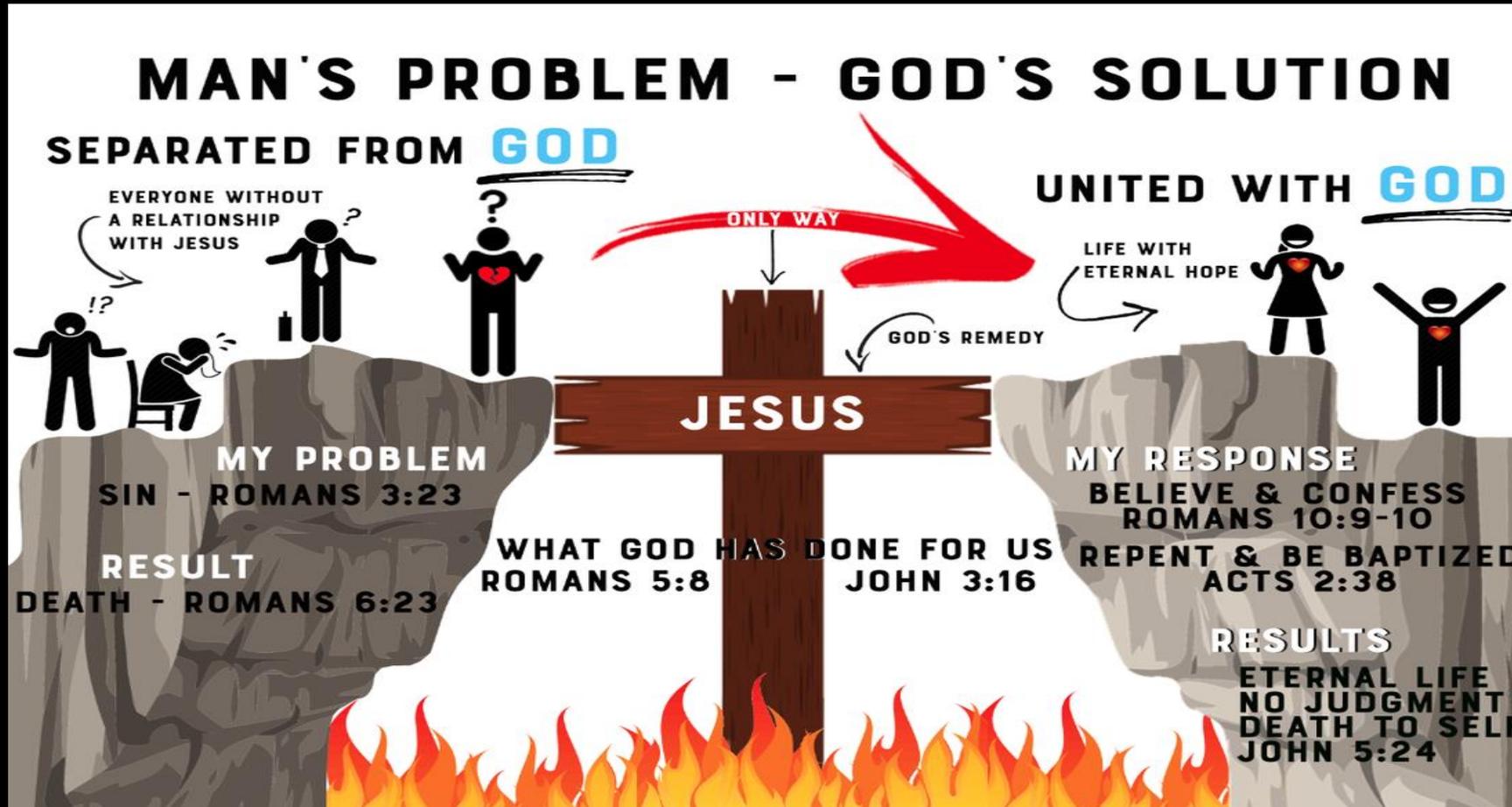


# MAN - The Problem: Who is HE?



Past > Present > Future



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# ***Enter The Ark of Hope***

The Great Controversy between God and  
Satan is primarily over

**“WORSHIP”**

Who will you Choose?



# ***Get into the Ark*** **Sanctuary**



**And let them  
make me a  
sanctuary;  
that I may dwell  
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13**

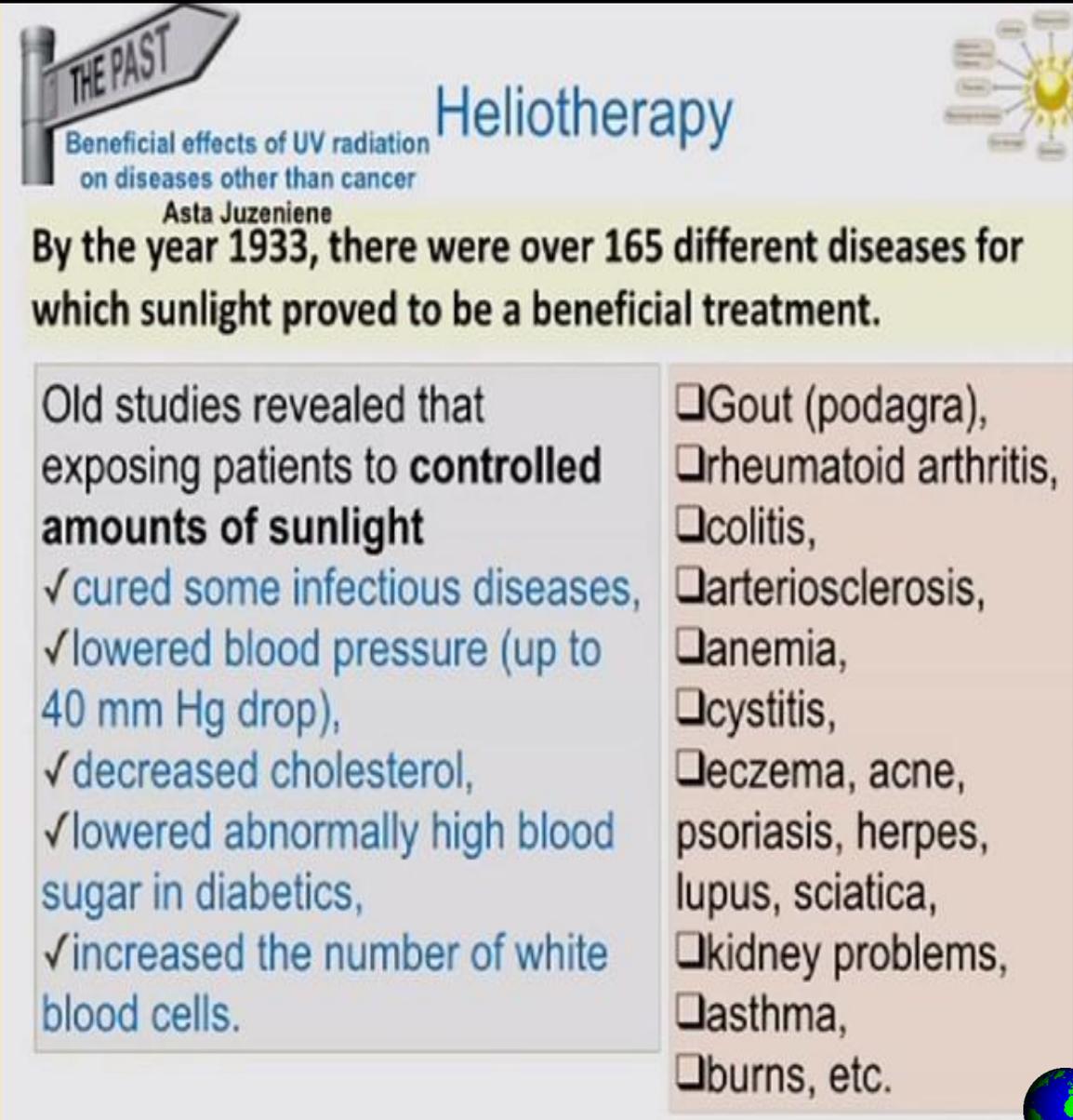


# Health Snippet – Sunshine: UV Rays

Ultraviolet blood irradiation (UBI) was extensively used in the 1940s and 1950s to treat many diseases including septicaemia, pneumonia, tuberculosis, arthritis, asthma and even poliomyelitis. The early studies were carried out by several physicians in USA and published in the American Journal of Surgery. “the cure that time forgot”. **The two main types of heliotherapy are:** direct sun-bath and indirect sun-bath. In the direct sun-bath treatment, lubricants such as gentle oils are applied to the patient’s body before it is exposed to the sun. Whilst, indirect sun-bath is conducted in a room in which experts take a coloured glass and let it reflect different lights.

## **How to use heliotherapy:**

1. Avoid excessive sun exposure. **Heliotherapy** is not suitable for very fair skinned or photosensitive individuals
  2. Undertake exposures at same time/s of day, each day.
  3. Continue prescribed treatment (check with your dermatologist).
  4. Continue regular emollient use.
- **Short-term side effects are:** redness, dry skin, itchy skin, nausea, folliculitis, and blisters.



**THE PAST**

## Heliotherapy

Beneficial effects of UV radiation on diseases other than cancer  
Asta Juzeniene

By the year 1933, there were over 165 different diseases for which sunlight proved to be a beneficial treatment.

