies rewards and consequences based on how we use our will. Therefore, to be true to his nature, he was never going to override the use of our free will to get his way, even though he could. You may ask, why did God create evil so that we are now tied down in

the shackles of sin and are disconnected from him? Why didn't he just make everything perfect so that the whole world would be good?

The truthful answer to why God did not choose that path is not written out in The Bible. However, when you read the whole Bible, you would be able to, based on the elements that compose his character, understand how and why he does things the way he does them. And then you could arrive at what that answer might be. However, let me make it clear that God did not create evil. What God created were beings with free will that misdirected that free will for evil. And evil came because Lucifer who was once an angel of light held in high esteem by God used his free will to forge an agenda for evil instead of good against God and mankind. But more on that later. As I stated earlier, the answer to understanding God lies clearly in the components of his tri-part being. You could even imagine yourself in his place and determine if making everyone perfect would be an option you would have taken. Well, let's do that, let's hypothesize.

Imagine you had the power to do anything you could like a Superhero with unlimited powers with a host of beings you created to serve you at your beck and call. You could create other beings because you long for a different kind of relationship, and you have that yearning because even though you had so much power and many angels at your disposal, you are also a relational being, so you need real relationships where someone truly wanted to be with you and not because you commanded them to. How would you create them?

Would you create them to be like pre-programmed robots to do whatever you wanted? Or would you create them with free will to think and act on their own? God took

the challenge and chose the latter. He created human beings to be like him with the possibility of having his characteristics so they could relate to him. And then went out of his way to prove his love for them, hoping they'd return that love to him of their own will.

You may say that there were times you felt that God did override someone's free will to accomplish something. Let's hypothetically determine that to be true. Then my argument would be that every time we thought he did that, it was for our greater good and not for any selfish, manipulative, egotistical reason of his. But did he override someone's free will? Let's look at that.

Imagine yourself with the same superpowers I spoke of before, and you told your child not to play in the street because he could get hurt by a vehicle, but one day he used his free will and played in the street. He saw no harm in doing that because there were no vehicles in his limited line of sight. You however see a car coming from afar off speeding down the road and he didn't. It would be a definite collision, so you used your superpowers to quickly divert the vehicle away from your child. Surely you would do that! You diverted the trajectory of the wrongfully operated vehicle to save the life of your child even though he disobeyed you. The driver's decision to choose to speed when he should not be doing that may cause him to end up crashing into a tree from the quick action you took to save your child, or not. But one could argue that he got that coming to him... right? For he placed himself at great risk of his own free will.

Such could be the case of Pharaoh in Egypt when he kept the Hebrew children as slaves. Read the story in Exodus chapters 5 to 14. Did God override Pharaoh's free will by

hardening his heart to delay freeing the Hebrew slaves for the greater good of dramatically saving them later in the red sea? I would argue that just as the driver of the car above, already doing what he should not be doing by speeding, Pharoah was already doing what he should not be doing. He and other Pharaohs before him kept the Hebrews as slaves for 430 years. Do you think that when Moses finally went to that Pharoah with his “Let my people go!” speech, he gladly handed them over to him? No, Pharoah kept contemplating in his mind that if he’d let them go, he would not have slaves to work. The Bible did say that God hardened Pharoah’s heart, but that was after Moses’ first attempt to ask Pharoah to let the Hebrews go. God gave Pharoah a chance to exercise his free will and he did, by choosing not to let them go. In fact, Pharoah instructed his men to increase the labor on them to work them harder. Pharoah had his heart set on keeping them, so I believe God prolonged what was already in Pharoah’s heart for Pharoah had no good intentions for those slaves. Therefore, God utilized the trajectory of his reprobate mind and delayed the process to obtain a dramatic win and used one stone to kill two birds: defeating the Egyptians, while freeing his people. He did that because He loved those people and he had designed a plan to save them, and a hardened Pharoah’s heart accomplishes that. Pharoah had it coming... right? We could apply this same principle to Judas. Judas used his free will to betray Jesus, and God utilized what he knew was in Judas’ heart to do, or what he was capable of, to accomplish what he wanted. It’s like God can rely on some people to mess up and use it to his advantage.

I’ve never read anywhere in The Bible where someone doing good was used by God to do bad. But if ever we feel

God overrode someone's free will, I believe he does that always for the greater good in his plan of salvation. It's always done for those whom he LOVES. Maybe that's why in scripture you read that whether a circumstance around us looks either bad or good...

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, who have been CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

God's intention for mankind was to create a variation of Himself who could love him of their own will without him having to command them to. And although he already had a host of angels around him that serves him, as we said before, they were not his 'friends', they were his servants and he desired friends. Because of the embodiment of the spirit of the Son component of his composition, God as a relational being is capable of and is also love. Jesus expressed this same desire later in the scriptures:

John 15: 13-16 (NIV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's FRIENDS. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you

Mankind was created to fill God's relational desires. To

demonstrate this, God created a beautiful garden utopia on the earth in Eden and placed in it the first created human man and woman beings as the parents of their race, to rule and to produce offspring (children) to fill the earth with people whom God could have a relationship with.

Many people may think God is more interested in people worshipping him as if he is a narcissistic egotist. I believe he is more interested in first having deep and meaningful relationships and worshipping him comes out of the passion that is a result of those relationships being intimately connected with him.

You see this demonstrated when God visited the garden daily to spend quality time with Adam, both God and Adam enjoyed that deep connection between the two of them. But sadly, both Adam and Eve used their free will wrongfully and broke the love covenant between them and God by “falling” for the deception of the evicted angel Satan. And in that instance, the relationship of the man and woman God created “fell” from being God’s beloved friends to becoming disconnected from him by Satan enticing them to become like God themselves. This became known as “the great fall”. Satan told Eve “Why bother being friends when you could be like him and become gods yourselves?” This was exactly what God did not want for mankind! He did not want them to BECOME him, but rather to be RELATIONAL or an extension of him. He wasn’t looking for competition, he wanted relationships.

Since mankind fell from their right standing with him, God’s master plan would therefore be to strategize how he would win back mankind without forcing them, knowing full well that his archenemy would be after them too. We’ll now unpack the details of the “fall in the garden” story.

– CHAPTER FOUR –

God's Plan of Salvation Activated

God's plan for mankind was perfect. The first humans: Adam and Eve whom God created, were to be obedient to what God outlined for them as boundaries or rules to live in the garden paradise called Eden. Therefore, all Adam's offspring: their children including you and I, were to inherit a paradise on earth. We were to live simply in harmony with one another, communing directly with God.

But Lucifer, which means “shining one” or “light-bearer”, the most beautiful angel in heaven who held a very high position there, became a turncoat and got greedy and jealous. He wanted more than what was allotted to him in his angelic rank, which some believe is that of a seraph (singular), and the seraphim (plural) are regarded as the highest angelic ranking.

Lucifer wanted to be God and I believe he envied the position Jesus held as God's son to be praised, worshipped, and held high above everything created. So, he devised a plan to accomplish his lofty ambitions. He started a divisive

campaign in heaven by sowing seeds of greed and discord among the angels to get them on his side to start a war in heaven.

Let's think for a moment. It was never said in scripture, but there's no reason we cannot based on evidence in God's word, speculate on our own as to what must have happened in heaven for this war to begin. If Satan was so close to God as a seraph, (seraphim are the ones who guarded God's throne and often worshipped singing "Holy, holy, holy" to him) then what better ranking to penetrate the security of God's kingdom than through one who guards the throne? One who ranks high in heavenly office and would be privy to the sensitive internal affairs of heaven.

Lucifer was no fool, he may have quickly determined that he would never hold Jesus' position once Jesus was in the picture. Added to that, I'm thinking he heard God speaking of his plans to create beings who would become his 'friends'... whom Lucifer himself could be called upon to serve them as the princely seraph, Michael, the leader of God's army does. That was not in Lucifer's ambition, he may have seen himself kept getting smaller each time God had a bright idea. Therefore, it stood to reason that he became fueled by greed and sought to overthrow God to gain his kingdom.

Well, if he knew so much, didn't he know he would fail? I'm sure he did, but maybe the level of greed and envy he entertained clouded his judgment so much that it did not stop him from launching his attack. Maybe you know someone who thinks this way, they'd become so engulfed in a rage they lose all sense of reasoning, and the fear of the consequences of their actions was no longer a reality, just the need to get what they wanted, come what may. Now we

know where that behavior came from.

Lucifer figured he needed a following or support, so he sold his plan to as many angels as he could to get them on his side to win the war to overthrow God. Sadly enough, since Lucifer who was an angel could have turned from God, then obviously any other angel could also be deceived because even though they were God's servants, they too were made with free will. Lucifer managed to get 1/3rd of the host of angels in heaven on his side and they started a great war in heaven. But God and his angels won that battle, so Lucifer and his angels, now called demons, were cast out of heaven and down to the earth. See scriptures alluding to that event.

The Great War in Heaven

Revelations 12:7-9 (NIV)

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NIV)

¹²How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount

Zaphon. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

Ezekiel 28:12-19 (NIV)

¹² "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite, and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise, and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. ¹⁸ By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹ All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.'

Even in creating his angels, God did it with love and pride. The scripture describes how God adorned Lucifer beautifully. But it also describes God's hurt at what Lucifer did to cause him to banish him from his presence and his home in heaven. God had to apply boundaries with him.

Now with Lucifer and his demons banished to the earth, Lucifer was not done. It was time to act out his corrupted nature since he no longer was in heaven. By now he must be so bitter with God, and what happens when you hate someone so much, but you cannot get to hurt them? You hurt those they love. So, he'd set out to destroy something God loves, his humans.

He couldn't win in heaven so he would battle for man's soul on the earth by destroying the LOVE plan of God for mankind. With him being the enemy of God, Satan would counterfeit everything God does, starting with imposing his evil image and likeness onto humans called sin born out of HATE, by enticing the first human couple that God would put on the earth, to fall into sin. That was a direct counterfeit of God's intention for mankind to take on his image and likeness resulting from his love for them. Lucifer figured he could use sin to cause mankind to be disconnected from God like he was, and that is what he did.

So, with his new agenda and corrupt nature, Lucifer birthed a new evil persona, or an alter-ego called Satan, which in Hebrew translates to SHAITAN (שטן), and it means the serpent that ensnares man to destroy his life. That is his new nature after he fell from heaven. He then cunningly disguised himself as a serpent and found his way into the garden where Eve was by herself and initiated his mission to destroy humanity.

Let's pause to look deep into certain details of the Eden

Garden saga that many often miss or do not provide an explanation for, which ends up making the story of the deception in the garden very choppy. Dissecting certain details will paint a clearer picture and connect some of the dots. To begin, let's look at why Satan chose a serpent's disguise, and why that is significant. I submit that Satan chose to disguise himself as a serpent because it was a key element of his angelic order, which lends more reasoning to the fact that he is indeed a seraph. I found the following article on the constitution of a seraph:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seraph>

In Hebrew, the word seraph means "burning", and is used seven times throughout the text of the Hebrew Bible as a noun, usually to denote "serpent" twice in the Book of Numbers, once in the Book of Deuteronomy, and four times in the Book of Isaiah (6:2–6, 14:29, 30:6). The reason why the word for "burning" was also used to denote a serpent is not universally agreed upon; it may be due to a certain snake's fiery colors, or perhaps the burning sensation left by its venomous bite. Regardless, its plural form, seraphim, occurs in both Numbers and Isaiah, but only in Isaiah is it used to denote an angelic being; likewise, these angels are referred to only as the plural seraphim – Isaiah later uses the singular seraph to describe a "fiery flying serpent", in line with the other uses of the term throughout the Tanakh.

If we are to believe Lucifer was a seraph, then we can assume why he as an angel who could disguise himself as anything, would choose to be disguised as a serpent, because

it seems to be an element of the angelic order of the seraphim! It was like a fist in God's face to take down mankind by using something God created! How deranged is that?

I believe the story Satan told Eve was a spinoff of the story he told the angels before the war in heaven to get them on his side. It's that same lie on a different day. It was a proposal to level up their position by disobeying God. He told Eve (paraphrase) "Why settle for just being God's friend when you could be like him? God is holding you both back. If you eat the fruit from the tree he forbade you to eat from, you will not die like he said, rather, you would become like God Himself." And that was an offer Eve somehow could not refuse.

Why did he target Eve and not Adam? I felt one reason was that the command was told to Adam and not directly to Eve, so that makes her the one more likely of the two to believe Satan's version of what God truly said and meant. Read the scripture below.

The Creation of Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:4-9, 15-22 (NIV)

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living

being.⁸ Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”¹⁸ The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found.²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

So, Eve was created after Adam received the instructions from God. Of course, over time, Adam would tell her what God commanded. But something about secondhand information could leave much room for doubt and

misinterpretation, right?

However, a more profound reason I feel could be that Satan had a full understanding of the woman's role in the man's life. Remember we spoke of the woman's role in creation and in the man's life earlier? Well, the woman can get into the man's psyche by way of his heart. She can influence him with her feminine wiles, one way or another. She knows how to move gently around his rigid structure and cause him to soften in her hands. And that is not a bad thing, every man needs this kind of influence in his life to make him wholistic. But depending on how the woman uses this God-given feature, whether for good or evil, it could make or break the man.

Look at Samson in The Bible, the strongest man that even all the military forces of the Philistine army could not break, but it took a few vulnerable moments with his wife Delilah, and it took Samson down. Satan knows the unsung power God assigns to the female gender even more than we are taught today. He had to have first-hand knowledge of that because he knows all of God's business! So, Satan chose to usurp that power of the woman and level it against humanity on that day, and every day of our lives. Telling women, they are anything but whom they were created to be. And an unsuspecting Eve who maybe had no idea she even had it in her to do wrong, was his first victim.

The Fall of Man

Satan twisted God's words to Eve and made her feel it was okay to disobey God because she could become like God with no need for him. He wanted mankind to become rebellious, disconnected from God, evicted from their divine

purpose, and to rule their destinies. Satan wanted very much for mankind to make it more about themselves and not about God. And while that may sound harmless, and one may say “Well what is so wrong with that?”, after all, the secular community pushes that mankind should seek spiritual enlightenment on their own and promote the practice of elevating self over God. That theory comes from Satan, and it was what he pitched to Eve.

But when you think of why God created us and remember that as humans we possess a built-in NEED for him through our spirits, then it is a disastrous idea to go down any path without God. We were not designed to be independent of him and to rule our own destinies. That would break us and cause us to malfunction, like it did Satan, and was about to do to Adam and Eve. But Satan wanted this for God’s humans. He wanted to turn man’s heart away from God by planting the first seed of sin in the first human couple that could eventually destroy all future life forms. That seed was to doubt and distort what God told them... a lie he continues to tell us, and a sin we still struggle with to this day.

We don’t know why Adam fell for Eve’s story, whether it was her feminine wiles or not. But one reason could be because God told him they would die if they ate the forbidden fruit and Adam did not see that Eve physically died after eating it. So her enticing him to disbelieve what God told him may have made the fruit more irresistible to him, so he engaged in forbidden fruit eating as his wife did. By consuming it, they disobeyed God and it changed everything for them. Adam and Eve now formally invited the sinful nature of Satan into their nature, and it broke their connection and relationship with God. It then closed the door

between their spirits to God's spirit in the spiritual world and they indeed died a death as God said would happen, but one they could not see because it was spiritual death where their spirits fell deflated to the ground from losing its life source, God's Holy Spirit of the Godhead.

Adam and Eve's divine purpose for life was now aborted as they became disconnected from God. Sin can now enter the hearts of mankind through their doing. They had lost their right standing in God and were abolished from their home (pretty much like Satan was abolished from his home in heaven as Lucifer) and the course for mankind was now changed, headed towards doom. The plan of paradise on earth was now broken and instantly, mankind went from an exalted authoritative position in God to tragically needing to be rescued by him. And the place in their soul that God once filled with his divine connection to them, became a huge void, a big gaping hole of a need for God, and Satan will entice them in other directions to fill that need independent of God. Therefore today when *man* subscribes to the self-enlightenment theory that Satan taught them, or other spirituality outside of God's plan, they are seeking to fill that void not knowing that it is God they really needed, and that he truly desires them.

Now by Adam and Eve procreating and bringing other humans into the world, they brought sin with them.

Let's divert a little to address some questions one asks regarding this garden story.

A popular question asked was, were there other humans alive when Adam and Eve were in that garden before the fall? My argument is a resounding NO. Here's what I believe and why having other humans existing before the fall would not make sense.