Old studies revealed that exposing patients to **controlled amounts of sunlight**

- ✓ cured some infectious diseases,
- ✓ lowered blood pressure (up to 40 mm Hg drop),
- ✓ decreased cholesterol,
- ✓ lowered abnormally high blood sugar in diabetics,
- ✓ increased the number of white blood cells.

- Gout (podagra),
- rheumatoid arthritis,
- colitis,
- arteriosclerosis,
- anemia,
- cystitis,
- eczema, acne, psoriasis, herpes, lupus, sciatica,
- kidney problems,
- asthma,
- burns, etc.

# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



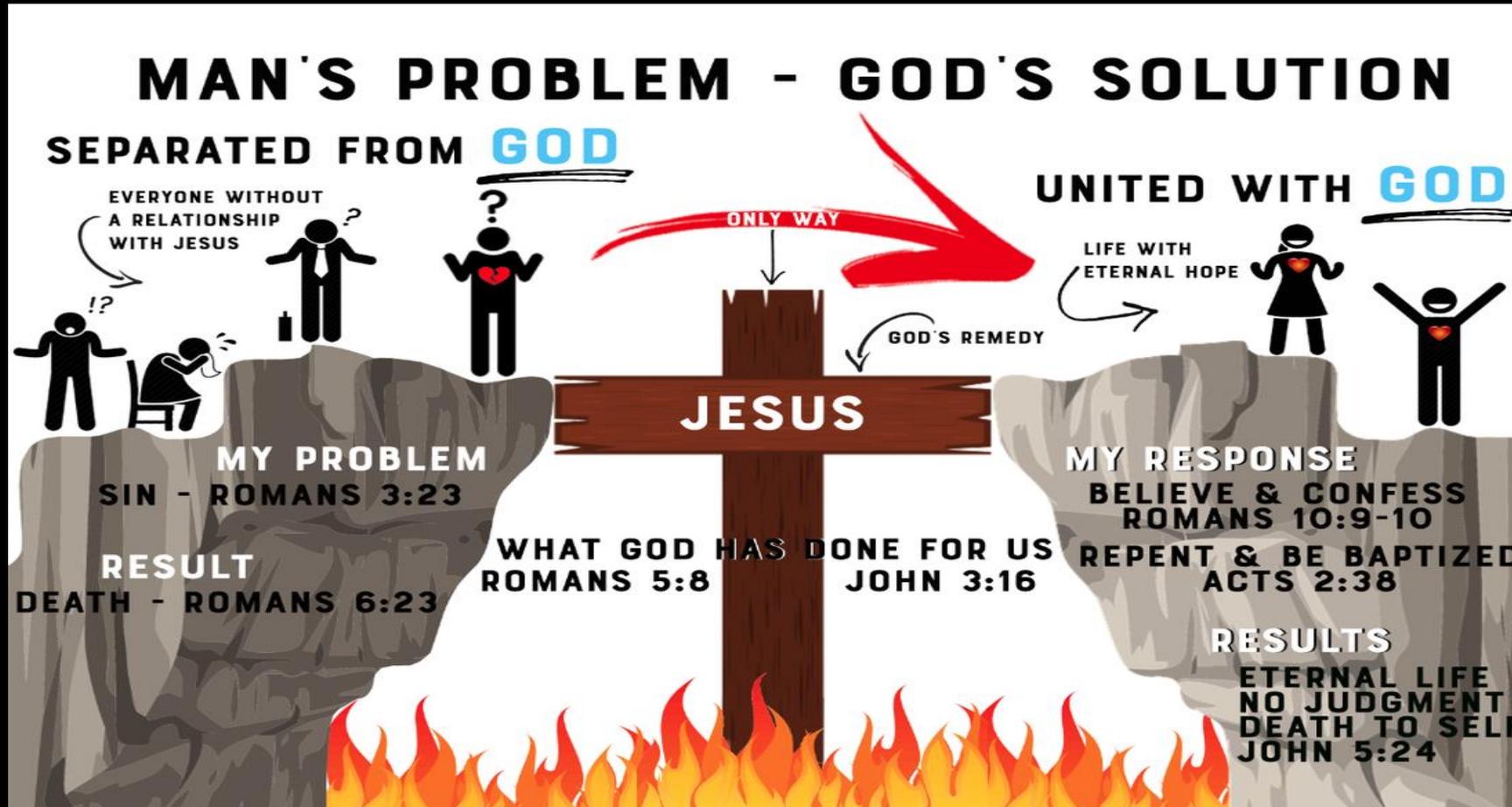
# Yes we Can!

The city has no need of sun  
or moon, for the glory of  
God illuminates the city,  
and the Lamb is its light.

Revelation 21:23



# MAN - The Problem: Who is HE?



Past > Present > Future



# Introduction

The solid optimism of former generations that everything in the world will get better and better no longer rings true today. Even after the cold war the world is far from a safe place. The threat of terrorism has made us all feel extremely vulnerable. Science, which was supposed to be the harbinger of a better world, now threatens to wreak havoc on that world. The common sources of energy are being depleted. The icecaps are melting. Crime is a sad fact of life everywhere. Human beings show little, if any, signs of moral improvement over past generations. The gap between rich and poor constantly is widening. Our daily instalment of news almost invariably tells us about atrocities and moral decay. No wonder someone once said that the Christian teaching of human sinfulness is one teaching that is easily verifiable. That is, that's one doctrine we don't need to take on faith.

Yet, as bad as sin is, it's not the end of the story. Sure, sin is real, but so is divine grace.

 God has the plan, Man has the problem, the Bible has the solution. 



# Introduction (cont'd)

THE QUESTION as to the nature and destiny of man will not rest unanswered.

We do not wonder at this. One of the most important questions we can ask is:

**What is man? Who is he in this world?**

Every person is under obligation to ask himself: **Who am I? Why am I here?**

**Where did I come from and where am I going?** Personal identity and maturity depend on the answers to these questions. **We cannot be honest with ourselves until we seek such answers.**

- According to the Bible account, the first thing we learn about man is that he is a created being, made in the image of God. We read these words in the first chapter of Genesis:



In the beginning  
**God created**  
the heavens & the earth.  
GENESIS 1:1



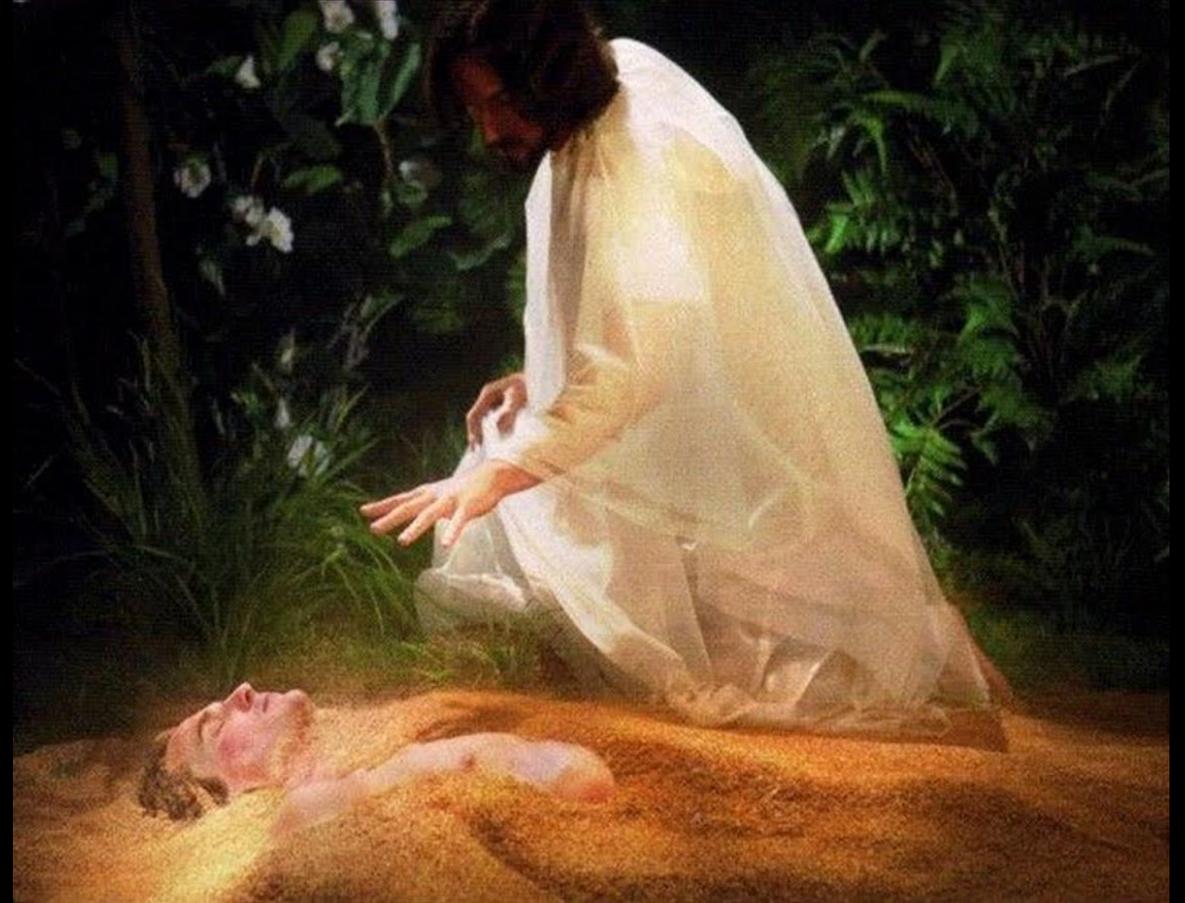
## **Introduction (cont'd)**

Genesis 1:26-28 –

**26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

**28** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.



## *Introduction (cont'd)*

*Psalms 8:4-9 –*

*4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

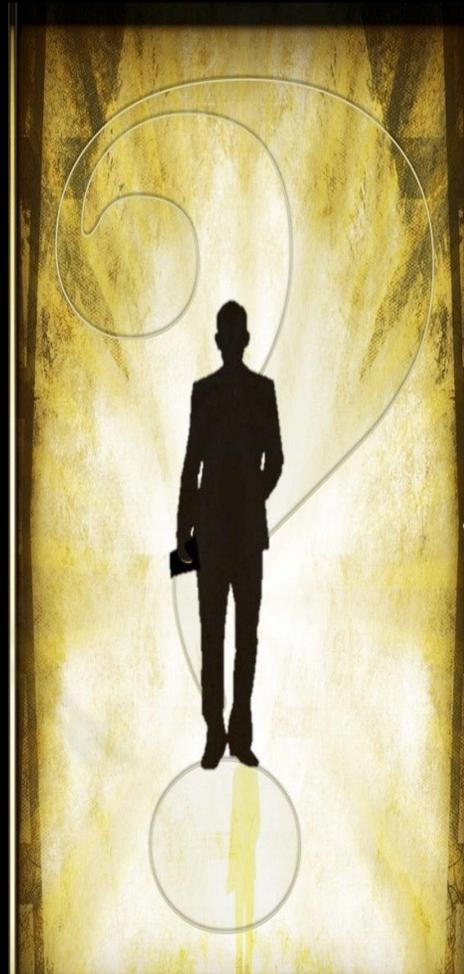
*5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

*6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:*

*7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;*

*8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*

*9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*



# What Is

# Man

Psalm 8:4



# Man is made in the Image of God

Herein is the greatness of man: **made in God's image, a son of God, a godlike being with capacity for fellowship with God.** He is a child of God's creation, **made to respond freely as an earthly son to his father.** He is the original prince of this world, responsible only to God Himself.

Because God is love, love requires fullness of expression. **God as love cannot live by Himself in an empty universe. Love requires a beloved.** God expressed Himself in creatures akin to Himself, holding communion with them. **As free moral agents, Adam and Eve were given the opportunity of a right response, a clear recognition of personal responsibility to Him who had created them. Man was made in the likeness of God, not in the likeness of the brutes.**

Man must never be thought of as separate from God. **Man is not given qualities by which he functions independently of God.** The moment man is thought of as independent of God, man destroys his identity. He no longer can see himself or understand himself as man.



# *Man was to be a King on the Earth*

The second fact we learn about man is that because of who man is, he had intrinsic value to God and to his fellow men, since all men share in the divine likeness. Man was created to be a king on earth, not a slave; a prince, not a pauper. Man is the vicegerent of God, having dominion over the earth. Thus God purposes for man the highest destiny, the noblest fulfilment, an eternity of creative achievement.

Nothing is more reasonable and inspiring than God's account in Genesis of man's origin and destiny, endorsed by Jesus Himself. (See [Matthew 19:4](#)) Whatever is our view of man will determine the value we place upon him. According to God's Word, the chief end of man is to glorify God, to enjoy the fellowship of God's highest creatures throughout the universe.



# Man's life is not his own

The third fact is that God gave man life. **Only God has life in Himself. The life man has is not his own. It is continually derived from God.** In the beginning God created man and gave him life, but only in dependence on God and union with God Himself. As long as man is linked with God he continues to live. Separated from the Source of life, he must die sooner or later. Man is not immortal; neither does he have an immortal soul. **He is not constructed of two or three separate entities such as body, soul, and spirit. These and other terms refer to differing functions of the whole man.** When the apostle Paul speaks of the conflict between spirit and flesh in the Christian life, he does not refer to two separate entities but to two opposing tendencies within the whole man.

**God never addresses a part of man as having more significance than the rest of man. God always speaks to man in his totality. There is no separate consciousness in any of these parts.** The image of God is never localized in some part of man.

**The whole man is made in God's image.**



# The Fall of Man

The Creation account given in Genesis states that when God looked on everything that He had made, He saw that it was good (see Genesis 1:31). The Bible also affirms that man is no longer what God made him or intended him to be. As we look at our world, we can see that something has gone terribly wrong with it. Nothing is more apparent than that.

Whenever we reflect on the nature of man, we cannot escape considering evil, which man does and lives and experiences in his everyday life. It is not possible to distance ourselves from this serious problem by a simple relativizing of human evil. Nor is it possible to escape it by stressing the anonymity of evil, since it stands constantly before us in concrete and localized form.

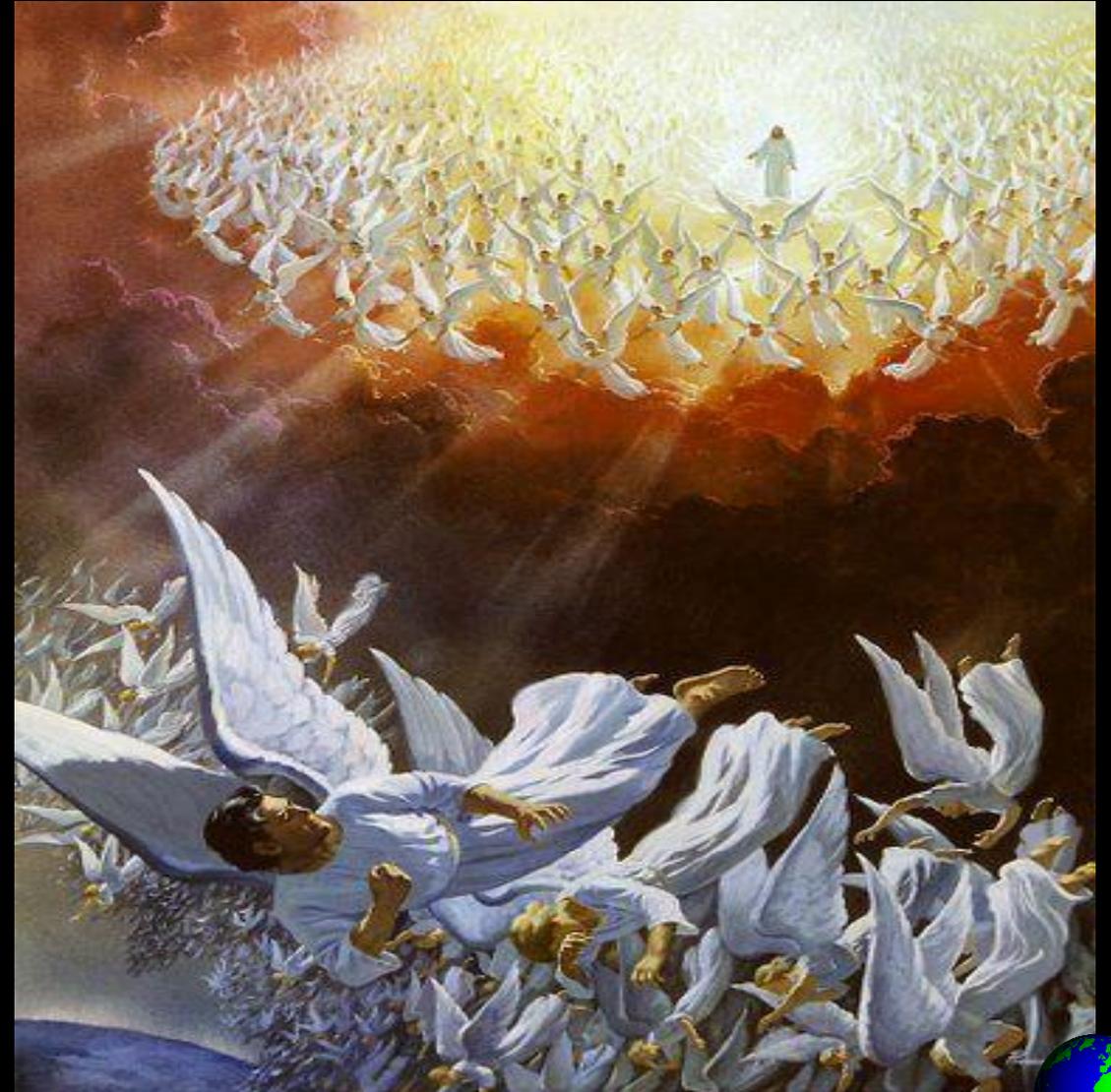


# How it all started

According to the Bible, it all started with Satan, the devil, who sought to usurp the place of God.

*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High (Isaiah 14:12-14).*

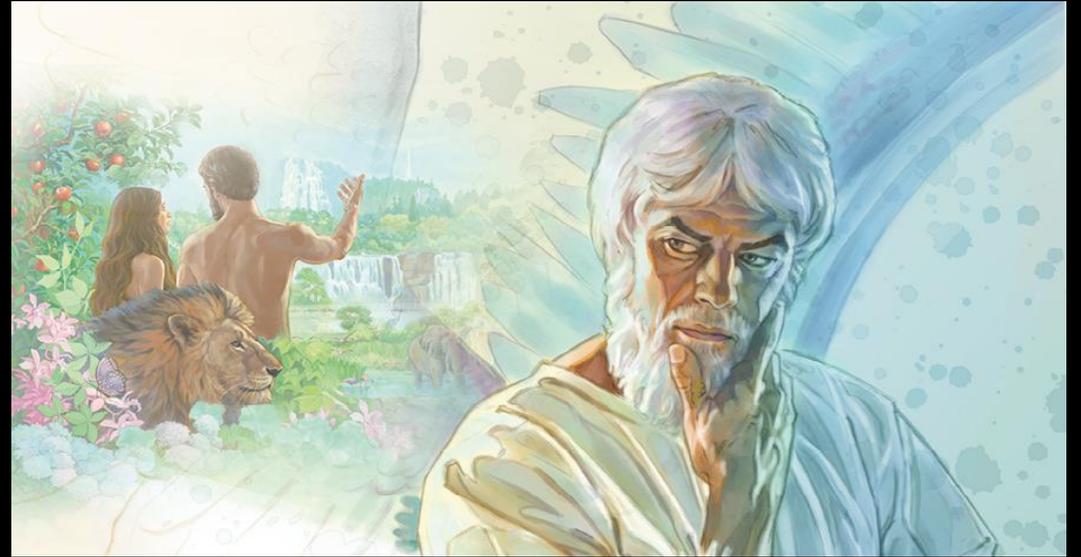
**Satan dethroned God in his life and put himself there. This claim to a life independent of God was a declaration of war against the Creator of heaven and earth. This war began in heaven and moved to this earth (see Revelation 12:7-9).**



# Man wanted to become like God

The first human characters in the war were Adam and Eve, the first parents of all living beings on earth. God made them perfect in a perfect world, with perfect freedom to respond to Him in love. Then one day, Satan, an apostate angel once called Lucifer, invaded Eden and persuaded Adam and Eve to follow him. They listened and accepted his offer to help them become gods in their own right by asserting their independence from God (see Genesis 3:5). They dethroned God in their lives and put self-will in place of God's will. Instead of freedom, they became captives of Satan, who declared himself the prince of this world. Adam and Eve lost their sovereignty.

By their own choice Adam and Eve separated themselves from the life of God. Their whole natures were corrupted. A physical, mental, and spiritual change passed over them by virtue of the fact that they had fallen into sin.



# God showed grace to disobedient man

Why did God punish Adam and Eve for what seemed to be an insignificant matter? **It may have seemed unimportant, but there was a crucial principle involved.** "There was nothing poisonous in the fruit itself, and the sin was not merely in yielding to appetite. It was distrust of God's goodness, disbelief of His word, and rejection of His authority, that made our first parents transgressors, and that brought into the world a knowledge of evil. **It was this that opened the door to every species of falsehood and error.**"--Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 25.

**God has done for us all that infinite love could.** In return He asks of us love and obedience. In a time in which the world is plagued by rampant lawlessness and a relativistic philosophy-which claims that good and evil depend simply on cultural circumstances and communal and personal preferences-there must and will be a people who will staunchly defend God's standard of holiness, the Ten Commandments. - *Rev. 14:12*

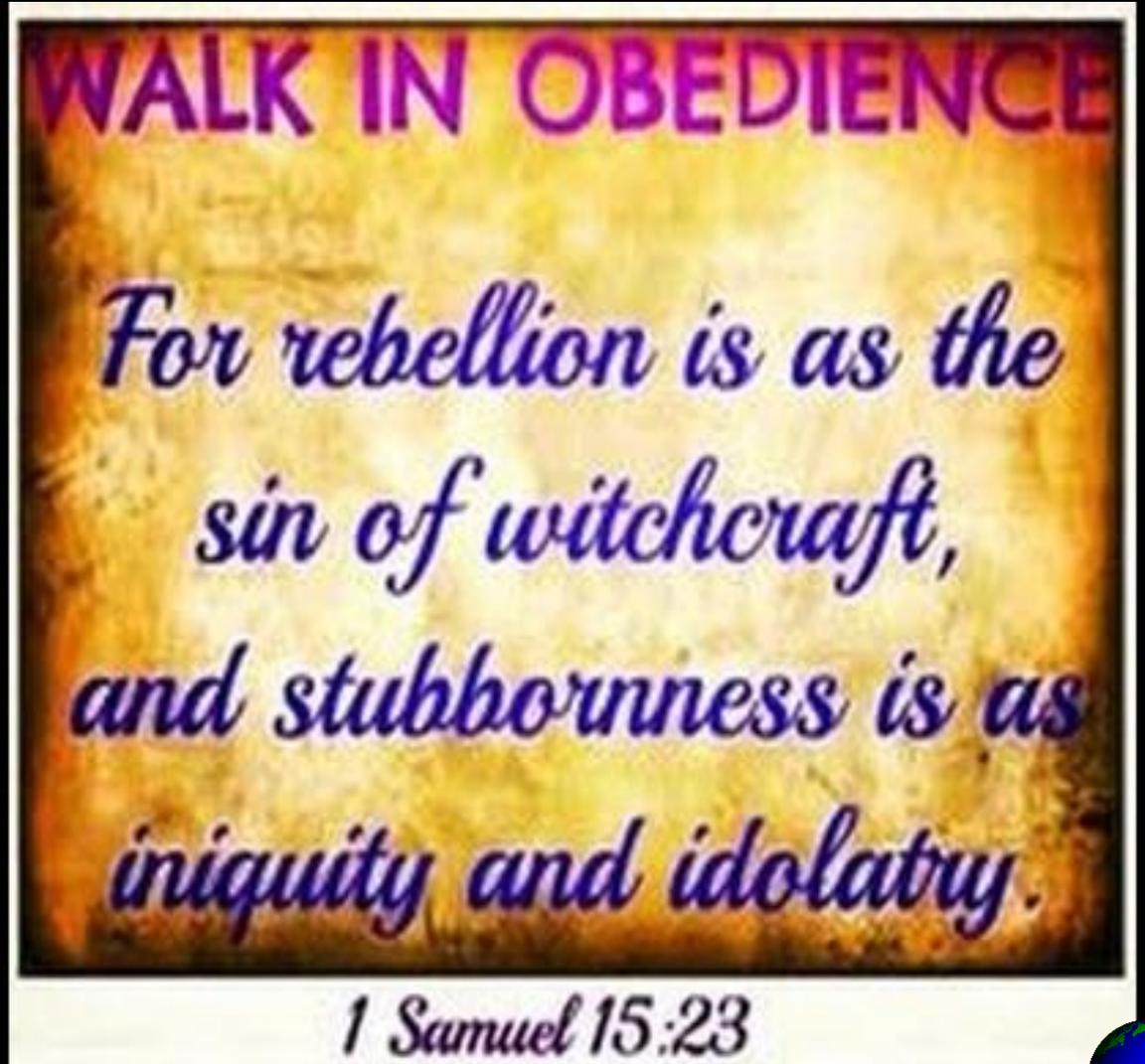


# Sin Is Rebellion

We tend to think of rebellion as an outright attack and rejection of authority. Yet, it can come in much more subtle forms. How could you tell if, perhaps, you yourself are harboring some rebellious attitudes toward God?

**What is the essence of sin? How does the Bible define it?** [1 John 3:4](#) "defines sin as *"transgression of the law."* But it is not just any law that humanity has broken-it is God's law. Humans have rebelled against their Maker, pretending that they themselves are the measure of all things rather than in humble trust submitting to the wisdom and love of God.

- The following Bible passages reveal about the essence of sin - [Genesis 3:1-7](#), [Isaiah 14:12-14](#), [Revelation 12:7-9](#).