For sin to come to the whole earth, it would have to come through the corrupted nature of the world's first man and woman. Then their sinful nature would be reproduced into humanity when that male and female would procreate to produce offspring. Adam and Eve were the only two humans God created and no one else, they were like creation's prototype. And by him creating them as adults as opposed to babies, they inherited God's image and likeness within them, then through procreation, they were to reproduce themselves with the same image and likeness of God into humanity! But, along with those qualities, God built them with the ability to make choices on their own, they had free will to choose to do what they had to, to keep their righteous nature intact... or not. We now know what they chose to do.

You must assume that Lucifer may have heard the instructions God gave to Adam concerning the trees in the garden. He knew God was about to carry on his legacy in humans as they'd reproduce his nature which would serve to strengthen God's position against him. So I believe Satan took the opportunity to deploy the counterfeit of what God wanted for humans and made it about himself. Am I saying that Adam and Eve did not enjoy sexual intercourse and had children before Satan approached them? I'm sure they were having intercourse, but I feel God delayed children from being born to first see if Adam and Eve could pass the ultimate test of obedience to him when tempted by Satan in the garden to disobey him. The path they'd choose from that temptation would determine the outcome of mankind. And that it did.

Now the two created beings having failed that test brought the fate of mankind to doom as they would reproduce their sinful nature into future humans which are

their offspring! That is why I felt Satan snagged them before they had any children. Make sense?

If other humans were around before the fall, then how could you qualify the statement that the sin of the whole earth came through one man? Later, God would mimic the garden incident of the one-man theory to have the whole earth gain salvation through one man, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, and he too would be tested for his loyalty also by being tempted by Satan in a wilderness as he fasted.

But God would up the ante with Jesus by making sure he would be severely hungry from a 40-day fast so that when Satan would come to tempt him with food, it would be hard to resist. Eve wasn't hungry, nor was Adam. But Jesus was starving! Neither were Adam and Eve isolated in a wilderness like Jesus, they were in the lap of luxury in a garden paradise! They had it good and still failed!

Satan tried to get Jesus to eat and break his fast, then offered him the world if he would bow down and worship him, pretty much the same things he said to Eve. But Jesus wasn't having it. He resisted Satan's advancements and passed the test of loyalty and obedience to his father which would now change the course for his offspring (the spiritual children that would gain salvation through him) from their "fallen" state to a redeemed state!

Unlike Adam, there were other humans on the earth before and along with Jesus. But for people to be saved through one man, each person would have to 'die and be reborn (born again)' and that is made possible through the process of spiritual birth (being saved from sin through Christ and becoming a new person; a spiritual baby) which could only be achieved through the one man Jesus! And all of this is to say that there were no other persons on the earth

with Adam and Eve before the fall because sin came through one man just as salvation would come through one man.

Now on to another question. Whom did Adam's children Cain and Abel marry? It is simple. Adam and Eve had children that The Bible did not even mention their names. The names of Seth, Cain, and Abel came up on the biblical radar because of a story that surrounded them. It's like saying that something they did made it to prime-time news. I believe that Cain and Abel married people that were somehow related to them. They were adults when they were married and by that time, we can deduce that their other siblings produced families as well. Adam had Seth when he was 130 years old AFTER he had Cain and Abel and other adult children. Remember, Seth was born AFTER Abel was killed by his brother Cain, so that Eve said God gave her Seth to replace Abel. But look at the following Bible passage of Adam's family tree that mentioned only Seth and did not list the names of any of his other siblings:

Genesis 5:1-21 (NIV)

From Adam to Noah

¹This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind"^[a] when they were created.

³When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his likeness, in his image; and he named him Seth.⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.⁵ Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the

father^[b] of Enosh.⁷ After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters.⁸ Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan.¹⁰ After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters.¹¹ Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel.¹³ After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters.¹⁴ Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared.¹⁶ After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters.¹⁷ Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch.¹⁹ After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years.²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more because God took him away.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he

became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹He named him Noah^[c] and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed." ³⁰After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The Bible did not refer to the other children in Adam's family line aside from Seth. We don't even know the other children who were born before Seth aside from Cain and Abel whose names by the way were not even mentioned in the genealogy above despite us knowing they existed. But you can imagine that if Adam was 130 years old when he had Seth, how many other children he must have had in those years so that by the time Cain and Abel would marry, Adam and Eve's offspring must have multiplied into adult generations by the time Cain and Abel sought wives for themselves. Therefore, it is my theory that Cain, Abel, and Seth, married people related to them, and this would become Hebraic custom later. You can read the account of Cain and Abel in Genesis chapter 4.

Now let us get back to the activation of God's salvation plan.

After mankind fell into sin, that was not the point where the plan of salvation was birthed, but rather where it became

activated. I believe our all-knowing God knew mankind would fall long before they did and would need a contingency plan to save them as nothing takes God by surprise. Because immediately when Adam sinned and the connection was broken between him and his wife and God, God moved into action and deployed that plan by removing Adam from a position of a secured connection of authority in him to a position of a cursed and broken connection from him that now needs to be rescued. This was when God's plan of salvation became activated.

But what about biting that forbidden fruit that caused mankind to fall? How come God did not reprimand Adam to a point of forgiveness and then carried on? Here's why? When both Adam and Eve fell for the serpent's scheme, they risked becoming dead as God said would happen and still ate the fruit, and this showed they believed what was presented to them by Satan over what God told Adam. This was a sinful and willful act of rebellion against God. Eating the fruit was their way of signing the new covenant with Satan, which in turn broke their covenant with God. They had failed the test of loyalty and their eyes were now opened to see things differently because their nature was now corrupted with sin. They had willingly traded God's image in them for Satan's as Satan did not twist Eve's arm to get her to act on what she believed from him. She believed and subscribed to it so much that she ate the fruit and then turned around and gave it to her husband. And Adam the man who had firsthand knowledge of what God had told him not to do, a man who enjoyed a one-on-one relationship with God daily, the partner and the head of the two who should have known better, fell for Satan's scheme... literally.

Adam and Eve now went on to act out their new sinful

nature after they sinned. They somehow saw themselves to be naked, something they never saw before because suddenly sin gives you a different lens that you see through. They then thought they could hide from God because they were ashamed of themselves and afraid of a God whom they once knew and were never afraid of and were confident to be around. How could they believe they could hide from God? What did they begin to believe that they never believed before, when all they did was eat one fruit?

When God called out asking Adam what he had done, he shifted the blame to his wife as if she had backed him up against a wall and shoved the apple down his throat. A lot of terrible things happened to those two humans when they fell into sin, I could not begin to write them all here. But that sin killed their spirits and destroyed them physically and emotionally, (spirit, body, and soul) and created a negative ripple effect in their lives. It was over for Adam and Eve; they were in a fallen state no longer fit for the garden paradise home they lived in. They were fallen like Lucifer. And so, God evicted them from the place they knew as home and put angels with fiery swords to prevent them from ever returning there. Evicted pretty much like Lucifer was evicted from heaven.

I can imagine what God felt knowing the same thing that happened with his beloved Lucifer the angel who betrayed him, is now being replayed in the life of the man he created with his bare hands whom he once enjoyed a spiritual bond with because he fell for the lies of the jealous and corrupted Satan. But still, God did not turn his back on Adam and Eve after they did what they had done. God performed the very first animal blood sacrifice and slaughtered an animal and used its skin to make clothing to cover Adam and Eve since

they now saw themselves as naked and were ashamed. In other words, God made a sacrifice to cover their shame and their sin.

With Satan's mission accomplished, God declared a curse on the serpent and cause it to begin to crawl on its belly. Then he threatened Satan with a promise that even though he used a woman to take down humanity, God would later use a woman to birth another son that would one day crush Satan's head as Satan would strike at his heel. This was the first time God verbalized his plan of salvation, he was letting Satan know the hand he would be dealt. Then God gave mankind over to Satan as his children and the world as his kingdom to rule. Sin would now be reproduced on the earth by procreation, mankind would be born with the sinful nature they inherited from their new father the Devil. See the scriptures to support that every person born is by default a sinner born to the god of this world [the Devil] as his child:

Psalms 51:5 (NIV)

⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Romans 5:12 (NIV)

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

John 8:44 (NIV)

⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is

no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

In other words, Adam having been given the birthright of authority over all the created things, willfully gave up that right to Satan when he ate that fruit. Now Satan won that birthright and the title deed to mankind fair and square to become the god of this world. That is why Adam could not be re-installed to his rightful position in the garden after he sinned, and even after God made a sacrifice for his sin.

Adam would have to ride it out outside of that garden in the now broken world because his doing broke the original covenant he had with God and gave the world and its future inhabitants over to Satan. Now God would task himself with ‘rescuing’ Satan’s children back from him as opposed to Satan snatching them from him [God]. And like Adam, we the children who will be rescued from Satan for God would have to ride it out in this broken world that belongs to Satan in anticipation of a new home prepared for us in heaven that Satan will not be permitted to enter. See what Jesus said regarding God’s plan of salvation to reclaim Satan’s children for himself:

John 10:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸ I give them [children born through salvation] eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

John 1:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

In other words, here Jesus is saying that a plan of salvation is needed to rescue mankind from Satan their rightful owner, and if anyone accepts this salvation offer, that person would be rescued from Satan's claws of spiritual death and inherit a secured position of eternal life in God through Christ, and Satan can never steal them back. Mankind now belongs to Satan, but God is more than content with winning them back for Himself using salvation... thus saving them! And only then, would they earn the coveted right to be called children of God if they choose to be saved! Please mentally note this because this is a statement of contention for many who believe we are all children of God simply because he created us all. Not so. While we are all God's creation, only those who CHOOSE SALVATION through Jesus Christ will become God's children as the scripture above states.

When God gave over mankind's title deed to Satan, God was saying to him "You don't have to come around and take anything else I love and cause me pain... have at it, you won that round!" It's not that God gave up or is playing a game with our lives. No, he is not! Satan won mankind from God in fair game through Adam willfully giving that deed away. He was not forced, so likewise the rule follows that mankind

must accept God's advances of redemption (salvation) towards them willfully and unforced, to be rescued!

The Great Flood: Earth's Reset

Now as more people filled the earth through child-bearing sin also filled their hearts. God looked down and saw that the whole earth was corrupted because as we learned prior, sin destroys people, and it painted an ugly picture to him. A step toward salvation was needed here.

Genesis 6:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them."

His first action was to reset mankind on the earth to possibly minimize the effects of sin. He'd reset humanity (not to save but to reset) through one mortal man. After this reset, if the one man would choose to take on his likeness (character) and resist Satan and his strategies, then the greater the chances that this man's offspring would do that as well. He approached a man called Noah, the only good man left on the earth at the time who was in right standing with God and was faithful to him.

Genesis 6:9 (NIV)

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

God told Noah of his plan to reset the earth by causing rain to fall which would create a great flood to wipe out every living thing on the earth. This would be the first time the earth would experience rain from above, as so far, the earth had been watered from the springs and the waters that flowed through the earth. God instructed Noah to build a huge Ark of gofer, commonly translated as gopher wood or gopherwood, and to gather male and female of every living animal on the earth along with his family and put them in the ark for safe keeping.

So, Noah did what God asked, and God locked the door of the ark after the animals, and Noah and his family were inside it. It rained from the sky continuously for 40 days and nights, and the flood from the rains wiped out mankind and every living thing except those that were safe in the ark. The earth was now reset and could begin afresh.

But there was one problem. Sin was still around because Satan, the god of the world and his demons were not destroyed in the flood. So after the flood, sin, unfortunately, became apparent in Noah's son Ham, the father of Canaan.

The recount of this story is found in Genesis 9:18-29, of when Ham was unfortunate to see his father's naked body and decided to gossip about it with his brothers instead of honoring his father and covering him as his other brothers did. So Noah cursed his son Ham and blessed his other two sons. Sin had therefore found another gateway to enter and corrupt the heart of mankind through Ham's actions. Something else needed to be done.

The Tower of Babel

God took another step toward the plan of his salvation by changing a certain rule. Instead of allowing mankind to live up to the average of 900 years that they were accustomed to living while all speaking one language, he lessened their lifespan dramatically to an average of 72 years, confused their language, and scattered them across the earth in groups. And each group developed its language. Let us recount that story.

Satan, once again using a variation of the same lie he used in heaven and with Eve to entice mankind to become like God, caused mankind to unite in that same deceptive mission, and they began to build a tower that stretched toward heaven in an attempt to elevate themselves outside of God. So, God destroyed their plan.

Genesis 11:1-9 (NIV)

¹Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. ³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and

confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.⁹ That is why it was called Babel^[e]—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

In God's attempt to rescue mankind from Satan, he does everything needing to be done with no success... yet. But even though Satan now owns the deed to mankind, he must now do everything to keep man deceived so he would not lose them to God. So at every step of every action God took, Satan was there with the counterfeit to continue to deceive mankind into fulfilling what he could not in heaven – to become like God, to doubt what God says, and to be independent of God. Every sin we commit is shaped from or falls under that original agenda of Satan. And whenever man gives in to this scheme and does not resist it, it destroys them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Still, God continues to plow through the steps of his plan of salvation to rescue them.

– CHAPTER FIVE –

The Ultimate Plan of Salvation Foreshadowed

The actions God took so far to rescue mankind, were first to minimize the risk of sin through resetting the earth, lessen the life span of humans, and confuse their language so they could not easily understand each other, none of that was effective. But all those actions were steps toward an ultimate plan God had that he would save for his grand finale to fix this problem. He would later give mankind one final chance to be rescued through a second Adam but make that plan so foolproof that it would stick and be eternal. This ultimate plan God could not wait to unleash, so he was in the habit of previewing the vision like a teaser or a “save the date”, via different scenarios in the Old Testament.

This confirms that God wasn’t reacting when things did not turn out in his favor, but rather, he was pro-actively many steps ahead watching every failed event fall into his master plan. We are about to see two key instances in this chapter, of which many may not realize how profoundly God’s ultimate plan of salvation was foreshadowed through

the lives of three biblical stalwarts; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and later their descendants: the Israelites.

The Nation of Israel, God's Firstborn

Since the plan of salvation was not prior achieved through one mortal man or even a family thus far, God would accelerate it into a movement and do it through a whole nation. The plan was that these people should take on the image and likeness of God by following some rules, then they could broadly demonstrate to the rest of the world what following God can achieve versus following Satan. They were to be his agents to the world that he would use to show his power and glory through. Then others could be encouraged to shun the Devil and turn their hearts freely to him! Therefore, correct measures had to be deployed to acquire a whole nation from Satan while using fair game.

To initiate that process, God approached a man called Abram. The Bible did not speak of Abram's character as it did of Noah's to qualify why God chose him for his next great mission. But reading supplementary and non-biblical texts, we read that Abram had a curious and logical mind, questioning the idea of a supreme being higher than the created things. So that by the time God approached him, his heart was already anticipating that divine connection, and this could be why in the scriptures he obediently did one particularly very hard thing God would ask him to do. Read the following excerpt from the website www.chabad.org

Abraham's Early Life

The Bible is relatively silent on the first few decades of Abraham's life, telling us that he was the

son of Terach and husband of Sarah, but not much else. But many crucial details are filled in by the Midrash and Talmud. Here is how it is summed up by Maimonides:

After this mighty man [Abraham] was weaned, he began to explore and think . . . “How is it possible for the sphere to continue to revolve without having anyone controlling it? Who is causing it to revolve? Surely, it does not cause itself to revolve.” He had no teacher, nor was there anyone to inform him. . . . He realized that there was one G-d who controlled the sphere, that He created everything, and that there is no other G-d among all the other entities. . . .

Abraham was 40 years old when he became aware of his Creator. When he recognized and knew him, he began to formulate replies to the inhabitants of Ur Kasdim [where he lived] and debate with them, telling them that they were not following a proper path. He broke their idols and began to teach the people that it is fitting to serve only the G-d of the world. . . .

When he overcame them through the strength of his arguments, the king [Nimrod] desired to kill him. He was saved by a miracle and left for Charan. There he began to call in a loud voice to all people and inform them that there is one G-d in the entire world and it is proper to serve him.

That is an impressive Jewish article however true it is. If true, it would certainly explain what was so special about Abram and why God would select him. Abram, whose name God would later change to Abraham, which in Hebrew means “father of many”, would take on the role God had set

for him to be the patriarch of nations. And God made Abraham a promise of what was to come, in what was called the Abrahamic Covenant.

Genesis 17:1-7 (NIV)

The Abrahamic Covenant

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ²Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

³Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The significance of God changing Abram’s name

Before I continue, let us address the fact that God changed Abram’s name and why.

In God’s plan of salvation from this point onwards, God would begin changing the names of some people or choose what some would be named at birth. This reflects their purpose in him, or it captured something they did that was a game-changer in harnessing their divine purpose. It was like

the changing of the guard, the way God sees them as if he was leveling up their rank and changing their life's trajectory to take on their divine assignment which ultimately fulfills his divine plan through them. Remember I stated earlier that God embedded your divine purpose into your human spirit? I feel that when God changes the name of someone in The Bible, it was after he activated his purpose for them that he placed in their spirits, and the new name is what their spirit embodies, that thing God was calling them to do. Remember that the names of the three components in God's Holy Trinity were not titles but rather functions? So, it is when God changes a person's name, it is how they will function as opposed to what he is simply calling them. It would be a reminder to that person of their new role in life.

God was serious about how we use our words because like him when he spoke our earth into existence, we are also called to create or change the circumstances around us by using our words, for example, to make declarations or pronounce blessings, or even curses. The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21 that death and life are in the power of the tongue, so we manifest what we speak. Therefore, our names should have a positive meaning because they declare the spirit that should embody us each time our name is called.

Jabez understood this. His mother named him "Jabez" which meant PAIN because she bore him in pain. She unknowingly created a situation for him where he could manifest pain throughout his life. But Jabez was aware of the implications of his name and how it could impact his life, so he prayed to God to change his life's projection.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NIV)

⁹Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His

*mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” ¹⁰ Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and **keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.**” And God granted his request.*

When someone God would use had a name that was not correctly depicting or working against someone’s divine nature, he would change their name to reflect that correction. He did not need to change the name of everyone he used. Jabez did not need a name change because he identified the dangers of his name and asked God to change him instead. Abram was the first instance where a name change occurred, and like all the others after him, his would depict the divine role he would be known for because of how his spirit would function over his human limitation.

Through Abraham, multiple nations or people groups would be born. Including a nation God would choose for himself and would call them the children of Israel, NOT the children of God. This is significant in that since Satan inherited mankind, they could not be children of God until the ultimate plan of salvation could be negotiated and executed. Until then, they would be children born to Abraham’s grandson whom God also changed his name from Jacob to Israel.

Jacob, a Key to Salvation

Concerning the promise of nations being born through Abraham. His two sons Isaac and Ishmael, and Isaac’s son Jacob would play significant roles in the execution of that

promise, with varying differences. By digging deep, you will find that those promised nations distinctively were grouped under three separate groups each under Isaac, Ishmael, and Jacob! Let's look at them. I submit that these promised nations under Abraham were not about any nation in any geographical location, but rather, their 'spirituality'!

Nation #1: Of Abraham's two sons, Ishmael fathers the Ishmaelites which birthed the great Nation of Islam as we know them today. This resulted from an issue during Ishmael's childhood. Ishmael was the natural firstborn of Abraham, but he resented his younger brother Isaac because his father Abraham gave his [Ishmael] firstborn inheritance to younger Isaac instead. But it was what God instructed. Read that account below:

Genesis 16:12 (NIV)

¹²“He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”

Genesis 21:8-12 (NIV)

Ishmael is promised a nation

⁸ The child [Isaac] grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son [Ishmael] whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” ¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman.

Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also because he is your offspring."

Ishmael's descendants became a nation and they mimicked (image) the hostile character (likeness) of their Father Ishmael, always fighting the descendants of Isaac over his inheritance.

Nation 2: Isaac the younger of Abraham's two sons, but the spiritual firstborn for God because he was born as a promise from God, did not have a direct nation named after him like Ishmael, by purposeful divine design. However, his role was to foreshadow the birth of a future spiritual nation that would be born through a feat that Isaac would do. Isaac the son of promise whom Abraham and Sarah conceived miraculously past the age of childbearing, would later willingly lay on an altar to be sacrificed by his father much like Jesus the promised Messiah born of miraculous virgin birth, would lay down his own life on a cross and be sacrificed by his own Father's will.

But unlike Jesus who was sacrificed, sacrificing Isaac was stopped right before it would happen. This symbolically opened the door for God's plan of salvation by securing space in Abraham's nations for Jesus, God's future son, to later come and finish that ultimate sacrifice that Isaac started for him. And then Jesus would create a spiritual nation that would bear his name because he would acquire the rights to them. Therefore, Isaac's doing would birth Jesus' nation. Magnificent! See the scripture I found that confirms this:

Romans 9:6-9 (NIV)

God's Sovereign Choice

⁶ It is not as though God's word had failed. Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ⁸ In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Here God is saying that Jesus' offspring will not be of physical descent but spiritual ones. The children of promise to Abraham.

Nation 3: Finally, let us look at how the nation of Israel was incorporated. Ishmael, Isaac, and Jacob were the founding fathers of the three nations promised to Abraham, each doing something unique to acquire them. But Jacob, Isaac's son and Abraham's grandson would acquire the nation of Israel for God to call them his firstborn children by an amazing feat he will perform, a demonstration of what I will call God's "rescue plan", which is the conditions of God's plan of salvation. This floored me as the revelation was downloaded into my spirit.

To recap, we saw Ishmael's nation being born, and a space left for Isaac's nation to later come through another of God's sons, Jesus. That leaves Jacob's nation, the nation of Israel. But why is one of Abraham's nations coming through his grandson and not one of his children? The significance of that is that since Isaac's nation was to come about in the future, a nation could not be established by him. However, it

would be established through his son Jacob instead, and Abraham's grandson.

Of the three nations, Jacob's nation would be the first God would claim as his children. That is why they became God's firstborn. But how did he accomplish that? By deploying a form of his 'rescue plan' incorporating a loophole strategy (the implementation of a technicality that allows a law or rule to be bypassed or circumvented without violating that law) in that agreement.

The conditions of the 'rescue plan' are the required steps to salvation. Which ultimately changes one's spiritual status from children of men to children of God via a spiritually signed 'title deed' accomplished after a spiritual process.

The conditions are: (1) **a willing heart choosing to follow God's** commands and resist Satan's schemes, (2) **a blood sacrifice** that requires an animal to die in place of a human to remove the sins which separate the man from God. Then finally (3) **a new title deed** was signed and transferred from Satan over to God to show new ownership of the man as now belonging to God.

But how would God accomplish saving a whole nation using this 'rescue plan' when salvation was not prior achieved through any one man? We will see how the detail of the plan plays out through Jacob. And I hope this blows your mind as it did mine because a popular misinterpreted story in The Bible is about to take on new life.

Condition ONE: The willing heart to obey God. Abraham, whom God found was obedient to his request to sacrifice Isaac his son of promise, did not know this was to foreshadow God later sacrificing his son to save mankind. As Abraham held his hand up with the knife over his son who was laying on the sacrificial altar and was about to bring

his hand down to slay Isaac, an angel grabbed his hand and God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac once he was sure he knew Abraham would have done it. Abraham's willingness to kill his son whom he loved because God asked him to, showed how much his heart truly followed God because that would be the toughest thing to ask of someone. Read the account of Abraham being tested by God in this way in Genesis 22:1-19. So, while the sacrifice of Isaac did not take place, the willingness to obey what God asked was achieved. Willing heart... check!

Condition TWO: Blood Sacrifice. Since Abraham was not allowed to complete the sacrifice of Isaac his son, what was credited to both Abraham and Isaac instead was their OBEDIENCE to do what God wanted. Abraham was obedient to sacrifice his son, and Isaac, once he realized he was about to become the blood sacrifice, laid on the altar in obedience despite knowing full well he was about to die. I wish you could catch where this is going. But, until then, a blood sacrifice was a requirement in this condition, and it did not take place. However, through the loophole strategy, their obedience sufficed. And later we will see why this was profoundly significant.

Condition THREE: Title deed signed over. Jacob acquired this final step and sealed the deal for God! By Jacob's relentlessness to do anything unconventional to obtain an inheritance that did not naturally belong to him, but was spiritually promised to him by God and confirmed to his mother Rebecca, Jacob would acquire it even if he had to grab his older brother's heel while they were both in his mother's womb to stop Esau from being born as the firstborn, or sell a pot of stew to his instant gratifying brother for his birthright, or dressed by his mother in goat's hair to

get the ‘blessing of the firstborn’ from his father over his older brother Esau, or physically wrestle with God in a desert for it. It was an inheritance that Jacob would need to ‘acquire’ from its original owner for God in the same way Satan ‘acquired’ Adam’s birthright that God gave to him!

Much like the strategy Satan used to acquire Adam’s birthright of the earth given to him by God, God used Jacob to snag the rights to the firstborn inheritance that belonged to his older brother Esau... using food; a pot of stew! God used Jacob to play the exact game Satan played in the garden using food to snag birthright and beat Satan at his own game! And just as Satan used Eve as a woman to foster his plan, God also assigned a woman, Jacob’s mother Rebecca, to oversee his plan! Because God had told Rebecca, and not her husband Isaac, that Esau her older son would serve his younger brother Jacob and not the other way around. God did not tell Rebecca how it would be done, rather he left it to the “power of her womanhood” to figure out how that impossible and unheard-of feat would be achieved, to go against Hebrew culture and disinherit a living firstborn from his inheritance and pass it to a younger son instead. And sure enough, Esau willingly without force gave up his birthright to Jacob in FAIR GAME just as Adam willfully gave up his to Satan. The title deed is now signed over to Jacob... CHECKMATE you devil!

Because God’s ‘rescue plan’ to acquire Jacob’s nation had to be reworked by substituting other scenarios which fulfilled what each condition required, via the loophole strategy, Jacob was able to acquire the title deed to the nation of Israel. That is why God named them after Jacob! May you never see Rebecca’s and Jacob’s actions negatively again!

After Jacob secured that birthright, like Abraham, God

changed his name from Jacob which meant SUPPLANTER often interpreted as someone who seizes, circumvents, or usurps, to Israel which means “one who strives with God and man and overcomes” named after Jacob’s wrestling encounter with God at Peniel for a blessing. See that account below.

Genesis 32:22-32 (NIV)

Jacob Wrestles With God

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

*²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?”
“Jacob,” he answered.*

*²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel **because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.**” ²⁹ Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.*

Even though Jacob is commonly referred to as one who is seemingly cunning, I disagree with any negative connotation ascribed to Jacob. The scriptures state that God referenced

him as one whom he loved passionately. Let's look at those scriptures.

Malachi 1:2-3 (NIV)

Israel Doubts God's Love

² *"I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'"*

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob,³ but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

Romans 9:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ *Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac.* ¹¹ *Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand:* ¹² *not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."* ¹³ *Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*

God gave no energy to Jacob's seemingly "cunning" ways, if anything, it was the secret ingredient God needed to acquire what he wanted. He LOVED Jacob regardless. This was the instance where I mentioned before that God had a side to him that could be called a "softie" as he seemed to overlook the "shortcomings" of some. But is that what he does? Does he overlook some and judge others like a double-standard person? I submit that God is not shocked by anyone including Jacob's misdeeds as many call it. I feel he was looking at the bigger picture like the condition of the heart in

the action. But should Jacob be labeled as cunning for going after something God deemed was his that was in someone else's possession? No! If anything, what Jacob did advanced God's plan. There were times he judged King David harshly while other times David seemed to get away with some things. But I wonder in Jacob's case if it wasn't because God saw a part of his character (likeness) in Jacob that we don't recognize or wouldn't admit?

If anything, Jacob was shrewd and relentless. He went after that inheritance like nobody's business. As stated in the scripture quoted above, God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel *"because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."* God considered Jacob's mission as OVERCOMINGLY successful, then changed his name to depict how he would function going forward as an overcomer, because no longer would he need to take anything else from anyone because that divine purpose was accomplished! Note God did not change Jacob's name before he used him like Abraham, for Jacob he did it midstream as both the functions of the names Jacob/supplanter and Israel/overcomer worked in his divine plan through Jacob!

But isn't this how God relentlessly pursues us in reckless abandon come what may? I'm seeing another side of God at work, the side that probably plays chess, and that sends us out as sheep among wolves and tells us to be smart as serpents but gentle as doves. If I believe God would leave 99 to come after me, come himself on earth to die for me, and relentlessly pursue me. Then I'd have to admit there's a 'Jacob-ish' side to God that is often reckless if he approved of how Jacob secured his inheritance. This changed everything for me! I see God like a cowboy chasing through

the desert swirling his lasso around in the air to come to rescue me shouting! “I know your coordinates, Dione! I’m coming to rescue you... yeehaw!” Sometimes my imagination gets the better of me.

After Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, met all the criteria required for God to acquire the nation of Israel and secure their title deed. Israel would not be officially instituted as a nation until later when God could spiritually adopt them from Jacob to become his children while still bearing Jacob’s new name Israel. We saw what happened to Ishmael’s nation and how they took on the likeness of their father Ishmael. God needed Jacob’s nation to bear God’s likeness and image as opposed to Jacob’s, just as Jesus’ nation will bear Jesus’s likeness as well.

To begin the initiation of Israel as a nation for God, years later on Mt. Sinai, Moses the people’s leader chosen by God, would give them all the laws that outlined the rules of engagement between them and God, which would be called the “first covenant”. Then God would officially institute them as a nation and name them Israel, after the one who secured ownership via a title deed to them! Here’s an article concerning Israel’s ‘sonship’ found on www.nightlight.org

Israel, God’s son through adoption

An important biblical theme often overlooked by Christians is the sonship of Israel. When we hear the expression, son of God, we think of Jesus (as we should), but we forget that the first son of God mentioned in Scripture is the nation of Israel.

Through the correspondence of two of Israel’s privileges listed in Romans 9:4 (“They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the

covenants, and the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.”), we learn that God adopted Israel as his son at Mt. Sinai when He gave Israel the law. Israel officially became God’s son through adoption when He constituted Israel as a nation at Mt. Sinai. It was common for ancient Near Eastern nations to boast of having a father-son relationship with their gods. Most ancient religions believed that the gods bore their sons through consorts. These nations considered themselves to be the “natural” born sons of their particular god(s). This was the religious and cultural context in which Israel entered into a Father-son relationship with God. The difference was that Israel entered into this relationship through adoption.

Later we will see how this ceremony led to God making this nation into his firstborn.

The Tabernacle of Moses

Another teaser of God’s ultimate vision of redemption is revealed in the design of the tabernacle God had Moses to build. His house where Israel met for worship and sacrifices. It had three sections. There was an outer court for worship and sacrifices, then the Holy Sanctuary where Priests made sacrifices twice per week, and finally, the Most Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. No one except the High Priest was allowed into that sacred space or they would die. Both Holy areas were separated by a curtain.

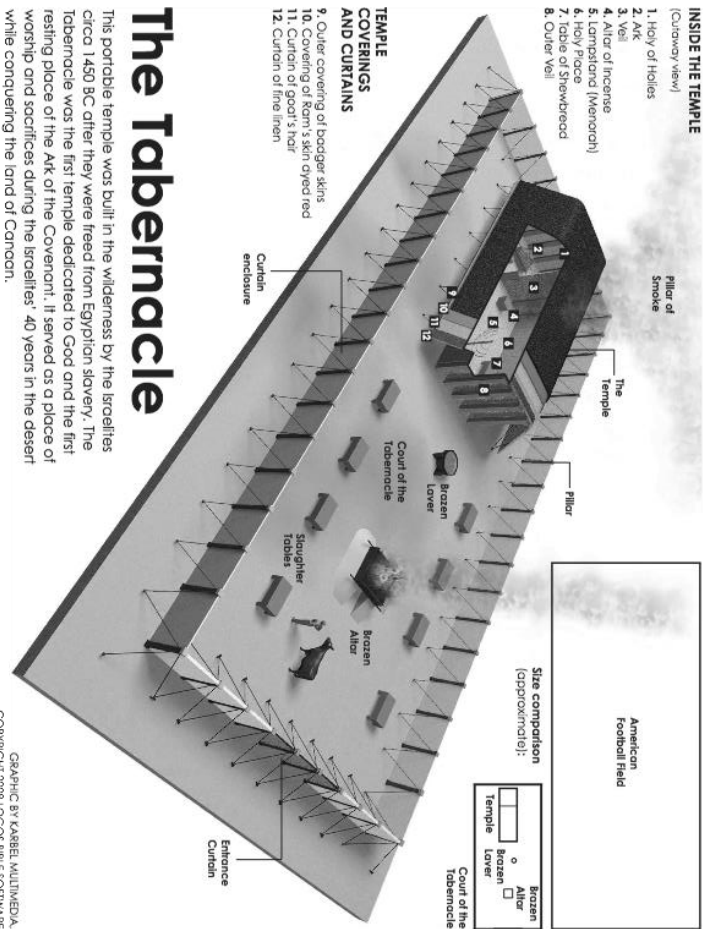
The High Priest had to first make sacrifices for his sins in the Holy Sanctuary before he could enter the Holy of

Holies where he would go only once per year to talk with God. The design plan of the Tabernacle would become the template for any future temple or tabernacle to be built for God.