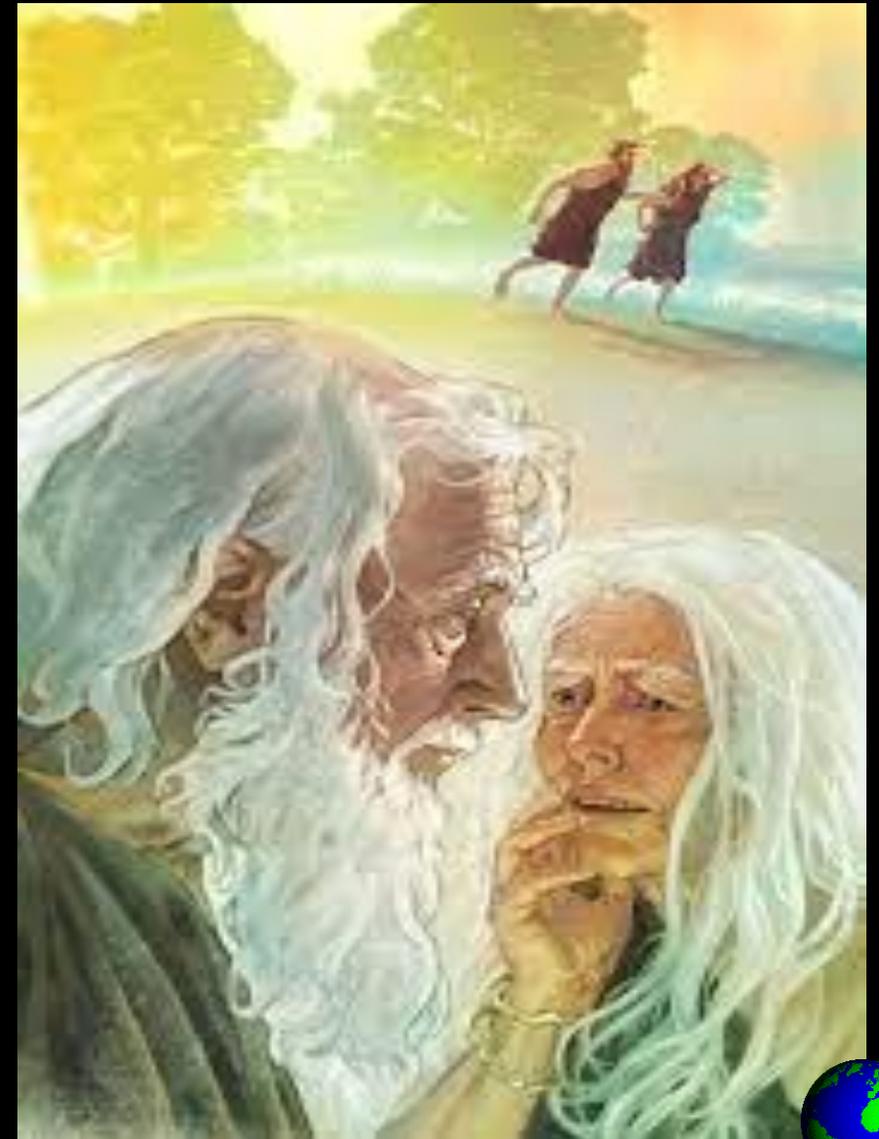
# Rest of humanity Inherits Sin

Consequently, all of Adam's descendants born thereafter have inherited the result and the consequences of Adam's sin: **separation from God**. **Babies die, not because they have actually sinned or are punished by God, but because they are now part of this alienation from the Source of life. All men were born self-centred, not God-centered.** This is the beginning point of all sin, a life apart from God, where self is king rather than God.

**Mark what follows:** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12).*

**As a result of Adam's sin all men sin and all men die. There are no exceptions.** The fall from righteousness to unrighteousness did take place. **It did occur. Adam's original righteousness and right relation with God have been lost.** Since then the Bible declares of man:

*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Romans 3:10-12).*



# "Original" Sin

Theologians often distinguish between the sinful acts that we commit and the sinful nature that we possess. We all have been corrupted by Adam's fall; we all are deemed sinners even before we sin. **The widespread rite of infant baptism is linked closely with the acknowledgment of this belief.** The idea is that a new-born child who dies without having been baptized will be lost eternally because the child is a sinner, and if this sinfulness is not somehow taken care of, the child loses eternal life.

There is no scriptural support for this practice, nor for the idea that a child who dies is automatically condemned to destruction.

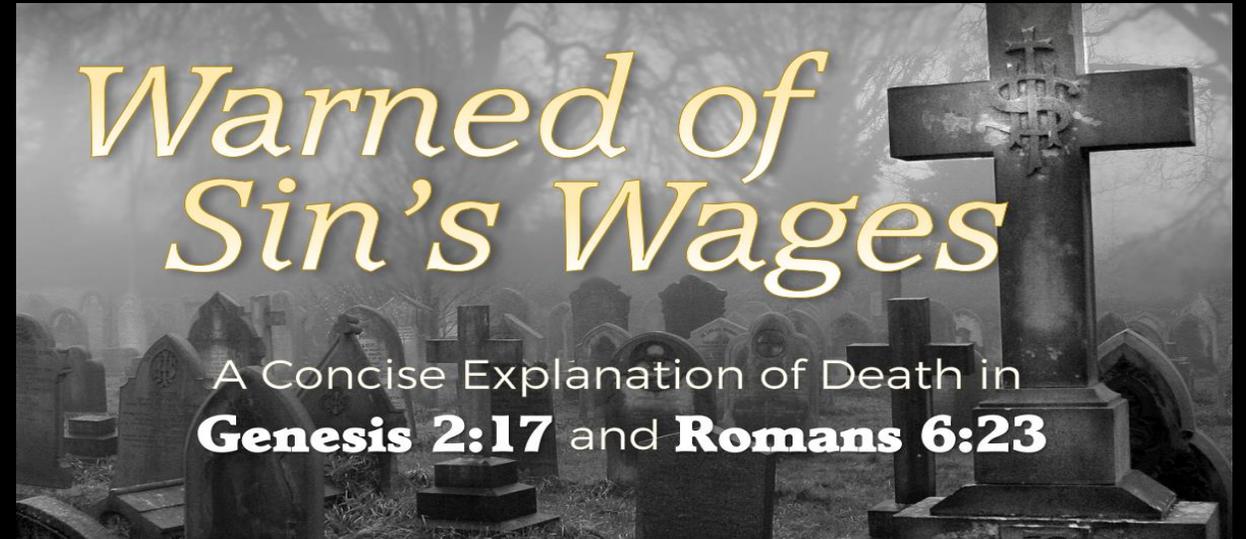
Now, it is true that the "original" sin of Adam and Eve has had all-pervasive consequences that impact everyone. Sin entered the world through one person, and through this sin death came to "all men" ([Romans 5:12](#)).



# Sin and its implications

This rupture between God and man is not an illusion or myth that can be dismissed by right thinking and right living. Sin is a religious concept. It describes something that happened and exists between God and man. The failure and sinfulness of the human race are due to man's wrong relationship with God.

Sin . . . is not merely an ethical, but . . . a religious conception. It does not denote simply wrong of man against man, but expresses a relation of the individual and his action to God. It does not regard the wrong act simply as a violation or transgression of moral law, but as violation of duty towards God, or offence against Him. "Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned" (Psalms 51:4).



# ***The Fall involved all humanity***

The effects of that historical catastrophe caused this planet to be inhabited by a race of sinners whose "carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7, 8).

Man in every part of his being has fallen away from God and from righteousness. In relation to God, man stands in opposition. In relation to himself, he is divided. Sin has perverted and disorganized his nature. His spiritual disease seems incurable. Sin and death hold dominion over man. The haunting evil in man cannot be banished from the world by man himself. No mere man has completely lived up to God's original purpose.



# Consequences of Sin

Sin not only brings disease and bondage but divine condemnation and judgment. Sin not only causes unhappiness but brings upon man the death penalty for breaking the law of God. Man is not just sick. He is a lost man. He lacks not only social and emotional compatibility but righteousness and harmony with God. Any view that falls short of the Bible truth about man is radically defective as to the nature of man and his basic problem. The Bible says that the natural man is dead in sin, and deserving of divine judgment. The condemnation is as sweeping as it is unequivocal, and is a natural consequence of man's own choice.

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. – Ephesians 2:1-3.*

You are free to make whatever choice you want, but you are not free from the consequences of the choice.

Disobedience To  
GOD Always Brings  
Consequences.



# ***The problem – Self-will***

The real essence of the evil act . is . the self— **will which throws off God's authority, and arrogates to itself the right to choose its own end, and that another end than God's. . . .** Sin in its essence is the taking into the will of the principle opposite to this—that not God's will, but my own will, is to be the ultimate law of my life. **It is the exaltation of self against God: the setting up of self-will against God's will: at bottom Egoism.**

**Therefore man is unable to make a true evaluation of himself.** Because of sin, self-knowledge as to who he is becomes very difficult to obtain.

**Scripture . . . speaks of the darkness, apostasy, rebellion of man, his opposition to everything God intended in creating man in His image. Hence man, in his rebellion, precisely in his insistence on autonomy, is in inescapable and deep-seated conflict with himself, with his "essence," his true humanity. . . .** For man as sinner is alienated not only from God but also from himself.



**DIE TO SELF**



# The Sinfulness of Man

Man ought more highly to regard God's truth concerning his divine origin and destiny. The God of heaven never relinquishes His position as Father. Man in his wretched condition is never deserted by the God of heaven. At the same time God is very realistic about the sin problem. The Scriptures speak categorically of man's depravity and descent into sin.