A popular legend not found in The Bible stated that the high priest had to tie a rope around his ankle so that if God smote him and he died in the Holy of Holies, his body could be dragged out by grabbing the rope because no one else could go in to retrieve him or they too would die.

In hindsight, the design and function of the Tabernacle boast God's plan of salvation. The outer court where the people were scheduled to go for worship demonstrates the willingness to go to God of one's free will. The Holy Sanctuary where the priests made sacrifices for sins signifies Jesus as that sacrifice. And the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest meets with God on the people's behalf signifies that since Jesus our High Priest has paid the sacrifice required to cleanse sins, those who accept his sacrifice will finally have direct access to God in his sacred space!

Figure 1



PART THREE

Tale of the Old Covenant

– CHAPTER SIX –

The Birth of the first Old Covenant

All that we have covered so far are steps toward establishing God’s ultimate plan of salvation, and we made a specific focus on how Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s lives facilitate this. As I mentioned in my Introduction, God’s plan of salvation was more than Jesus dying on the cross, it began from the day Adam sinned, and God would play this plan out through the lives of many in the Old Testament scriptures before Jesus could come on the scene and fulfill it.

Now with Jacob holding the title deed to his nation Israel, and before Israel could officially become a nation of people who belonged to God. God needed to take other steps including creating a covenant of laws between him and them, which would define the rules of their engagement with him before he could complete their “swearing-in” ceremony.

Why Laws in the First Place?

Laws are necessary because of the fall of mankind. Like the

laws of today, there had to be boundaries, rules, and conditions that defined Israel's moral and ethical conduct and state the consequences that apply for breaking them. Because of sin through the fall, laws would keep Israel as a nation in check.

Galatians 3:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹Why then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred to had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

The Laws and Rituals of the Old Covenant

Let's look at some popular laws Israel observes. Pay close special attention to each item.

1. *Tithing.* Give a tenth of their earnings to the priests for the upkeep of the temple.
2. *Circumcision.* A piece of flesh removed from the male organ is used to bring life.
3. *Sabbath Day.* The seventh day is for worshipping God and resting from work.
4. he abstains from eating certain meats from animals.
5. *The 10 commandments.* These were laws that would govern how the people would show regard for another man's possessions and boundaries and live in harmony.

In addition to those, their sins would be forgiven through the

ritual of animal sacrifice. Remember this physical step was missed in step TWO of the ‘rescue plan’ when Abraham did not complete the sacrifice of Isaac. While Abraham’s obedience sufficed over the sacrifice needed to complete the transaction to acquire the nation, sin cannot be removed through a third party or at a group level, it must be dealt with individually once this first covenant is activated.

Now since Jacob is the father of the nation of Israel, how would God finally acquire them to become his children?

Here’s how. Jacob’s newly acquired birthright secured him his right to everything God will give to him as his spiritual firstborn son, so God added into the security of Jacob’s inheritance the nation of Israel, and they received Jacob’s new name Israel to confirm who acquired them. This secured them as Jacob’s children as opposed to Satan’s.

But Jacob acquired them for God, so it was not until after Jacob died that God would adopt them as his own. It was as if Jacob left them in his will to God. Jacob was a spiritual son of God as one who came as a promise like Isaac and Jesus, whom all received spiritual firstborn birthrights from God over their earthly firstborn siblings: Jesus vs Adam for God, Isaac vs Ishmael for Abraham, and Jacob vs Esau for Isaac. Jacob, like Isaac and Jesus, was loved by God. Those spiritual sons, except Isaac, obtained firstborn birthrights and title deeds to their nations and fulfilled the requirements of God’s ‘rescue plan’ to secure their descendants from Satan. How profound.

As a spiritual father to Jacob, God became the executor of Jacob’s estate, so after Jacob’s death, his nation became God’s first possession as his ‘firstborn’ and their status was no longer children of men or the Devil. But neither could they become children of God because only Jesus’ death later

under the new covenant could change that status. Until then, they hold the official title of the children of Israel even though they are indeed God's children but by adoption. So they became known as his firstborn children, for God had acquired them through a loophole in his 'rescue plan'.

Sacrifices & Offerings in the Law of Moses

Going forward, the children of Israel, even though they were God's children, the provision still had to be made for their sins. As stated before in the previous chapter, the principle of blood sacrifice states that something good and pure and not deserving of death had to die physically for someone deserving of death. Therefore, whenever they sinned, they had to kill different animals to remove specific sins. Let us look at the different sacrifices: Compiled by Elder M. Russell Ballard (see [Article](#))

<i>Obligatory Offerings*</i>				
Name	Emblem to be Offered	Purpose of the Offering	When Offered	Method of Offering
Sin Offering	Blemish less male ox, ewe lamb, male or female dove, pigeon, or goat, or	To obtain forgiveness for man's sinful, fallen nature-for who man is rather than	As needed, on the Day of Atonement, and during feasts	Consumed by fire outside the camp or city and eaten by the priest

	about two liters of fine flour	for what he might have done		
Trespass Offering	Male ram and lamb	Combined with repentance to obtain forgiveness for specific sins committed and to point one to Christ	As needed and during feasts	Part consumed by fire and part eaten by the priest

*Although these were “obligatory” offerings, they were not imposed against a person’s will.

<i>Voluntary Offerings</i>				
Name	Emblem to be Offered	Purpose of the Offering	When Offered	Method of Offering
Burnt Offering (This was the kind of sacrific	Firstborn, blemishless male bull, ram, lamb, goat, turtledoves , or	To show the Lord the offerer was willing to surrender all things to him and to point	Daily at the morning and evening, at the Feasts of the	Completely consumed on the altar

e Adam first offered.)	pigeons	one to Christ	Passover and Tabernacles, and on the Day of Atonement	
Peace Offering	Blemishless male or female ox, lamb, or goat	To establish peace with God, to reopen communication with him, to thank him, to renew vows or covenants with him, and to point one to Christ	Only as desired	One-third consumed on the altar, one-third eaten by the priest, one-third eaten by the offerer
Meat Offering	Flour, oil, and frankincense made into breadstuffs	To complement the peace offering meal for the priests and to point one to Christ	Made at the same time as a peace offering	Eaten by the priest

Name of the Ordinance and Type of	Emblematic Objects Used for	Purpose of the Ordinance	When Administered
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Offering	the Ordinance		
<p>BURNT OFFERING(<u>Lev. 1; Lev. 6:9–13</u>)</p> <p>This is another name for the ordinance of sacrifice practiced by the patriarchs from Adam down to Israel. (See “The Priesthood Ordinance of Sacrifice,” p. 49.)</p>	<p>A male animal without blemish (<u>Ex. 12:5; Lev. 1:3; Lev. 22:18–25; Num. 28:3–4; Deut. 15:21; Deut. 17:1</u>).</p> <p>Originally the animal was to be a firstborn (<u>Gen. 4:4; Ex. 13:12; Lev. 27:26; Num. 3:41; Num. 18:17; Deut. 12:6; Deut. 15:19–21</u>).</p> <p>The animal used varied according to the position</p>	<p>“... This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father. ...” (<u>Moses 5:7</u>; see also <u>Lev. 1:4, 9; Lev. 14:20; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2 Ne. 11:4; 2 Ne. 25:24–27; Jacob 4:5; Jarom 1:11; Mosiah 3:15</u>.)</p>	<p><i>PUBLIC OFFERING</i></p> <p>S</p> <p>Regularly appointed times: Daily—morning and evening (<u>Ex. 29:38–42; Num. 28:3–4</u>).</p> <p>Sabbath—double portion was given (<u>Num. 28:9–10</u>).</p> <p>New Moon—monthly (<u>Num. 28:11–15</u>).</p> <p>Seasonally appointed times: Feast of Passover and Unleavened</p>

	<p>and personal possessions of the individual, as well as the occasion of the sacrifice: bull, ram, he-goat, turtledoves, or young pigeons (<u>Lev. 1:5,</u> <u>10, 14; Lev.</u> <u>5:7; Gen.</u> <u>15:9</u>).</p>		<p>Bread Feast of the Harvest, Feast of the Tabernacles New Year, and the Day of Atonement (See “Feasts or Holidays in Ancient Israel,” p. 49). <i>PRIVATE OFFERING</i> <i>S</i> Given for family events— birth, marriage, reunions, etc., and at times of personal need. Most often, private or individual offerings were given</p>
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			during the times of appointed feasts.
PEACE OFFERING (<u>Lev. 3</u> ; <u>Lev. 7:11–38</u>)	A male or female animal without blemish (<u>Lev. 3:1, 12</u>) and cattle, sheep, or goats, but no fowl or other substitutes (<u>Lev. 22:27</u>). The animal was to be meat for a sacrificial meal. The fat and inward portions were burned upon the altar (<u>Lev. 3:3–5</u>), a	The threefold purpose of peace offerings is suggested in the following titles or descriptions given. THANK OFFERING is given to thank God for all blessings (<u>Lev. 7:12–13, 15</u> ; <u>Lev. 22:29</u>). VOW OFFERING (<u>Lev. 7:16</u> ; <u>Lev. 22:18, 21, 23</u> ; <u>Num. 15:3, 8</u> ; <u>Num. 29:39</u> ; <u>Deut. 12:6</u>) signifies the	These were only private offerings or personal sacrifice for family or individuals. (See Private Offerings under Burnt Offering above.)

	<p>specified part was given to the priests (see Heave and Wave Offerings below), and the remainder was used for meat in the special dinner (<u>Lev. 7:16</u>).</p>	<p>taking or renewing of a vow or covenant. FREE-WILL OFFERING (<u>Lev. 7:16</u>; <u>Lev. 22:18, 21, 23</u>; <u>Num. 15:3</u>; <u>Num. 29:39</u>; <u>Deut. 12:6</u>, <u>17</u>; <u>Deut. 16:10</u>; <u>Deut. 23:23</u>) suggests voluntary receiving of covenants with attendant responsibilities and consequences .</p> <p>An individual could seemingly give the offering for any of the</p>	
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		above declared purposes separately or together.	
SIN OFFERING (<u>Lev. 4</u> ; <u>Lev. 5:1–13</u> ; <u>Lev. 6:25–30</u>)	Male or female animal or fowl without blemish. The offering according to the position and circumstances of the offerer: the priest offered a bull (<u>Lev. 4:3</u> ; <u>Num. 8:8</u>), the ruler among the people a he-goat (<u>Lev. 4:22–23</u>), the people in general a she-goat	Sin offerings were given for sins committed in ignorance (<u>Lev. 4:2, 22, 27</u>), sins not generally known about by the people (<u>Num. 15:24</u>), sins in violation of oaths and covenants (<u>Lev. 5:1, 4–5</u>), and ceremonial sins of defilement or uncleanness under the law of carnal commandments (<u>Lev. 5:2–3</u> ; <u>Lev. 12:1–</u>	A special sin-offering affecting all the people was offered on the Day of Atonement. (<u>Ex. 30:10</u> ; <u>Lev. 16:3, 6, 11, 15–19</u> ; see “Feasts or Holidays in Ancient Israel,” p. 49.) All other sin offerings were private and personal offerings, most often given at the times of the appointed

	<p>(<u>Lev. 4:27–28</u>), the poor two turtledoves or two young pigeons (<u>Lev. 5:7</u>), and those of extreme poverty an offering of fowl or meal (<u>Lev. 5:11</u>; <u>Num. 15: 20–21</u>). The offering is not consumed by fire, but is used by the Levitical priesthood as a sacrificial meal. The meat and hide are for their sustenance and use. (<u>Lev. 5:25–</u></p>	<p><u>8</u>; <u>Lev. 15:28–30</u>). The purpose of sin offerings, after true repentance on the part of the parties involved, was to prepare them to receive forgiveness as a part of the renewal of their covenants. (<u>Lev. 4:26, 35</u>; <u>Lev. 5:10</u>; <u>Lev. 10:17</u>; <u>Num. 15:24–29</u>.) This same blessing is possible by partaking of the sacrament today. (JST, Matt. 26:24.)</p>	<p>feasts.</p>
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	<u>30; Lev. 7:7–8; Lev. 14:13.)</u>		
TRESPASS OFFERING (<u>Lev. 5:15–19; Lev. 6:1–7; Lev. 7:1–10</u>)	Ram without blemish (<u>Lev. 5:15, 18; Lev. 6:6; Lev. 19:21</u>). A leper was to offer a lamb (<u>Lev. 14:12</u>), and a Nazarite was also to give a lamb (<u>Num. 6:12</u>).	Trespass offerings were given for offenses committed against others: i.e., false testimony (<u>Lev. 6:2–3</u>), forceful and unlawful possession of property (<u>Lev. 6:4</u>), disrespect for sacred things (<u>Lev. 5:16–17</u>), acts of passion (<u>Lev. 19:20–22</u>). The purpose of the trespass offering was to bring forgiveness. (<u>Lev. 6:7.</u>)	All trespass offerings were private and personal offerings, most commonly given at the times of the appointed feasts.

		<p>This was possible after repentance (<u>Lev. 26:40–45</u>) and after fulfilling the law of restitution that required, where possible, that the guilty individual restore completely the wrong and an additional 20 percent (<u>Lev. 5:16; Lev. 6:5–17; Lev. 27:13, 15, 19, 27, 31; Num. 5:6–10</u>).</p>	
<p>MEAL OR MEAT OFFERING GIFTS (<u>Ex. 29:40–41; Lev. 2; Lev. 6:14–23; Lev. 7:9–</u></p>	<p>An unleavened bread. Few ingredients were permitted with the</p>	<p>This offering completed the sacrificial meal of the burnt and peace offerings. It</p>	<p>This offering was always given with burnt offerings and peace</p>

<u>10;Num. 15:4–24; Num. 28;Num. 29)</u>	<p>basic flour—salt (<u>Lev. 2:13</u>), oil (<u>Lev. 2:5</u>), even incense (<u>Lev. 2:15</u>), but no leavening or honey (<u>Lev. 2:11</u>). However, it could be baked or fried in various ways.</p>	<p>was then given to the priests for their service and sustenance. (<u>Lev. 7:8–10.</u>)</p>	<p>offerings and could even substitute for a sin offering in the stress of poverty. (<u>Num. 15:28;Num. 29.</u>)</p>
<p>HEAVE OFFERING(<u>Ex . 29:26–27; Lev. 7:14, 32–34; Num. 18:19)</u>)</p>	<p>The heave offering is the right shoulder and the wave offering the breast of the peace offering animal given in payment by the offerer</p>	<p>This is the priest’s portion. (<u>Lev. 7:35–36;Deut. 18:1–8.</u>) This memorial offering was a type of peace or thank offering to the Lord, as</p>	<p>See Peace Offering above.</p>

	<p>for the services of the priest. Whatever the Levites received for their priesthood service—heave or wave offering, meat offering, or tithe (<u>Num. 18</u>)—they were required to offer to the Lord in sacrifice a portion as a memorial offering (<u>Lev. 2:2, 9, 16; Lev. 5:12; Lev. 6:15; Num. 5:26; Lev. 18:26–29</u>). “Heave” and “wave”</p>	<p>well as a remembrance of God and service to him. The Levites also received the hides of all the animals sacrificed for their labors and services. (<u>Lev. 7:8</u>.)</p>	
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	refer to gestures of lifting the offerings up and extending them toward the priest who received them on behalf of the Lord.		
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That is overwhelming. We would need to have a large animal farm dedicated to sacrificing if this was to be done today to pay for sins! Whenever a person sinned, depending on the sin, the priest would sacrifice a particular animal to pay the price for that sin by that animal dying a physical death on behalf of the human that deserved to die because of his sin. Now the human would not have to die physically to be born again as a new person. Examine the following scripture:

The wages of sin

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life... in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This scripture is telling you that all the laws were foreshadowing how Jesus would fulfill it. Man deserved death because of sin, but until Jesus would come to accomplish being the final sacrifice for man, God would use

animals to accomplish this under the first covenant.

The nation of Israel had to follow certain instructions from God to be separate from other peoples on the earth and to be his people. If they were obedient and followed the articles outlined in this first covenant, then God's plan to prove himself to the rest of mankind and reconcile them back to him would be effective. God's focus was not to "win so Satan would lose" as much as he simply wanted things to be just as he planned them before the fall. God had his plan of redemption designed long before Lucifer became Satan, God knew how everything could work out since man had the benefit of free will, so his plan of redemption was a contingency plan for when mankind would fall on that fateful day in the garden.

When Moses brought down the covenant written by God on stone tablets from Mount Sinai, and he outlined all the observances and laws to the people, they agreed to abide by them. So the first covenant/law of Moses went into effect, and the "swearing-in ceremony" was complete. God can now work through the newly incorporated nation of Israel. If the people followed the laws carefully, they should exhibit God's image and likeness as opposed to Satan's.

But what of the other people on the earth then? How did they fit under the old covenant given to Israel? Could they too be 'rescued' for God? Those who were not Israelites were called foreigners or Gentiles and God forbade Israel to either marry them, worship their idols, or practice their customs. However, if any of the Gentiles turned their hearts willingly to Israel's God, then they too entered Israel's covenant and must observe the commandments God gave to Moses. Additionally, because God gave Abraham the promise that all nations will be blessed through him, then

anyone who blesses Israel would be blessed by God. That was why God chose the Israelites as his people in the first place, to woo the Gentiles to him.

Read the following article found on www.graceambassadors.com:

The law given to Israel allowed for Gentiles to become a part of the nation Israel through taking circumcision and following the law: “And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Passover to the LORD, LET ALL HIS MALES BE CIRCUMCISED, and then let him come near and keep it; and HE SHALL BE AS ONE THAT IS BORN IN THE LAND: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.” – Exodus 12:48

However, if Gentiles did not proselytize and become a Jew then they could also receive blessing through blessing Israel as was promised in Genesis 12:3

The Promise of a New Covenant

But despite all the benefits that obeying God afforded them, Israel was very unfaithful to God and did not honor the covenant. God called them stiff-necked. Is it any wonder since they did not individually have to turn their willing hearts to God? It is like one day they were told they were God’s children and were blessed because someone else met all the requirements for their status, so they had no skin in the game. And even though animal sacrifices paid the debt owed for their sinful acts, it did not make their hearts grow any closer to God, which was what God wanted more than

anything else, like how it was in the Garden with Adam.

Through Israel's journey, God appointed priests, judges, prophets, and even kings, who represented him to govern Israel. But he never had a direct relationship with the people, though he longed to have that personal connection with them instead of a third-party relationship, and for them to love him as he loved them. Not just them but the whole earth!

So, were laws and sacrifices what God genuinely wanted? No, he wanted someone's heart turned willingly to him to connect boldly with him as friends. Therefore, aside from playing out his ultimate vision of redemption occasionally in the lives of his people in the Old Testament, he finally began to speak of that new and upgraded plan that would offer an equal opportunity to everyone to access him, even if they sinned. The ultimate plan of Salvation!

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

³¹ *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.*

³³ *"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness*

and will remember their sins no more.”

This is a clear call for that newer ultimate covenant that will be written not on stones, but in people’s hearts and that would include EVERYONE. The covenant where God would remember sins no more. But how would that be possible when only sacrificing animal blood removes sin? Seems to me God needed to have a blood reservoir with a dispenser that automatically dispenses blood for him each time someone sinned! Hmmm...

Joel 2:28-29 & 32 (NIV)

The Day of the LORD

²⁸ “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; ...

PART FOUR

Tale of the New Covenant

– CHAPTER SEVEN –

The Birth of the New Covenant

The period for the Old Covenant came to a head after hundreds of years of Israel constantly turning their backs on God and dishonoring his commands. They even prostituted themselves by worshiping the gods of the Gentiles as he forbade them to do. So, God honored the condition in the first covenant agreement that moved them from under his care, provision, and protection, and handed them over to their enemies because they broke that covenant.

Even though God could continue to run to their rescue as he had often done, nothing in that covenant said that God had to enable their bad behaviors. At any time, God could decide it was time to apply consequences to their actions. God had been faithful to them and kept his end of the deal. He performed supernatural miracles for them, gave them inheritances they did not deserve; a land called Canaan flowing with milk and honey as the land he promised to them, and sent prophets and judges to warn and deliver them. But the people were stubborn, and all the old covenant laws

and animal sacrifices could not help their situation. They had the status of God's children but the nature (image and likeness) of Satan's. God had had enough.

God stepped back and the Babylonians destroyed Israel's prized temple King Solomon had built and took all they owned and made them slaves. I believe God's heart was broken. I do not want to suggest he had a mental condition over this, for this is the GOD of the Universe that we are talking about. But if we noted before that he had emotions such as grief and sorrow, what condition would his heart and mental condition be in that he'd take away his Spirit from the affairs of mankind and go silent for 400 years? That is a long time for the earth to exist with God being silent and Satan roaming freely. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob must have contorted themselves in their graves to see what became of the inheritance Isaac was almost slain for, Abraham almost murdered for, and Jacob got a damaged hip for. But as executor of Jacob's will, God still held the title deed to Israel though the people were lost to him. This meant that Satan could not snatch them back, but God could punish them.

Now, after God's four hundred years of silence, the time between Malachi and Matthew known as the Inter Testamental period or the Silent Years, God remembered his promise of a New Covenant, and this time he was coming to earth Himself in the form of a man. He must now finish what Isaac started. It is time to pull out the big gun; JESUS, the second Adam who will embody the spirit of the Son!

Jesus the Sacrificial Lamb

Patterns in the Old Testament pointed to just how this New Covenant would play out. I mentioned two instances, one in

Moses' Tabernacle and the other in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. While there are many other places in the Old Testament where the vision of Jesus as the future redeemer made cameo appearances, I specifically focused on the lives of the three men who tag-teamed to secure Israel for God thus demonstrating the steps to the plan of salvation.

By now we should understand why God's plan of salvation is necessary, and what it requires. Because Satan had inflicted his evil character on mankind and changed their status from God's children to his, God drew from a plan he had designed out of sheer love to win mankind back for Himself. It requires a heart for God and a blood sacrifice, which results in reassigning one's ownership from the Kingdom of Satan/darkness to the Kingdom of God/light.

Despite the Laws in the first covenant given through Moses that stated all the physical things Israel needed to do to be tolerable to God, and because of the state of Israel's heart that caused their demise, and for God's Spirit to leave the earth and be silent for 400 years, we learn that nothing in the Old Covenant was effective in changing anyone's heart, soul, or nature, for good.

All the unscripted actors that God appointed and used effectively in the divine reality series of his plan before Jesus, were people whose hearts were after his righteousness. They were obedient despite their shortcomings to God's commands, and they had a personal relationship with him. Their relationship was worth more than sacrificing animals, it was rooted in love and obedience. They had risked and sacrificed their own lives to carry out God's plan. That is ultimately what God wanted, a willing heart over sacrifices.

Now God was about to make good on his promise to Satan that a woman would give birth to a son that would

crush his head which is his kingdom, God was about to come to the earth Himself as his son. It's time to activate Project #NewCovenant!

Under this new SPIRITUAL covenant, things would be different. It ultimately would be a more simplified and effective version of the old one. God's only blood son Jesus would, in physical death, spiritually fulfill everything the old physical covenant required to fix the problem of, not just Israel, but all of mankind who were lost to God.

Let's go back to Isaac and what he achieved by foreshadowing the future ultimate blood sacrifice of Jesus that was about to take place. Remember, by Isaac not dying as a sacrifice, what that did was to clear out a room in the promise of Abraham's nations for Jesus to later fill and carry out the sacrifice that God did not allow Isaac to complete. God stopped the sacrificing of Isaac by saying, "I am not ready for that sacrifice, it will take place later under an upgraded covenant." God wanted a physical covenant to first play itself out into the lives of Jacob's nation and watch it fall flat to the ground, so it could pave the way for the spiritual covenant to take effect and play itself out into the lives of the 'spiritual nation of Jesus Christ'... Christians, children "called by my name!"

Jesus therefore would meet all the requirements the blood sacrifice required of the first physical covenant, so that he could activate the new spiritual covenant to include the entire world into God's redemption plan, and therefore deactivate the old covenant to upgrade it from being physical to spiritual! The operations of the Kingdom of God have now moved from everything being physical to spiritual! Thus the spiritual children through salvation in Christ can now rightfully enter the blessings of the nations promised to

Abraham, through Abraham's seed (son) Isaac! But Jesus' nation would include all nations and all peoples for salvation, including the Israelites and the Ishmaelites. Because the New spiritual Covenant requires EVERYONE to be reborn through the process of spiritual rebirth which uses Jesus as the sacrifice for sins for the new spiritual covenant of God! Whilst Abraham's promise was a blessing for all peoples, Jesus' promise was REDEMPTION for all peoples!

Now the room in Abraham's nations that God left vacant under Isaac, is about to be filled by Christ. Jesus would finish that sacrifice, repair the bridge that was broken down through the downfall of his former brother Adam, and reconnect man to God into the relationship he enjoyed with Adam before the fall.

And finally, Jesus would take the keys of death from Satan by dying and rising back to life thus conquering the power of physical death by demonstrating physical resurrection (coming alive from dying)! This physical feat opens the door for the spiritual children through salvation to be spiritually raised from the spiritual death caused by their sins to be spiritually resurrected!

Christ changed the outcome of mankind after death. No longer would man's outcome be defined by death but defined by whether a life would be saved before dying. Now once again, Satan would lose another key deed to mankind. And just like that, Jesus would use one stone and kill three birds and secure the title deed to ANY PERSON on the earth who would accept God's advancement of his ultimate plan of salvation through him!

The Plan of Salvation Goes into Effect

Let's now tie everything together, the tabernacles, the laws, and the sacrifices. What becomes of them under the new covenant?

God's son Jesus, willingly died as a sacrifice and activated the New Covenant spoken of through the prophets Jeremiah and Joel. And this activation was marked by something remarkable happening in the magnificent temple King Herod restored which was the pride and joy of Israel. After the silent four hundred years, the temple was restored before Jesus' birth and it maintained the same design plan as Moses' tabernacle including the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Sanctuary, keeping everyone except the High Priest away from God's presence.

But the minute Christ took his last breath on the cross, an earthquake shook the earth and that temple's curtain physically ripped in two. This is incredibly significant; in that, it meant that the barrier between mankind and God was torn away and now every 'rescued' person had an equal opportunity to go directly as PRIESTS into the presence of God with NO barrier! Because if the physical temple required only priests to enter the sacred space of God, you can bet it is still the same principle under the spiritual covenant. If we are to spiritually enter God's throne boldly into his secret chamber, then we are spiritual priests with Jesus as our High Priest!

But... what about our sins? Isn't Satan still running loose enticing people to sin? And since sin is detestable to God; how could we now enter the sacred presence of God as priests, when once we couldn't without sacrificing an animal? Well, that's very simple.

Jesus' bloody death was the ultimate one-time blood

sacrifice finally made, the body that would die the death you and I deserve to die because of our sins. Jesus who was unblemished from sin became that unblemished LAMB required for the sacrificing for sin, over the RAM Abraham had sacrificed instead of Isaac to foreshadow Jesus' sacrifice.

Jesus' sacrifice replaced the need for animal sacrifice. Animal sacrifice for sins is now REDUNDANT. No longer necessary. No longer required of anyone. All anyone had to do was to truthfully acknowledge that they needed to be saved as a sinner, that Jesus was God's one true son sent to be a sacrifice for us and ask for forgiveness to be rescued from Satan and be reborn spiritually. In other words, you had to acknowledge who was the sacrifice under the New Covenant and affirm that that sacrifice would cover your sins to be 'rescued'/saved.

Jesus' life was taken to redeem someone deserving of death. You and me. He died a physical death as a physical animal dies in a sacrifice so that now we can be reborn spiritually. He did all the heavy lifting for us. Now if we falter by the wayside, God will remember the sacrifice his son made for that sin, and it would be forgiven, and our slate wiped clean every single time! And just like that Jesus provided the automatic blood dispenser I spoke of! No more animals would need to die for sins and no more humans either.

As for the ineffective physical laws under the Old Covenant. Jesus' death made the observances that were once physical duties become spiritual freedom. Let us briefly observe a few of them before we elaborate on them later:

1. Tithing. Giving a tenth of their earnings to the priests in the temple.

The word of God in 2 Cor. 9:6-8 states that no man

should compel you as to how much you should give to God's Kingdom. Rather, give what you want to give, but know that if you give much you reap much, but if you give little you reap little. As well, no longer is one required to give out of duty but out of joy. Because God loves a cheerful giver.

2. Circumcision. Male children had to remove a piece of flesh from an organ used to bring life.

This is no longer about removing physical flesh from what would spew life. Instead, everyone is required to circumcise their hearts by willingly submitting them to God and spiritually killing their fleshly immoral nature. This leads to a renewed and transformed life.

3. Sabbath Day. Resting on Saturdays from work, eating no meat, and worshiping God.

No longer are we required to set aside one day of rest and worship. Our bodies now become the temple where God lives, and if he lives there, then we are not allowed days when we can sin and days when we cannot. Days when we can worship and days we do not have to. We are now called to worship God 7 days a week, 24 hours all day all year round. And in Christ, we gain our spiritual rest.

4. Abstain from eating certain meats from animals.

The Kingdom of God was never about what you ate or drank, so this law does nothing to bring us either closer or farther from God. Jesus said it is not what goes in through the mouth that defiles our bodies, but what comes out of our mouths like our words that speak from our hearts/souls.

5. The 10 commandments. Instructions that would govern how the people would show regard for God, each other, and each other's possessions.

The 10 commandments given are now simplified to 2 commandments. Love the Lord your God and no other and love your neighbor as yourself. All the 10 commandments fall under these two, because if you love God and no other, then you will not have idols or other gods to worship. And if you love your neighbor as you love yourself, then you would not covet, steal, kill or do anything to harm them.

God now bases the new commandments on LOVE rather than duty!

In other words, as previously stated. The old physical covenant and laws are now required to be observed SPIRITUALLY! It is that simple!

Jesus, the Only Way to God

As prior stated, Jesus' death repaired the bridge back to God, and now we can CHOOSE to accept Jesus and walk across it to God. Other religions offer alternative pathways to God through other people, but as we have learned, the only way to get to God is by meeting the conditions through his ultimate plan of salvation, and Jesus is the only one on earth who is qualified to become that door, gate, or bridge to God. He is the only way and no other. Unlike the first covenant that was designed for Jacob's descendants, the nation of Israel, this new covenant was designed to bring not only Israel, but the rest of the Gentile world to share in the one plan of salvation. Now the earth can finally be saved

through... ONE MAN!

John 14:6 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:1,2,7-10,14-15 (NIV)

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

¹ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

There is no room in Abraham's 'house' or God's plan for any other person to offer an alternative route to God outside of Jesus. Period! Jesus is not sharing his spiritual descendants with those of Jacob and Ishmael either. He is the one legitimate blood son of God, so he is super-imposed over, and trumps any other relationship God has with anyone else, and relinquishes any prior arrangement such as the Old

Covenant. Now every human being including the descendants of Ishmael and Israel will have to acknowledge Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice and come under this New spiritual Covenant to be saved! God said there is only one way to him, one bridge, one gate, and one door. Now the Ishmaelites, the Israelites, and the rest of the earth will have to become spiritually reborn into the New Covenant via Jesus Christ! Even though Israel is God's firstborn by adoption, they too must become spiritually redeemed through God's son Jesus, and have their status changed from the children of Israel to the Children of God! Here Paul speaks of Israel's need for salvation.

Romans 10:1-4 (NIV)

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

If this is true, then it means the old covenant has EXPIRED! After all, Israel had broken it, so it is no longer binding. Let's make an important observation and statement. It would appear based on what you've read so far of the different steps God took to bring mankind back into union with him, that it seems as if he didn't know what he was doing and 'tried' things this way or that, and it all failed. It is not that God didn't know what would happen, HE DID KNOW! This

master plan was foreshadowed countless times in the Old Testament. God knew that in the end, he would get to pull out the big gun (Jesus), so why didn't he just skip all that and go straight to Jesus? Because even though he had the perfect plan, it first had to be played out in the lives of mortal humans using their free will and exhaust every other attempt man could make to be reconnected to God before he took the ultimate and final approach.