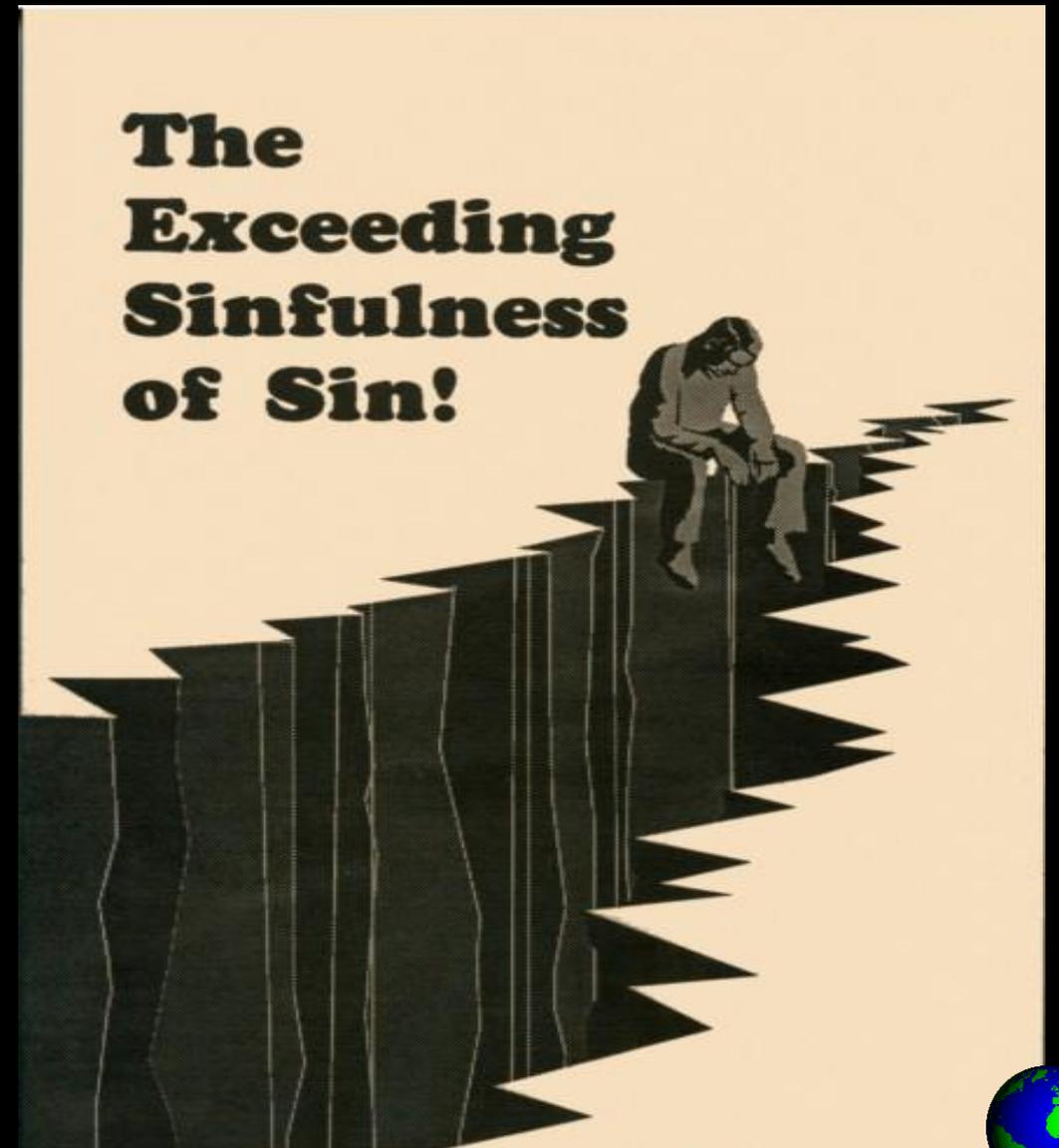
*(Jeremiah 17:9). From head to foot there is not a sound spot in you (Isaiah 1:6). I am carnal, sold under sin (Romans 7:14). For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing (verse 18).*



# The true condition of Man

*Total depravity* is the phrase used to describe the sinner in his lost condition. This does not mean that sin manifests itself in every man in the same manner or to the same degree. It does not mean necessarily total wickedness or sinfulness. The word *total* simply has reference to the whole man as being infected with sin. No part of man is exempt. The alienation from God has adversely affected man in all his parts: his will, feelings, reason.

There is no limit or boundary within human nature beyond which we can find some last human reserve untouched by sin; it is man himself who is totally corrupt. . . . But a warning against every attempt to find in fallen man some "remnant" which can escape the divine indictment should never minimize the reality of man's being human in his being sinner; something which in the eyes of God does not relativize sin, but emphasizes it.



# The dimensions of sin

Anthropologists and sociologists frequently assert that belief in man's total depravity is contrary to sound psychology, an exaggerated statement of man's sinfulness that fails to do justice to the good in man's nature. They affirm that man is basically good as evidenced by the great progress man has made in the course of history, in the noble specimens of manhood and womanhood. Religionists, as well, point to the virtues of men who make no claim to be Christian as evidence that any belief in man's depravity goes contrary to the facts.

There are many dimensions to sin, many grades in the seriousness of sin, many kinds of specific sins. But there is also a universal state of sinfulness. . . . The sinfulness of the human situation betrays moreover the fact that all men are somehow bound to sin. . . . Therefore, sin dominates men. It is not merely an occasional decision; it is a power that creates the atmosphere in which men live. *It dominates their mind (Romans 1:21), their will (Romans 7:15-20), and their body (Romans 7:24).* Individual men are inextricably involved and hopelessly controlled by something which Paul telescoped into the word "sin."

## 3. DIMENSIONS OF SIN

PERSONAL

SOCIAL

RELIGIOUS  
DIMENSION



Sin that destroys one's inner wholeness

Sin that affects and causes harm to one's neighbor

Sin that rejects and ignores the structure established by God

REJECTION OF GOD



# Corporate Versus Personal Sin?

Ever since the Fall, the world has been tainted by sin. The results of sin are visible in nature. They are visible also in wars, in the evil of slavery and other forms of exploitation, and also in the ways in which we ravage natural resources. **The world of the past and of the present is full of materialism, egotism, injustice, and perversion.**

**These facts raise many difficult questions. Foremost among these is whether we as individuals carry any responsibility for these things and if we should assume any guilt for this corporate state of sinfulness.**

**The following considerations may help us to deal with this dilemma.**

**1. Consider how corporate wrongs in our world may be seen against the background of the great controversy.**

*"Behind the rise and fall of nations and the play and counterplay of human interests lies the unseen struggle between the Godhead, together with the host of loyal angels, and Satan with his hosts of fallen angels—a struggle that directly impacts all human activity."* - "The Great Controversy,"

## Personal Sin

Personal sin is when an individual knows that their actions will hurt their relationship with others, God, and themselves. They know what they are doing is wrong and they do it anyways.



## Social Sin

Social sin is when a whole group of people participate in an action that harms their relationships with others. For example gossip, group teasing or bullying.

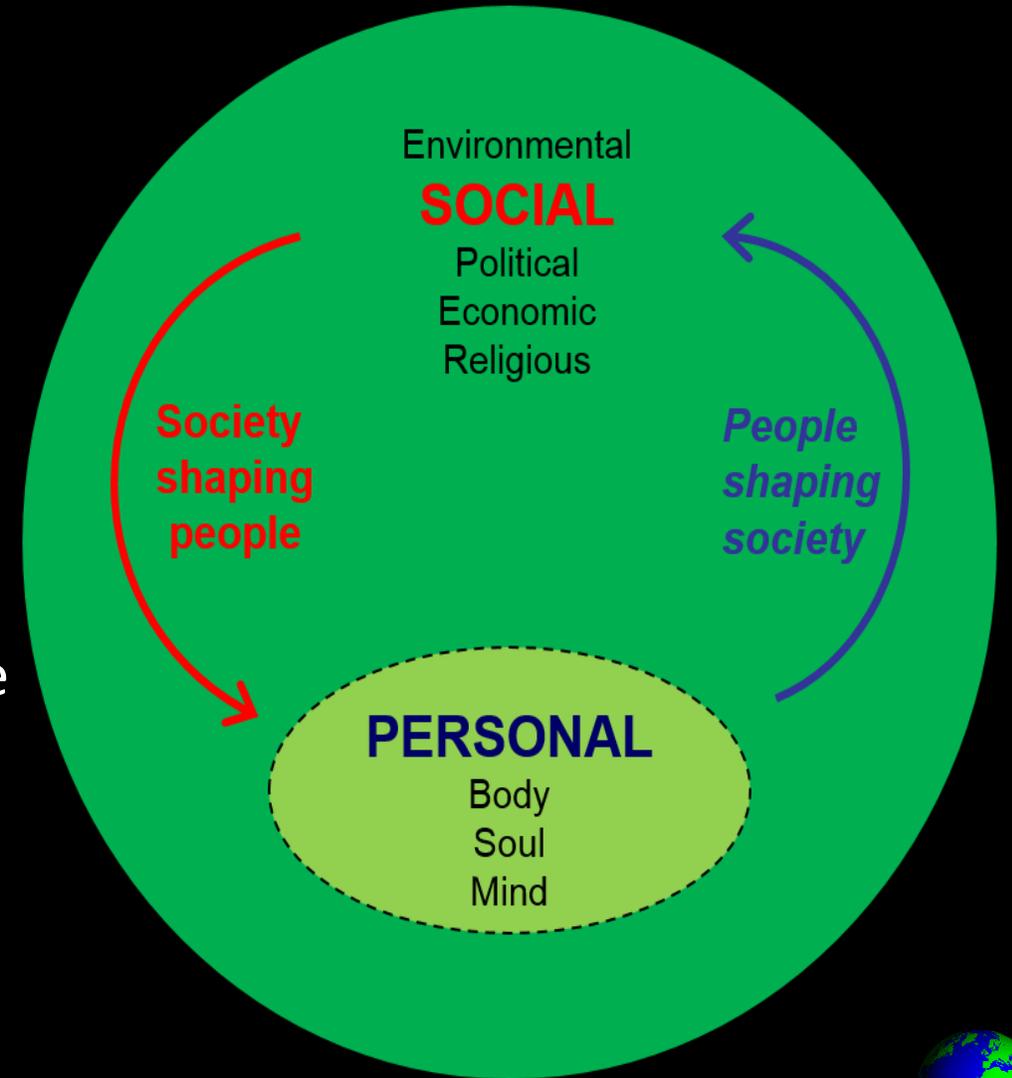


# Corporate Versus Personal Sin? (cont'd)

2. Consider the totally destructive nature of sin. Sin wants to destroy everything that has any value. Sin and death are synonymous, and they are everywhere. There is, therefore, no hope for this world without divine intervention, because the power of sin and death far exceed our human abilities to deal with them.