God allowed his physical plan of rules and laws to play itself out for many generations over thousands of years on the earth, to prove to man those physical laws no matter over what period or through whichever generation, could never accomplish what spiritual laws can achieve. He had to work his perfect plan through our imperfections. He continues to do that to this day.

Note this. God's supernatural law states that anything physical was birthed out of something that was first spiritual. In other words, the physical is always a manifestation of something that first existed as being spiritual, because only the spiritual things are eternal, while the physical things are temporary and perishable. This means that a physical covenant that is temporary and extinguishable, resulted from a spiritual and eternal one. And for the spiritual covenant to be introduced to mortal mankind on the earth, the physical one must first be executed to exhaustion. That is why God stopped Isaac from being sacrificed because God was not yet ready for the spiritual covenant, and Isaac, even though he was a spiritual firstborn son to God, did not meet the qualifications as God's legitimate natural firstborn blood son, and a sinless man.

This makes me feel so valuable to God, that he allows me to use my free will, but still orchestrates things around

me to nudge or woo me to him. It is like using the white ball on the pool table to manipulate the other balls strategically to eventually get the 8-ball home!

God is a Spirit... in the New Covenant context

By now you may have grasped the differences between the New vs the Old Covenants, and the physical versus the spiritual. And that because of Jesus' death, we today are saved not by laws, but by GRACE, which is the redeeming work of Christ's death that God graciously affords us even though we did nothing to deserve such a good thing. Adding to that, we now need to comprehend what the scriptures mean in the context of God as a Spirit and tie that into why the spiritual laws in the New Covenant are all that was ever needed, and man was about to find out.

John 4:24 (NIV)

²⁴“For God is a SPIRIT, and those who worship him, MUST worship him in SPIRIT and in TRUTH”

The kingdom of God MUST NEVER be limited to earthly physical observances such as what you consume by eating, circumcision, what days you choose to worship... etc. As you read prior, such physical things were merely hinting at the things that were SPIRITUAL and TRUTH that first existed and were to come through Christ. The physical arrangement was a feeble attempt to bring humans into the divine worship (connection) experience with God. Humans limited by their mortality.

Those physical requirements of man's worship of God proved nothing other than that they COULD NOT

accomplish what God required as true worship. Which in essence... is SPIRITUAL worship. It FAILED to bring immoral mortal mankind into true connection with a spiritual God. Can we at least agree with that at this point?

The Old laws were physical requirements; touch not, do not, and taste not. And NONE OF THAT meant anything to God. It however meant everything to man because of their mortal limitation. I guarantee you that the new SPIRITUAL covenant asks way more of you than the old PHYSICAL covenant did. It asks for your soul instead of your body, relationship instead of rules, love instead of duty, and obedience instead of sacrifice. The New Covenant means spiritual worship from humans of a SPIRITual God... on a SPIRITual level! This is where God will enable us to reconnect with him spiritually through our human spirits that will finally again be made alive through Christ Jesus because Jesus is successful where Adam failed!

The fact is that the old and ineffective covenant became an exhausted and redundant thing of the past. But it made way for a New Covenant which will never be replaced by another because what is spiritual is eternal and the New Covenant is spiritual and activated by Jesus. And it will last forever. God waited to prove that the Old Covenant could not bring mankind's heart close to his. Remember, he created us because he wanted to love on us and have that love reciprocated, straight from the position of his spirit of the Son persona! See how compatible we as humans are with God? God desires us and we need him! He designed it that way.

Additionally, and more importantly, the Old Covenant was never established with anyone but God's firstborn children the nation of Israel through Jacob. It was an

agreement he drew up to define their relationship with him. It was established because of ‘the fall!’ That covenant was never forged with any of the other nation groups through Abraham. Ishmael’s descendants did not come under it, nor would Jesus’ nation be expected to. Israel is lost today because that covenant was broken. But prior under that old covenant anyone on the earth who accepted God through his work through Israel, they would come under that first covenant and be rescued from Satan. But when Jesus would later come with the newer model of that same covenant, things would be different then. And his nation called by his name (Christians), under the new covenant would take centerstage and it would be their turn to woo the rest of the world including Israel to God, while Israel is today fumbling around in the darkness and disobedience. Remember, God purposely did not create a direct nation for Isaac to establish a covenant with, because later a spiritual nation would come through a better covenant, the NEW ONE! Established through Love, which is called GRACE!

I, therefore, submit, that after Jesus accomplished what he did, he nullified the Old Covenant not by taking it away though, but by simply upgrading it so that mankind could relate to God on a higher spiritual level. It’s time to become unshackled from the yoke and the curse of the old law and come into GRACE which is spiritual freedom through Christ. After all, God is a Spirit, and we need to meet him at that level once again. Spirit to spirit. Sons to Father.

– CHAPTER EIGHT –

Disputes over Grace vs Law within the Church

Now that we have covered the difference between both covenants and that the old has gone and things are now new. You can imagine that this topic is a heated debate among Christians of different denominations today. But this confusion did not begin in our present times, it started right after Jesus' disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit in that upstairs room on that day of Pentecost (the 50th day after Jesus was resurrected), and the day they observed the Feast of Weeks. The disciples, who later would be known as Apostles because they would begin managing the Nation of Christ (Christians) among the new converts, began this new journey into the Messianic Age in total confusion as to what exactly this new covenant and salvation through Jesus Christ should look like.

After all, they were Jews who knew nothing but the old laws. Now that Jesus came and died, they asked themselves much like Christians do today, exactly what that meant for them, what has changed, and what of the old covenant?

Based on the book titled “The Tabernacle of David” by Kevin J. Conner, he wrote of how the Apostles disputed amongst themselves because many Jews and Gentiles began accepting salvation through Christ and were baptized, and they had to determine if these new converts were to observe the old covenant. Conner wrote of this debate like the Apostles holding the Supreme Court of today in Acts 15, each presenting their argument on Grace vs Law. Eventually, the argument was settled after the Apostle James referenced two tabernacles that ran synonymously; the Tabernacle of Moses which focused on Moses’ laws, and the Tabernacle of David which focused on the love of God, and how in Amos 9:11 God promised to rebuild David’s Tabernacle that was fallen so the rest of mankind would willingly seek God including the Gentiles who would bear his name (Christians). Therefore, they determined that all converts in Christ, including themselves, should no longer observe the old covenant, because that covenant was no longer in effect.

Christians today are not aware of that court session between the Apostles that ruled in favor of grace over law. And so today, that confusion continues. Today, if you subscribe to the concept of Grace over the law, you would be among one half of the church that agrees with you, while still the other half do not, and you are labeled an ‘antinomian’. Antinomianism is the belief that one is released from laws through Jesus Christ by way of Grace. Others believe otherwise and that creates a conflict of interest. Because the reason Jesus had to die, was to fulfill those laws SPIRITUALLY so man no longer had to follow them physically.

Cross-contamination of Law and Grace

Today, because Christians are ignorant of knowing the difference between Grace versus Law, they are in the habit of practicing both, and I call that an unhealthy ‘cross (pun intended) contamination’, and the scriptures forbid this practice. We simply cannot pick out what we want to observe and reject others like we were at a dinner buffet. Read the following scripture.

Galatians 2:11-16 (NIV)

Paul Opposes Cephas

¹¹ *When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.* ¹² *For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.* ¹³ *The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.*

¹⁴ *When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”*

¹⁵ *“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles* ¹⁶ *know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in^[d] Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*

Paul confirms you cannot force ‘Gentiles’ (people who are not Jews or Israelites) to follow Jewish rules. And that even as a Jew, he knows that mankind cannot be justified (saved and made righteous) by the WORKS of the Law, but rather by FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE!

Galatians 5:1-8 (NIV)

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Paul uses the law of circumcision to demonstrate that if you choose today to practice any of the laws, by the rules outlined in the same law, you will have to practice them ALL.

Christians today select the laws they want to observe. Some choose to pay tithes but eat pork, and neither do they observe the Sabbath day (Saturday) but worship on a Sunday instead. While some worship the Sabbath and do not eat meat, while they are not sacrificing animals for blood to cleanse sins. The same law that requires you to pay tithes

also forbids you from eating certain meats such as pork. So how come some are doing both? Isn't that conflicting? Which covenant are they under? How can we claim to have freedom in Christ and still place ourselves under the bondage of Moses' laws? We cannot be under both covenants; we must choose either the one given through Christ or the one given through Moses. And of Moses and Christ, who whom you believe carries more authority? That is why I call that 'cross-contamination!'

Paul clearly states that you cannot practice the old law and accept Grace simultaneously and observing any of the old laws meant Jesus is of no value to you. It is why Isaac was not given a nation because God did not want two different covenants running simultaneously.

Freedom From Human Rules (Old Laws)

Colossians 2:16-22 (NIV)

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

²⁰Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still

belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:²¹ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²²These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.

No one has the authority to accuse you wrongfully if you subscribe to Antinomianism.

Resolving the Grace vs Law Dispute

Now, after having this knowledge and the awareness that some of our spiritual siblings do cross-contaminate Grace with Laws, how should we treat them? Should we be in dispute over these matters even though we are correct as scripture states?

The answer to that is a resounding NO! The Apostle Paul suggests that we not use this freedom we now have in Christ called grace and truth as a weapon to beat our siblings in Christ over their heads into submission. We are to show love, and even pull back whenever necessary from exercising this ‘freedom’ if it will cause our spiritual siblings or anyone to stumble spiritually because of their ‘weaker’ faith. What? Did Paul really say their faiths are weak?

Romans 14:1-21 (NIV)

The Weak and the Strong

¹*Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ²One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who*

does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.¹¹ It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹²So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.¹⁴ I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then

for that person it is unclean. ¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. ²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Grace represents FREEDOM from rules and laws, and the FREEDOM to use your own free will to commit your soul to the worship and service of God, without anyone compelling you.

If someone followed the demands of someone else to show them loyalty, while another made up their mind that someone did something great for them and so out of their own free will they choose to become devoted to that person? Which do you feel is the better relationship? That is the

difference between Grace; the New Covenant, and Laws; the Old Covenant. Grace is what God wanted all along, it was the benefits of grace that he first enjoyed with Adam before he fell into the sinful image and likeness of Satan. And God saved the best for last and extended it to ANYONE interested!

By not acknowledging the key to what the scripture below is saying, then we who are the people of God have neglected to unwrap a key portion of the inheritance Jesus left to us that enables us to move in power and authority, and so we stumble over old physical laws that do NOTHING for our identity in Christ. When we do not know our true identities as born-again redeemed Christians, we are ineffective in our faith and live less-than lives... even though we think we have it made. Examine the scripture below.

Priests and Tithing

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV)

⁴As you come to him (Yeshuah), the living Stone rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy PRIESTHOOD, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Remember I stated earlier that we are all spiritual priests that access the secret chamber of God that was once screened off to us? In the above scripture we just learned that as the priest Aaron of the Old Testament who performed the sacrifices for the people's sins in the temple, WE who are called by faith through Jesus Christ are now priests like Aaron... ALL OF US WHO ARE SAVED! And now as priests, we offer

sacrifices, not of the blood of animals, but spiritual sacrifices of our hearts, our minds, and our bodies to God. And now we can enter God's presence boldly without reservation or hindrance because we are now God's modern-day PRIESTS. And as if that is not enough, there is no longer a physical temple building made up of stones, but we are now all being used to build up the spiritual Kingdom of God and are the stones that build that Kingdom! And rightly so, because remember, we are now under a spiritual covenant and no longer a physical one!

Acts 17:24 (NIV)

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

I interpreted this scripture using the Hillel Rabbinic principle of Kal Vachomer, and by applying this principle, it has shed a light on where such heated topics such as TITHING fall in the New Testament. By this principle and what the scripture in 1 Peter 2:4-5 above states, the old covenant tithing along with all the other laws in their old testament's physical sense does not fit into our spiritual lives today, but in its spiritual sense, IT DOES! Why did I link tithing to this principle? Because in the Old Testament, tithes were paid to priests for their work in the temple's upkeep. Stay with me here, I am about to land this tithing plane.

God is not after your 10% anymore, he would much rather have your 100%. EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ALREADY BELONGS TO GOD! If you accepted the FREE GIFT of salvation that he gave you then why should you be paying anything for what you received as free? Therefore, what you DO NOT owe God is a physical tithing of 10% but a spiritual tithing of 100%! This means you are to give to him your whole life, your three-part being... ALL OF YOU, all you own, and all that concerns you! And now you must gladly with joy use ALL THAT as his modern-day priests to somehow build up and maintain the spiritual Kingdom of God, supporting it by any means be it via your time, finances, spiritual gifting, and/or your talents.

What God requires from us today as spiritual tithing, is way more than what was required in the old law as physical tithing. This is so profound since spiritual tithing is not just a percentage of what you earn as money. If anything, you will find that simply peeling off just ten percent of your physical income is easier and more convenient for you than tithing spiritually. Again, Jesus did not abolish the old laws he fulfilled them by giving them spiritual meaning! We must now live by our spirits and not by our fleshly bodies. And since God is a spirit, then we must worship him truthfully in spirit. Therefore, by the Kal Vachomer principle of translating scriptures, if the latter statement is true, then how much more is it true that every law in the Old Testament including tithing must be observed by us today as Christians from a spiritual position ONLY and not in its physical form. There, I landed that plane. Now on to other matters.

The New Covenant Sabbath's Rest
Colossians 2:16 (NIV)

¹⁶"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day."

This topic is not leveled against my 7th Day Adventist siblings or anyone who choose to observe the Shavat (Sabbath) in its traditional sense. God knows I have gotten myself into a lot of heated debates with Sabbath-keepers once I express my position against observing this law physically. However, I must be mindful that if they truly do this as unto God as Romans 14 states, then God indeed receives their worship based on that level of their faith and I do not have the right to discount their choice. But on the other hand, that same scripture went on to state:

Romans 14:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

It is with that unction of the Apostle Paul, that I am writing this topic to bring awareness and meaning to those of us who wish to observe the Shavat (Sabbath) in its spiritual sense, to understand its true spiritual meaning, and with the hope of inviting others to do the same.

The English word Sabbath is the Hebrew word SHABBAT/SHAVAT from the root Shin-Beit-Tav which means "to cease, to end, to REST." Now let us reference creation.

God created the earth in 6 days FOR MANKIND by creating everything they would need to exist, he provided for them, and then he ‘rested’ on the 7th day and blessed it. Now REST in the Hebraic context, did not mean God was tired and needed to rest his weary bones. It meant that God looked over all he created for man and called it good and complete. It was so perfect it did not need further tweaking, and everything that ever needed to be created was created. God’s creating days were over! ‘Rest’ here means "Completed, cease all work, no additional work needed!" Could this also be a physical foreshadowing of Jesus’s spiritual accomplishment when while stretched out on his cross he said “It is finished” right before he died? You bet it does!

Later, in the book of Exodus in chapter 20, God asked Israel, his people, to observe the Sabbath Day as a Holy Day when they would rest from work. ‘Rest’ in this context means a man will work for 6 days to provide for themselves and then would rest physically from working on the 7th day. Remember, the relationship between Israel and God through the old covenant was a physical one. This physical rest on this one day was a symbolic demonstration of Israel acknowledging that God alone was their provider, so they did not need to work to provide for themselves every day. They were to take one day off from physical work and not to think or do anything for themselves so they could focus their minds on God, giving him their time, showing him reverence, and worshipping.

As stated before, nothing in the physical laws worked because the people still sinned so badly that it caused God to remove his spirit from the earth, ceased all interactions with humanity, and became silent for FOUR HUNDRED YEARS! When God broke that silent treatment was when he

was getting ready to send Jesus under the newly promised covenant to the earth.

Since this covenant means all the old laws are spiritual, then the practice of man working six days and then resting on the seventh day like all the other laws now loses its physical requirement and instead means something spiritual.

Jesus said, "I am the LORD OF THE SABBATH," and he was not wasting words. This meant something significant. Because in Jesus Christ you find perfect spiritual REST (Shabbat) all day, 7 days per week, and 365 days of the year. Like spiritual tithing, it is giving God your all and not what you were compelled by the law to do. Jesus said come to me and I will give you REST (Shabbat!) and to take up his yoke instead. What he meant was through him, not only will you find eternal rest from your woes and burdens, but eternal REST from CEASING to observe the physical works (that was a burdened yoke) of the old laws! You simply cannot observe the laws as anything else but spiritual today, stop all that work and rest from it! This is what Jesus was saying he did for you! That is why he said his yoke is easy and his burden is light!

Therefore, when Jesus said "It is FINISHED" on the cross before he died, he was saying all the physical work required in the old law must cease! With his blood, he wrote a blank check to pay off in full all the debts that our present or future sins would incur. That is what it means when it is said that our debts have been paid. And no one will ever have to come and do what Jesus did ever again. No other means for salvation exists, and no other Messiah will ever need to die. Jesus did it all. It is finished. Now the physical works of the old covenant gave way for the spiritual laws to come into effect, and then the curtain in the temple was

ripped in two to signify that Jesus removed what was blocking *man* from God in every single way!

Consider this. The first man Adam WAS NOT REQUIRED to observe a Sabbath Day. Before he sinned, Adam was in perfect will and rest (Shabbat) with God and God provided for him and his family daily. Yet Adam was busy working his tail off every day, naming animals, and managing the upkeep of the temple garden in Eden. Still, God never asked him to rest on any given day or to pay a tithe. What Adam was experiencing with God before the fall was this same spiritual covenant. He enjoyed spiritual Shavat (rest) while he focused on his intimate relationship with God that he freely enjoyed without compulsion, so God took care of and provided for his needs and desires as he promised. Adam, much like the lilies of the fields who do not toil, or the sparrow God has his eye on, did not have to worry about anything, God had his back. This is why one of the curses God declared after the fall was “By the sweat of his brow will man eat bread”, which meant that because of the fall, Adam and Eve broke the spiritual covenant that they first practiced in the garden and lost all its benefits and fell under all the curses that they brought on themselves, so mankind must now work physically to provide for himself because they lost the privilege of God doing that for them. That is one reason why God could not restore Adam and Eve to their spiritual position in him after they sinned, because they broke the SPIRITUAL COVENANT when they fell into sin.

The call for Israel under the old covenant to observe a Sabbath day is also because of the fall. But since Jesus brought about the new spiritual covenant, observing the Sabbath Day in its physical form no longer applies to anyone including the Jews, and certainly not the Gentiles. If

anything, the Jews accused Christ of not observing the Sabbath day as they knew it! After all, HE IS THE SABBATH! They missed that boat altogether.

The true meaning of the Sabbath... UNDER THE NEW COVENANT means no matter what we achieve as Christians, even if we raised the dead, speak in many tongues, heal the sick... etc. if we never open our hearts to Christ, we are nothing! The Bible says he stands at the door and knocks, and if anyone hears, let them open their hearts and let him in. But why would he do that? Because since the new covenant, the physical temple is gone, and God says our bodies must now become the new spiritual temple. No longer are we commanded to go into a building to worship God as they did in the old covenant... on a Saturday... for 12 hours. No, God ASKS OUR PERMISSION to come down and enter our bodily temples, not just to hang out for a 12-hour worship session and leave, but to live in us forever! How awesome is that?

Yet many, including Christians, have yet to open the door of their temple hearts to him. Jesus is knocking his knuckles off and they still have not answered him. They are busy running out to a building to meet him once a week, they do not think they can find him anywhere else but their church buildings. And when they leave the building, he is locked in there until next week. While Jesus is knocking at their hearts and no answer. They have a special seat in their church where they sit every Sunday/Saturday, yet Jesus has no special seat or place in their hearts. They treat their church building with more reverence than their bodies; Don't eat in there, don't curse in there, don't sin in there. But with their bodies (temples) they lie, steal, covet, and fornicate. God does not live in church buildings; he desires to live in

your heart via your spirit!

Many religions spend a lot of money setting up beautiful buildings/temples for people to go in and worship. Jesus spent grueling moments to death to break that mindset. When he came to earth, he never built a building and asked people to come to him. He did not even use the temple there. Instead, he went to where the people were and met their individual and spiritual needs! Remember how he said he would destroy the temple and raise it again in 3 days? That made Israel angry, destroy the beautiful temple that King Solomon built and that King Herod renovated? But that was not what he meant. He was using spiritual language and calling his body the temple, not the building! Because after his death, the temples in the new covenant will not be buildings but our bodies for God's Holy Spirit to live in us!

Jesus says at the time of judgment, many will come saying how they have healed the sick and raised the dead, but he will say "Away from me, I KNEW you not". What does that mean? Can Christ not KNOW someone whom his father created? Doesn't God know EVERYONE? The answer is yes! But the focus is on the phrase "I KNEW YOU NOT". It means that even though you can do all the 'religious works', - and you can do them as there is power in the name of Jesus and not in the one using his name. For Christ to KNOW you, you need to have a personal relationship with him by opening the temple door of your heart to him and allowing him to enter and change your sinful nature. At the end of it all, God wants a personal relationship with you under the new covenant. Not the old one that commanded you to. But the new one that says I am leaving it to your free will to let me in. It is your choice.

Remember, a true relationship is what God desires and

why we were created! It was built into his spiritual DNA via the embodiment of the spirit of a Son, the need to be extended to and to nurture others. God wants to enjoy us individually as he did with Adam in the garden paradise.

It is important to have church buildings today. The apostle Paul recommends that Christians should still meet with each other for building up and supporting each other. But REAL CHURCH happens in that one-on-one intimate time with God, every single day. You are constantly aware that he is IN YOU, and not far away above the clouds. Where you talk with him and hear him talk back to you.

Sadly, many Christians have never heard the voice of God talk to them, they don't enjoy a personal relationship with him that allows him to address issues in their character and change the sinful nature they were born with that became a hardened crust over time. Where you fall but allow him to help you back up each time, where you start putting aside the sin that weighs you down so you can run the race set before you! That is a personal relationship! You begin to love and want to please him and become more like him. And become less burdened with sin as work in you progresses each day. And only then you will find complete wholistic organic spiritual Shabbat!

That is the true meaning of the Sabbath under the new covenant. It's not about taking a day off from work to worship for 12 hours and calling it rest. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, and he gives you eternal rest. He says rest is not found on a Sabbath Day but in our Sabbath Lord! He made that possible when he died. When an earthquake shook the foundation of the physical temple it symbolized that God's Spirit was done with buildings and wants to live inside YOU instead. Answer his knock and open the door to your heart so

Jesus can lift all your burdens and your cares so that you can find your Sabbath's rest.

So which Sabbath do you think would make God happy? The one where you rest by taking a day off from work? Or the one where you are in spiritual rest 7 days a week, and 24 hours of each day? Don't rest physically for a day, rest spiritually for a lifetime!

If you choose to meet God daily over once a week, do you think he would turn you away? Seriously think about it!

– CHAPTER NINE –

The Sinner's Prayer for Salvation

On the heels of the previous chapters presented on the need for salvation, it is time to address how one acquires that salvation and enters the new covenant. Believe me, many different methods are floating around even in Christianity on how one achieves this status, and I do not see why there should be so many different roads to grace when there is just one way. Why Christians make the gospel so complicated by adding their layer of man-made rules over its simple yet profound process, is beyond me.

This research focuses on what about Jesus' death that saves, so I will not elaborate on evangelizing here. The previous pages were about evangelism as they answer the question regarding the need for salvation. However, no argument on God's plan of salvation can be complete without an invitation to this salvation. That is my focus here. And unlike Christians who try to complicate the simple

procedure, I want to peel away all the confusing layers and present the key that invites one to salvation in its simplest and purest sense.

If you accepted salvation through Christ, whatever process you took to get there, reading this could explain exactly how and why you came to take that step. If today you are not saved by grace, then you could know what you needed to do to acquire salvation. And how easy it is!

The process of becoming saved should not take you as long as sitting on a front-row seat in your church for months, weeks, or days in a white outfit along with other candidates until your Pastor determines you are ready to get baptized. Rather, it takes as long as it will take you to say a simple and short prayer meaningfully. That is it. And then you would be saved. After which you must seek to be a part of the family of believers who should mentor you into becoming a disciple (one who follows Jesus and shares the gospel). Then be baptized in water, which is your symbolic gesture to show the world that you have crossed over from spiritual death to spiritual life and are “born anew” or “born again”. It is NOT the baptism that grants you salvation, it is a declaration that you speak from something you genuinely believe. Look at the following scripture that confirms that.

Assurance of salvation

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

*⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.***

So, while I am not here to debate how different denominations orchestrate the process to enter salvation and whose process is wrong or right, I simply want to present the legitimacy behind that declaration ... popularly known as “The prayer of salvation” or as many also call it “The sinner’s prayer”.

While I was taking a class on the Hebraic Translation of Scriptures, my professor gave an assignment on popular scriptures in The Bible that Christians often misinterpret, and as a result, the scripture loses its true meaning. He presented two of those scriptures and we were to write a paper on how they were misinterpreted, and then give their true interpretation. One of those scriptures was Matthew 16:19 when it spoke of whatever we bound or loose in heaven will be bound and loosed in the earth.

That scripture on its own has little to do with what I am presenting here, but here’s the thing. I learned in those Hebrew classes that to correctly translate any scripture, you had to read its full chapter, and if necessary, the whole book, or as far back as you can trace information that would determine the correct context that scripture was written in to get its true meaning. I did that. And while doing that, it did not take me long before I hit upon a golden nugget in the same chapter of Matthew 16 that was an “Aha!” moment for me. It blew my mind wide open when I came across it, and what I found had nothing to do with what I needed to present for my class project, instead, I uncovered the origin of “The

prayer of Salvation!” modeled right there in that chapter.

No matter how many layers the body of Christ places over the simple process to salvation, we know all roads lead to meaningfully praying a “Prayer of salvation.” But how many of us knew that prayer was modeled in The Bible? And that Jesus immediately chose to use that instance as the benchmark process that future candidates for salvation must follow to acquire it. Here is what I found while having to dissect the whole chapter of Matthew 16. I noticed an interesting thing happening. Please read the following verses, and pay close attention to words underlined for emphasis:

Matthew 16:13-19 (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³ *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

¹⁴ *They [all the disciples] replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

¹⁵ *“But what about you [the disciples]?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

¹⁷ *Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock [the firm hard foundation of who Jesus is] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you*

bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

To unpack this, Jesus was having a conversation with his disciples, first, he asked them all, who do PEOPLE say [He] the "son of man" is? They named various biblical persons such as John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah because the people at that time did not have the revelation that Jesus is indeed the son of God. But Jesus, not interested in what everyone else had to say about him, went on to ask his disciples "but who do YOU (my followers) say that I am?" And ONLY PETER responded, "You are the Messiah (Savior), the son of God".

Of all the disciples, Peter was the only one that received the revelation of who Jesus truly was and declared it out loud at that moment! It is interesting to me that after Peter declared the deity of Jesus Christ, Jesus then said to Peter "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven..." Remember, it is God who draws men unto himself and reveals Christ to them and not something we come into on our own. And this goes right back to the Holy Trinity's components of the spirit of the Father and the spirit of the Son at work here. To recognize Jesus as the son of God even in his human form, you must first acknowledge his spiritual embodiment as the Holy Trinity's component of the spirit of a Son.

But here's the clincher, Jesus then proceeds in verse 19 still speaking to Peter he said "I WILL give you (Peter) the keys of the kingdom of heaven (not I am giving you now, but I WILL, for Jesus was not yet dead and risen), and whatever

you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” What just happened here?

Could this be the model for the ‘prayer of salvation’ we use today? Like Peter’s response, we ask God into our hearts by declaring he is the son of God, the promised Messiah who dies to redeem our sins. Peter’s verbal acknowledgment that Jesus is the promised Messiah and God’s son was Peter modeling that prayer we pray today!

To affirm this, Jesus went on to tell Peter that “upon this ROCK I will build my church”! This is another scripture that is severely misinterpreted as many think it to mean that Jesus was calling Peter the rock that he will build his church on, how misguided? How can Christ who is the rock build his church on any human being? The rock that Jesus speaks of here, means that the church will be built on top of the verbal acknowledgment of Jesus’ deity as the promised Messiah of salvation and Peter demonstrated that in his declaration. That declaration now becomes the ‘initiation ceremony’ of Christianity! Now for anyone to be saved they must speak that declaration and come into agreement with it. And that is the firm solid foundation that the Christian faith is built on, Jesus’ deity, the one that saves... the rock!

The thing is, many Christians are unaware of what happens after one says that prayer and becomes saved as Christians. This is where we miss out because something magnificent occurs in the spirit realm right after this prayer. Remember, our human spirits that have been dead and disconnected from God since the fall when Adam’s spirit died and caused all of mankind’s spirits to be dead to God, now instantly come alive after that declaration!

Like Peter, we too become eligible to receive the gift of salvation and the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven given by the key holder Jesus! These keys unlock the doors to the powers and mysteries of the spiritual Kingdom we are now a part of. These keys enable our once dead human spirits to come alive through Christ the key-giver and we now have direct access to our Heavenly Father in his spiritual realm, right where he wants us!

We now can be used as a portal between both the spiritual Kingdom and the earthly realm via our human spirit. We can now create heavenly cultural environments on the earth by using the resources of the spiritual kingdom to permit or forbid things in the earthly dimension by binding (stopping/forbid) and loosing (allowing/permitting) because everything is already set up in the Kingdom of heaven waiting to be accessed if we knew we were to use those keys to unlock the door to get to them. This corresponds with Jesus' prayer of letting God's Kingdom come on the earth as it is set up in heaven! This is how that happens.

But let's dive deeper because every section of this passage of scripture has profound meaning. Remember the questions Jesus asked, "Who do men say that I am?" followed by "Who do you (disciples) say that I am?" In so doing, Jesus was pulling out responses that would categorize three types of people's spirituality who claim to believe in God today by asking both questions. Here's that breakdown.

The response to the first question where they referred to Jesus as simply a reincarnation of other biblical figures, represents the people who have a head knowledge of God but lack divine wisdom and revelation of Christ, or "having a form of Godliness but denying its power" source. These

people have not received the gift of salvation and believe that simply hearing of Jesus or living a good life that checks off many items on God's 'good works' to-do list will get them to God. This belief system certainly does not stop them from accepting alternative routes (religion or spirituality) to God as they feel that one does not necessarily need to go through Christ. These are the ones who avoid God's front door (Jesus) and break in like thieves through back doors and windows to illegally get to him, only to be evicted for trespassing. These people are not saved and are dead in their spirit to God. However, many in this condition may have very well found that their spirits are alive by another source of power, as they connect their spirits to the evil realms of the spirit world and utilize Satan's counterfeited and evil powers in their lives and think very highly of their so-called 'enlightened' spirituality.

Remember, our human spirit cannot just access God and his angels, it can access the spirit world in general where even the Devil and his angels live. The door to the devil and his angels has been opened for you from birth since you were born a sinner. You must choose which connection you will use, either you remain plugged up to darkness or obtain salvation so you can close the door to Satan and unlock the door to God. Because God's power gives you spiritual life and I swear it makes you youthful and glowing, but the other gives you spiritual death, that one makes you look old and tired. Ask any witch, it's why they are often perceived as looking old and wrinkly with a scowl.

Next, there were his disciples who lived and walked with him for years and had front row seats to everything Jesus did, yet eleven of them could not readily say out loud

who Jesus truly was. These represent the people who are Christians yet do not have a true relationship with God through Christ. And despite that they did receive the gift of salvation and their spirits were made alive enough to stand up, they lack power in their lives as they did nothing with the keys they received and so they are wishy-washy with their spirits wobbling and limping around instead of being renewed daily with activated power. Their lives do not exhibit the authority that comes with one who uses the keys of heaven that unlocks its supernatural powers.

Then there was Peter who fully understood who Christ was by divine revelation from God, and so it was Peter who was promised the Keys to the Kingdom. Peter represents the Believers who truly grasp Christ's deity, and their spirits are alive and activated and they have used their keys to unlock the spiritual authority that is exhibited in their lives.

You may ask "Since all the disciples walked with Christ daily and performed miracles, why did they all have to respond like Peter? Who said they did not agree with him and it's just that Peter was the only one who spoke up? They would not be disciples if they did not know who Jesus was. No, salvation is every man for themselves. They all spoke up and answered what other people thought of who Jesus was, but then went silent when Jesus asked who they thought he was. This is not to say that they did not agree with Peter, but by not vocalizing it, they missed an opportunity to be leveled up in their faith.