3. But also consider that we all have some influence. We can all make small decisions that at times may increase or diminish, however slightly, the evil in this world. We can work for peace and justice. We can do acts of compassion. We can choose to cooperate with all who want to protect the environment. Please see Ecclesiastes 9:10; Luke 16:10; & Philippians 4:8, 9.

It's so easy just to throw your arms up in despair and say, "The problems are too great. What can little old me do to help?" Nevertheless, how should the example of Jesus and the good He did healing the sick and comforting the poor influence our decisions to try to make the world a better place?



# ***Natural man does not perceive God***

Man's moral and spiritual disorder reaches back throughout man's entire history, perpetuated through every generation since the fall of Adam. Man's sinful nature cannot be changed except by the power of God. The Christian faith is God's program for man's restoration and transformation.

Unfortunately, the natural man, the unregenerate man, whose mind is darkened and blinded by sin and self-will, is unable to understand and acknowledge the truth about himself as God sees it. Because man chooses to take his motivation from himself rather than from God, the seriousness of his sinfulness is toned down. Men may detect the injustice of man's inhumanity to man. They may interpret religion, and man's personal happiness, in terms of meeting man's social, physical, and emotional needs, without dealing with man's basic problem. Life with God cannot be assumed or taken for granted merely because of man's natural virtues and goodness. To shift man's centre from self, back to God, does not occur automatically or easily within the course of secular education, human culture, and the natural process of human development.



**"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."**

1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV)



# ***Man can be moral and still ignore God***

If ever the evidence was conclusive it is apparent today. Man's life is everywhere set against righteousness and the law of God. **Man in his sinfulness cannot apprehend the truth of God. Each succeeding generation makes the same tragic mistakes. Man never seems to learn. Evil tendencies abound.** Sin has produced a radical insanity of evil passions, selfish ambitions, wild desires, unreasonable emotions that are the curse of all men on the earth.

It is possible to build a desirable moral and social order and still ignore God. **Man is deeply fallen.** The natural qualities and power with which God endowed him at Creation are not sufficient to save him. They do not lead him back to God. Man in his fallen condition tends to dedicate these gifts mostly to the worship of self. **For the most part men tend to believe in the competency of the human mind to arrive at truth without special revelation from God.** They continue to make the same mistake that Adam and Eve made in the beginning. **They accept Satan's offer to be like God without God, self-contained and self-sufficient.** Consequently, the Bible passes judgment on the natural goodness and righteousness of men outside of God.

**WARNING**

**THIS IS A  
POLITICALLY  
INCORRECT  
ZONE**

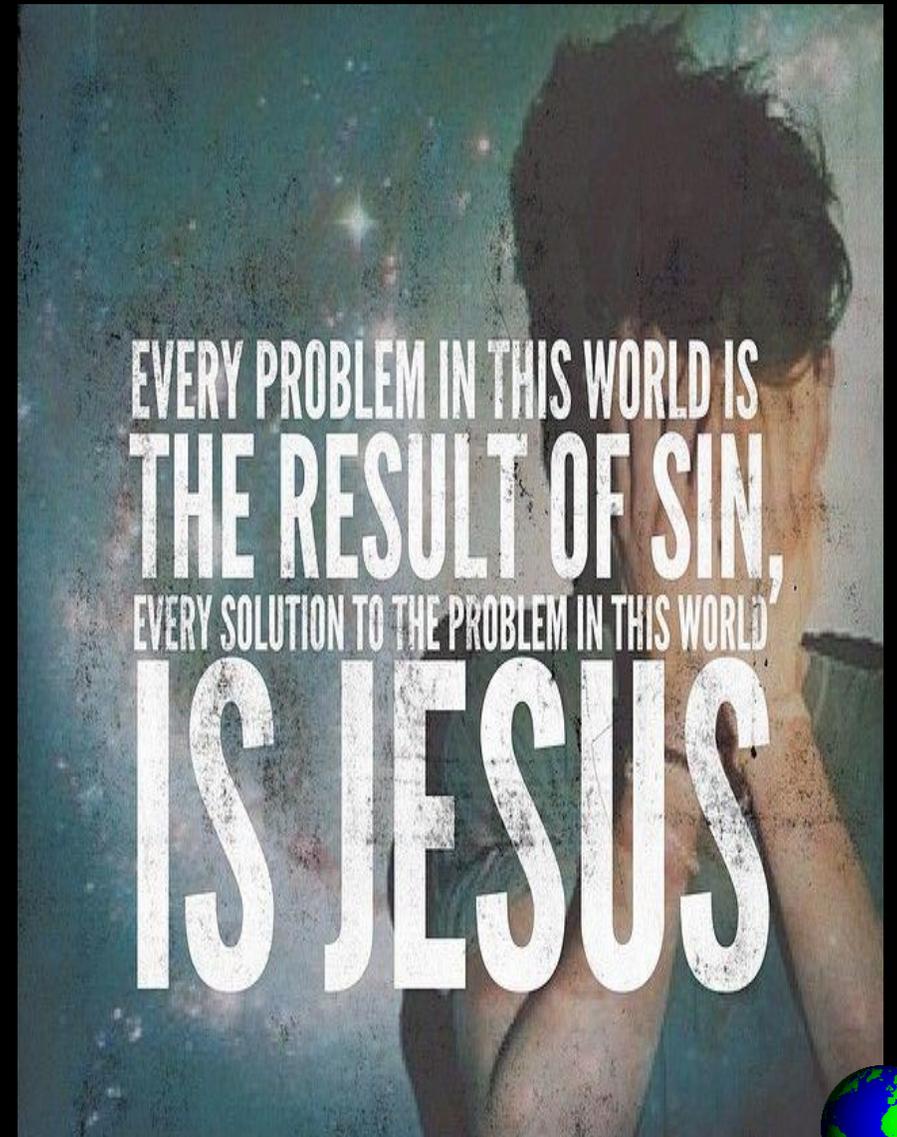
Truth & Reality are  
Authorized in this Area



# ***Man cannot solve the problems of sin***

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away (Isaiah 64:6).

Let us give our philosophers, moralists, and scientists the credit they deserve, but let not man proclaim them the saviours of the race. Belief in the evolutionary origin of man and belief in his natural goodness and progress conspire to obliterate the real truth about man's lost condition and his need of divine revelation and salvation. While we can appreciate the progress seen in the world today under the leadership of brilliant men, let us recognize that these things do not obviate man's need for salvation at the hands of the living God. Man has nothing, absolutely nothing, in himself that he can use to solve the problem of sin and death. We regret that modern man, for the most part, forsakes the light of the gospel for the artificial light of human reason and the creations of man's own mind.



# Can man save the civilisation?

It is customary to magnify the greatness of man above the revelation from God and point with undisguised satisfaction to the natural goodness of man in the hope that ultimately the world will arrive at the millennium. But the belief that man can, by himself, save civilization is sheer foolishness. Mankind will never undergo the necessary change of heart and life by any human method of development. Modern man needs more than liberty by law and discipline, however good this may be for the social and civil order.

He needs liberty by Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "If you dwell within the revelation I have brought, you are indeed my disciples; you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . . . If then the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free" (John 8:31—36).

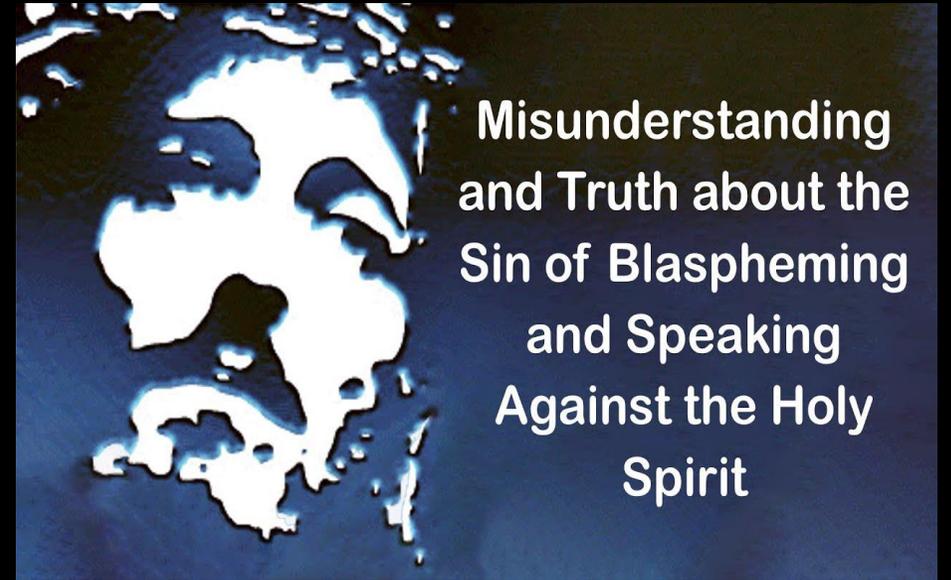


# *The misunderstanding of sin*

It is not easy to get man to think seriously about his own spiritual needs. Modern man is not concerned much about his sins or his distance from God. Unfortunately, the pleasantness of sin is a distinct possibility. Much of sin offers men both delight and pleasure. People do succeed in the ways of unrighteousness here on earth. **Not all sin is unattractive.**

The wages of sin are not always seen in the light of failure and wretchedness.