We see this in verse 17 where Jesus specifically addressed Peter by his name saying "*Blessed are YOU, SIMON SON OF JONAH (not all the disciples but Peter alone), for this was not revealed to you by flesh and*

blood, but by my Father in heaven.” This is to ensure you knew he was not addressing all the disciples as a group because they all needed to make that public acknowledgment for themselves based on each of them coming into that divine revelation of Jesus being extended to them individually by God.

The other disciples could not receive their keys or revelation based on Peter's declaration, salvation is not a group thing, it is an individual thing. But by Jesus singling out Peter because of his public declaration of the “Prayer of Salvation,” maybe all the other disciples could work their way up to doing what was required to receive their keys. Now the model to acquire salvation was set as Jesus was saying that to be saved and to receive the keys to his Kingdom, you must first believe and make the acknowledgment that Peter did.

Later after Jesus died and rose from the dead fulfilling the requirements needed for salvation, upon his descent into heaven, (after he settled all the salvation scores with the disciples including Thomas who was wishy-washy in his faith to doubt Jesus could come alive after he died) he told all the disciples including Peter they were to wait for a particular member of the Holy Trinity (the component of the spirit of the Holy Spirit of power and execution) that will give them power (the keys). I believe that it was at Pentecost as all the disciples waited together in the belief of the power that Jesus promised them, (The Bible did say that they were all in one accord which meant they were in one belief) when the Holy Spirit came to that upper room and rested upon their heads in the form of tongues of fire, that was when they all formerly received the keys to the Kingdom of heaven, and

they unlocked the door and access the heavenly powers. And one of the benefits that action afforded them would become evident to many as they began to speak supernaturally in other languages (not heavenly tongues) of many nations, because as the scripture states below:

Mark 16:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name, they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Believers are believers because they believe and exhibit that belief in their actions. That is spiritual maturity. They do not simply become saved and then continue to live the same lives they did before they were saved. Believers are encouraged to grow in faith to maturity every day. It may be the difference between mere Christians and true Believers. Because you can be a Christian and not be changed, but it is hard to be a Believer without exhibiting the powerful lives that The Bible said believers would.

The Prayer of Salvation

Now that I have laid the foundation which is the rock that salvation is built on, the declaration of Jesus' deity. Here is my question to you, are YOU saved? Have you yet accepted the invitation of Salvation from God through Jesus Christ? Have you yet been 'rescued' from Satan for God?

If you were with Jesus and his disciples in Caesarea Philippi that day, and he asked you “Forget about who everyone says that I am, who do YOU _____ (your name here) say that I am?” Reading the three responses his disciples and Peter gave, which would be your response?

If your response is not the response of Peter’s and you never said the “Prayer of salvation,” and you see the need to become saved, become a legitimate child of God, and no longer a child of the devil. Then I invite you to say the following simple prayer very meaningfully to be rescued. This is all that is required. Make sure you mean it and do not just recite it from your head. Mean it from your heart:

THE PRAYER OF SALVATION

Heavenly Father, you said in Your Word that if I acknowledge that I am a sinner and declare who Jesus is with my mouth, and believe it in my heart, then I will be saved.

Therefore, Father, I confess that I am a sinner that needs to be rescued, and I declare that Jesus is your only son and the one true Savior that died for my sins and was brought alive from the dead and became the only way to salvation. I, therefore, accept your offer of salvation and to make Jesus the Lord of my life. I now renounce my past life with Satan and close the door to any of his devices.

Thank You for forgiving me of all my sins and allowing me to be born again and to become your child. My old life is now dead, and I have become a new creation in Jesus’ name. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, let me formerly WELCOME YOU

INTO THE NATION OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE FAMILY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

How do you feel now? And if you were already saved, do you remember how you felt after saying a version of that prayer? You may feel either curious, excited, or clueless, as you ponder what just happened. If you do not hear or feel anything dramatic such as a voice sounding off from heaven, a dove flying down to rest on your head, or the angel's choir singing, this is normal. Some may feel simply at peace, as if a weight were lifted off their shoulders, or not. Either way, something major did happen, but it took place in the spirit world (that you cannot see where God rules) and not in the physical world (where you live that Satan rules over). Remember, we are now under a spiritual covenant so EVERYTHING about the new converted life to Jesus Christ will be spiritual. Let us look at what happens spiritually, right after one says that prayer.

“Now that I’m saved – what now?”

You could be asking this question long after you got saved and still have no idea what should have happened next. Or you just said this prayer and are curious. Either way, immediately after you accepted salvation and confessed with your mouth from your heart as Peter did, that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah (Savior) of God and the only son of God that can pardon sins. Imagine everything I will tell you because these images are exactly what happened and should mean more to you than anything you could feel or see in the natural. Because as Believers we are called to live by faith, which is to believe despite what we can see or feel. You

must accept these things based on faith regardless of how much you know or what you can see, hear, touch, feel, or taste. This acceptance must live outside of your five senses where faith resides.

After saying that prayer, the first thing that happened was God rescued you away from Satan. You made that possible because despite Satan's ownership and hold on you, you broke your covenant with him, and you did it of your own free will. Therefore, God was able to acquire you legally through a condition in the agreement for salvation, that states that anyone who freely chooses to accept God's advances of salvation to them, then Satan **MUST** release that person over to God.

So Satan then begrudgingly hands over your title deed to Jesus Christ because of course salvation must come through Jesus and it is he who acquired you. Then Jesus dips his stamp in his blood and stamps your title deed with the words "IT IS FINISHED, PAID IN FULL, REDEEMED". And just like that, you entered the new spiritual covenant. You then walk through the gate onto the bridge Christ laid out between mankind and God and you spiritually walk the full length of that bridge over to the other side where God and his angels are eagerly waiting to receive you. And the angels celebrate and throw a big party for you in heaven rejoicing that one more soul, yours, made it into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now your spirit is alive and the door that shuts you out from accessing God, you now receive the keys to open! Consider your spirit was like a plastic blow-up doll deflated on the ground waiting to be blown up. After you said that prayer, God opened your plastic plug and breathed his breath into your deflated doll until it was fully blown up to an

upright standing position.

What happens with your spirit after that is now up to you, because to keep it inflated strong and firm, you must begin to live life as a renewed person thus strengthening your spirit by deepening your relationship with God daily. The relationship he desired of you which was the reason he created you in the first place. If you do not maintain the strength of your spirit, even though you are saved, your spirit will become limp and wobbly as it will lose air each day from inactivity, and you will live an ineffective wishy-washy life that exhibits no power.

Finally, you become a free agent of God and have rightfully earned the coveted status of a child of God through salvation. You are now a part of the Nation of Jesus called Christians and you enter the room that Isaac held open for Jesus to fill under the New Covenant that is spiritual and eternal. Now everything God did from the book of Genesis to Jesus in his plan of salvation, was all for you. You accepted the invitation and all the beatings and the six hours of torture that God came to earth in the form of a human called Jesus to endure to bring about that salvation, was all for you. All you ever needed to do was to make a simple and meaningful declaration while Jesus did all the work. God made it easy for you, and you accepted it. You made Jesus' grueling sacrifice worth it. BRAVO!

Now live in power and grow in faith daily! Grab your keys and throw that spiritual door open and run like an eager child of a King into your Daddy's arm and spend time with him every day of your life. Because even though you were not required to give one drop of blood towards your salvation, it did not come to you cheaply. You were paid and

bought for through blood, sweat, and tears, and that... is PRICELESS. That is exactly your worth to God... INVALUABLE and PRICELESS. Now live like it!

You are now Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's fruit of their labor.

– CHAPTER TEN –

Conclusion: “It is finished”

Earlier in this research on the story of the patriarchal fathers of the 3 nations, I alluded to something important I wanted to save for last to drive a point home in my conclusion. Remember step TWO in God’s ‘rescue plan’ when a sacrifice would be required but neither Abraham nor Isaac fulfilled it? And I said that what God accept instead from Abraham was his OBEDIENCE to want to carry out the plan. I also said I wished you knew where I was going with that. Here goes.

Abraham’s OBEDIENCE to God was demonstrated in his willingness to sacrifice his beloved and promised son Isaac until the angel of the Lord grabbed his hand and stopped him. But note again what God accepted in place of Isaac’s sacrifice. Obedience. They eventually sacrificed a ram as opposed to a lamb, but this was like a ‘loophole strategy’ sacrifice that circumvented what was truly required, the sacrifice of a lamb – Jesus. So, the ram sufficed.

But it was not even the sacrificed ram that God accepted from them, it was Abraham’s OBEDIENCE over that sacrifice! Why is that significant? This speaks to both

covenants. The old represented dutiful sacrifices while the new represents love and obedience to God, like what King David's tabernacle represented over Moses'. That is what God prefers.

Let's find this in scripture by referencing a story of the Prophet Samuel and the first King of Israel, Saul.

Samuel had multiple roles of a prophet, judge, and priest, while Saul was only a King. God's law states that only a priest is allowed to perform blood sacrifices to God. King David and Deborah who were the only other humans besides Samuel who had dual divine roles, David's being both King and priest and Deborah was Judge and Prophet (not counting Jesus whose roles are spiritual). So only David and Samuel could perform sacrifices as they were Priests in their dual roles.

Saul and his army of Israel had just defeated the Amalekites in battle, but he disobeyed God who told him to leave no one including their animals alive, yet Saul spared the life of the Amalekite King, and Saul's soldiers took the best of the Amalekite animals with the intention that they would be used as sacrifices to God. What could be wrong with that? They had good intentions. But during their victory party, King Saul could not wait for Samuel as the priest to show up and perform the sacrifice to God, so he took it upon himself as King to sacrifice the animals taken by the soldiers. When Samuel finally arrived and saw what King Saul had done, he confronted the King who seemed to have legitimate excuses for what he did. Here's their conversation.

1 Samuel 15:19-22 (NIV)

¹⁹Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you

pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?” ²⁰ *“But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.”* ²¹ *The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”*

²² *But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? **To obey is better than sacrifice**, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

Did you catch that? Samuel told Saul that even though he sacrificed the animals to God, the fact that he disobeyed what God instructed him to do, and by acting outside of his rank as a king and performing a sacrifice, then he defied God. That was why God tore the Kingdom of Israel out of Saul’s hand. God prefers OBEDIENCE over SACRIFICING, and this was why he accepted Abraham’s OBEDIENCE over a SACRIFICE for step TWO of the ‘rescue plan.’ Note also that Samuel said God prefers obedience over the sacrificing of rams. This is referencing again the ram that Abraham sacrificed instead of Isaac over the lamb that the old covenant required to remove sins, but God credited Abraham’s obedience to him anyways! The future nation to come through Jesus under a new spiritual covenant would require love and obedience over sacrificing animals! How much deeper can we express that God could not wait to bring the old covenant to its end so the new one could begin? The old one wasn’t working!

Now today as Christians we need to buy into the

freedom that GRACE under the New Covenant affords us and stop circling the outer courts of the temple instead of going boldly into the Holy of Holies. Stop placing ourselves under the curse of the old laws and stretch our faiths to experience Freedom in Christ from its bondage. Give Jesus' redemptive work on the cross its priceless value. Imagine he SUFFERED, and he gave his life for our freedom, we are saying that is not enough when we choose to continue to live in bondage, by still observing the old laws. The reason Jesus had to die a physical death was so we would not have to die the death we deserved because of our sins, and he made sure he provided every physical thing that the old physical covenant asked for to remove our sins so that going into the new spiritual covenant, those requirements would always be met, and no debt would be outstanding for our sins again! Therefore, we are no longer performing animal sacrifices today because Jesus became that sacrifice and placed us under a spiritual covenant.

Blood sacrifices for our sins are still being made on our behalf, but it is being done spiritually via that blank check that Jesus sent to heaven after he became the one-time perpetual sacrifice to write off whatever the cost of all our sinful debts would be!

The Apostle Paul calls 'Christians' who still observe the old laws as ones with a 'WEAK or LESSER FAITH', and Timothy says they are wasting their time and UNDER A CURSE! Because remember that the old covenant was given because mankind was under the curse of Adam, now the new covenant is issued by God's grace so that mankind could be redeemed under the second Adam called Jesus. Now we cannot mix law and grace any more than God did not give

Isaac a nation alongside Jacob's nation Israel, because the two cannot coexist together, we need to stop contaminating the cross!

Those old laws were created to keep mankind in check, and they had NO POWER. It never made anyone righteous enough to go into the Holy of Holies. But because of GRACE through Christ, YOU ARE RELEASED FROM THOSE LAWS because Jesus' blood gets you direct access to go before God into the Holy of Holies! Seriously consider this. If the blood of animals could not get you past the outer courts of Moses', Solomon's, or Herod's temples, then how much farther do you think the blood of Christ would get you? Straight into God's secret chamber!

By now you should see the full picture of God's plan of salvation for mankind through his divine nature, and hopefully, learn what about Jesus' death that saves us. Now you should be able to give a confident account of the faith in which you believe. You should also understand why God chose to create humans, the undying love he has for us, and the desire for his love to be reciprocated. If you insist on observing old laws, then have at it. But maybe consider observing them from their spiritual positions instead. That means so much more to God and would be way better for you.

I pray this research presents a strong argument with all the evidence to support it. Whether you decide to subscribe to it or not, may you be mindful that if one chooses to observe the law in either its physical or spiritual sense, if that choice is done onto the Lord, then God accepts their worship, and we should not judge each other on such matters. Additionally, whatever we subscribe to thus far that

defines our theology, remember there is always more to learn. Therefore, I encourage you to always dig deeper into the knowledge of our faith and develop a deeper personal relationship with our Heavenly Father, it is what he desires of us.

The questions answered

This research attempted to answer many questions that one asks in the body of Christ on salvation. If you do not agree with the answers, at the very least this body of work should bring those questions up to the surface so we all can begin to have open and mature discussions around them, instead of hateful debates, or merely brushing them aside in ignorance.

I presented whom I believe God is by researching the three persons that comprise him and how they function, and the relationship between God's components and *man's*. I referenced God as being genderless yet relatable to both human genders and why that is important. I am convinced there is more to what I have uncovered but I believe we at least have a good foundation to build that topic.

I pried open the meaning of 'God is love', so we could see the value in it. We saw WHY God is considered love, and exactly HOW he demonstrates that love outside of sending Jesus to die for us. Maybe the next time we recite John 3:16 we may tingle inside when we say the words "For God so LOVE the world." Because those words now have new meaning.

We learned a little about Satan's persona, his role in the demise of mankind, and the effects sin has on their lives. But

moreover, we learned of Jesus' role and his effects on mankind as we learned that Jesus is truly God's ultimate plan of salvation.

Ultimately, this research leads to one major fact. That salvation cannot be achieved through any other person or means except through Christ Jesus. All other alternatives are counterfeit. Isaac's aborted sacrifice secured space in God's plan that only one person could later fill in the same way his aborted sacrifice foreshadowed it, and to birth a spiritual nation "called by his name", Christians, like Ishmael's and Jacob's nations carried their names. A person with no sin is to be the unblemished lamb sacrifice required to cleanse sins. Only Jesus filled that role.

In God's plan for salvation, there is simply no more room for salvation to come by any other means. This means NO to wooden or metal idols, gurus, or Greek and Egyptian deities that claim to offer a way to God that people worship as gods or saviors. The savior that God needed had to die as a sacrifice like Isaac was supposed to die in order to replace the physical animal sacrifices required to pay for sins. He had to be a legitimate natural blood son, and his spirit had to be traced back to the Son component of the Holy Trinity that embeds him in God's spiritual DNA. He also had to undo all that Adam did as the second Adam and be victorious where Adam failed, including also being tempted by Satan and to overcome in passing that test of loyalty. Any other way to God is by trespassing and a counterfeit. No other person fit those bills... PERIOD... PERIODT!

God has been hinting at Jesus' coming to the earth throughout scripture! Now since Christ fulfilled all the requirements to rescue the world back from Satan to God,

then he has done all the physical work that the old covenant required, paid all the sacrifices needed for all sins once confessed, and officially upgraded the Old Covenant and laws to become spiritually new with God's grace. The plan of salvation has been unveiled and is active today.

May the GRACE, hope, and love of our God and Father through Jesus Christ, find us in full benefit of what God's plan of salvation brings through his Holy Spirit. Now and forevermore. The stage was set, the star was born, died, resurrected back to life, and the curtain has fallen. Now we can enjoy Shabbat...

...it is finished!

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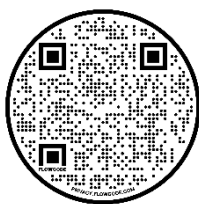
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