Often men come to believe that sin is terrible only when it results in disease, poverty, prison, extended suffering, and death; and that so long as one can escape these things, sinful living can be made desirable. **But sin is never more perilous than when it is successful. It is never more costly than when it pays off. It is never more disastrous than when it appears attractive.** It is never more deceptive than when people find so much satisfaction with it.



God's grace is not an excuse to sin, but rather a reason to love and serve Him more fully.



# *Satan is still around to Deceive*

The tempter often works most successfully through those who are least suspected of being under his control. The possessors of talent and education are admired and honoured, as if these qualities could atone for the absence of the fear of God or entitle men to His favour. Talent and culture, considered in themselves, are gifts of God; but when these are made to supply the place of piety, when, instead of bringing the soul nearer to God, they lead away from Him, then they become a curse and a snare. The opinion prevails with many that all which appears like courtesy or refinement must, in some sense, pertain to Christ. Never was there a greater mistake. These qualities should grace the character of every Christian, for they would exert a powerful influence in favour of true religion; but they must be consecrated to God, or they also are a power for evil. Many a man of cultured intellect and pleasant manners, who would not stoop to what is commonly regarded as an immoral act, is but a polished instrument in the hands of Satan. The insidious, deceptive character of his influence and example renders him a more dangerous enemy to the cause of Christ than are those who are ignorant and uncultured. — *The Great Controversy*, p. 509.

SATAN CANNOT DESTROY THE GOSPEL,  
SO HE DOES ALL HE CAN TO  
ATTACK THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT.  
HE TEMPTS. HE DIVIDES.  
HE ACCUSES. HE SCHEMES.  
HE DECEIVES. HE LIES.  
HE STIRS GOSSIP.  
HE PROVOKES DISTRUST.  
HE FEEDS BITTERNESS.  
BUT DO NOT FEAR.  
JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD,  
HE WILL GUARD US.



# *Today as before man faces a Crisis*

Most of the ways of educated men and women are exempt from the crudities and vulgarities that one finds on skid row. **The excesses and brutality of men disgust right-thinking people.** But men seem to be little disturbed by the attractive sinfulness of our day, the licentious living magnified in modern fiction and portrayed on screen, stage, and television, the sensual pleasures veneered with fine clothes and gold, the subtle theological errors advanced with charm, smoothness, sophistication, and gentility. **It is here that the souls of men stand in particular jeopardy.**

Today man faces a crisis of independence—his autonomy, confidence in his own strength, capacity, and ability. **The smarter and the greater he appears to be the more importance he attaches to himself, the more he deifies himself.** Man, with all his wisdom, has exploited his fellow men and the world in which he lives. **The world is no longer a safe place to dwell in. Outside of God man can only wax worse and worse.** The alienation of the human heart from God is the most tragic thing that has ever happened to man.



# Is Man Really Lost?

**The Bible begins with God and ends with God.**

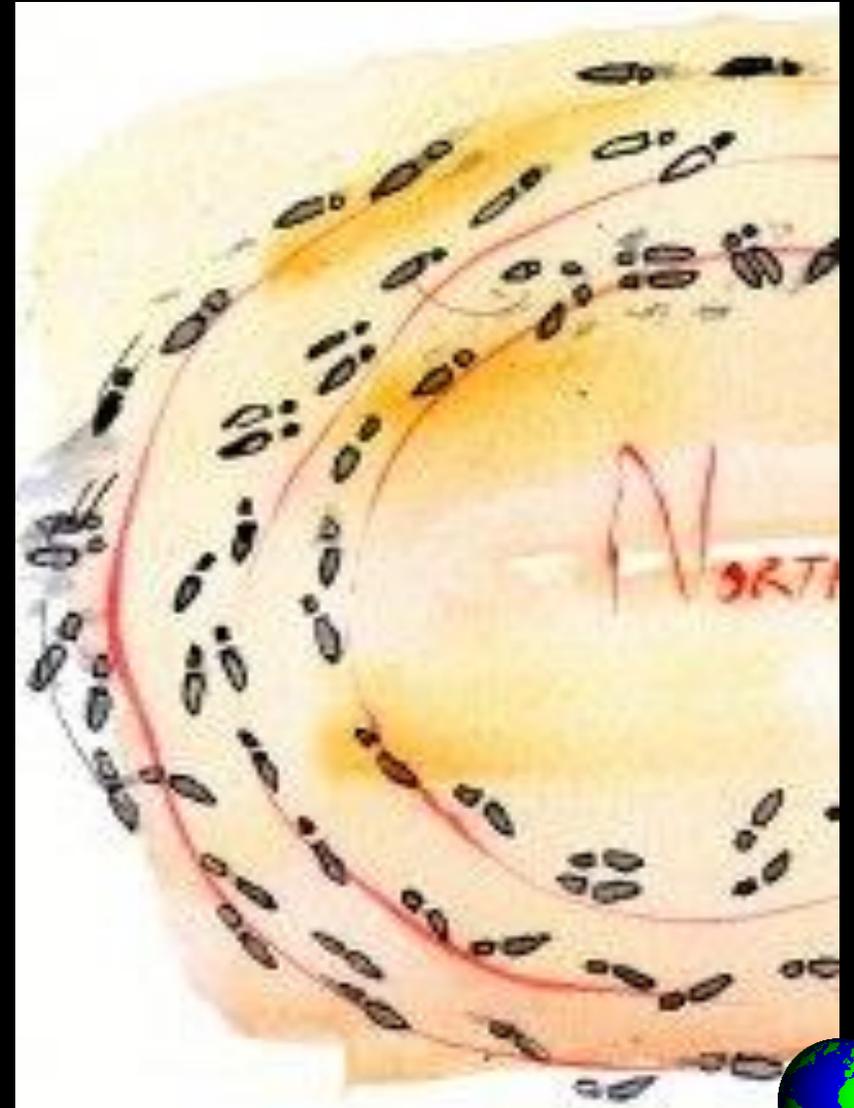
- *In the beginning God created (Genesis 1:1).*
- *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly (Revelation 22:20).*

**Between the beginning of our world and its end lies the history of man. Let us remember then that certain facts confront those who dwell on the earth.**

**First, God created man in His image.**

**Second, man fell from original righteousness with the consequent involvement of the human race in sin.**

**Third, in view of the fact that man is a historical being, God must enter into human history and become part of the historical process if man is to be saved.** God's invasion into our world on a rescue mission occurred in the person of God's Son, Jesus Christ. **These are supreme historical realities, not illusions.** Because they are facts that belong to the history of man, man must pay attention to them.

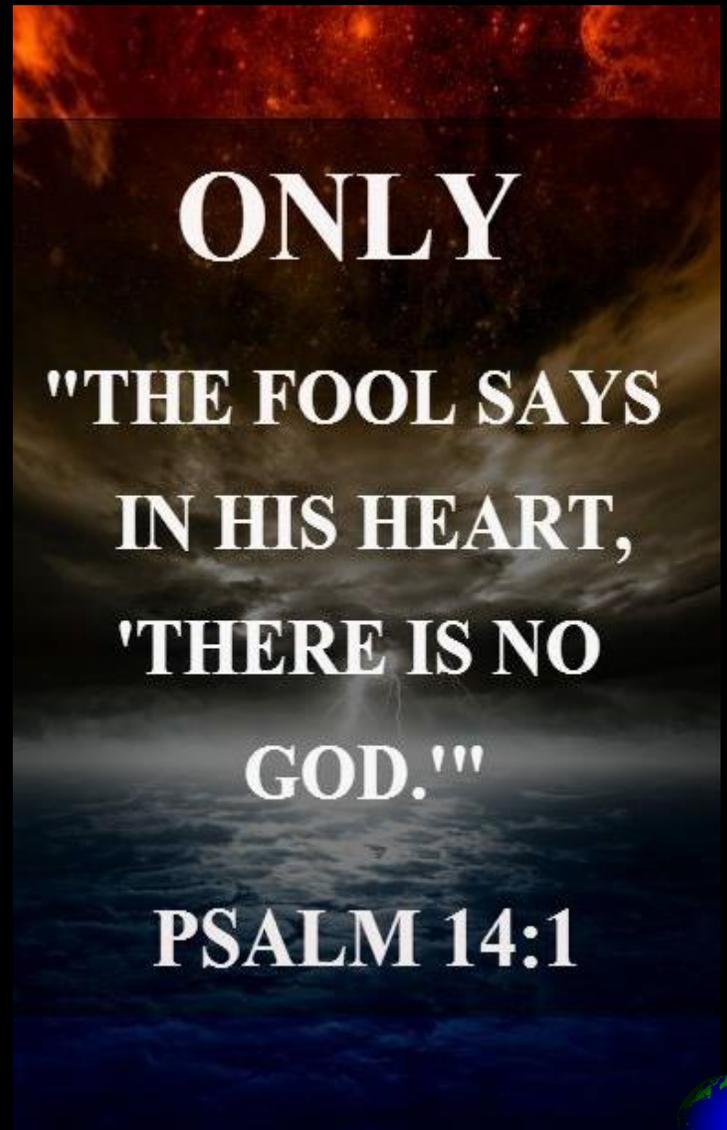


## So many questions to look at

*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. . . . How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? (Hebrews 2:1-3).*

**The rescue of our world cannot be realized by glossing over the facts. But what shall we conceive this human tragedy to mean in terms of man's eternal destiny? Is it really true that hundreds of millions of people are lost, that most people who live on this planet are destined for eternal extinction? Or is God so loving and merciful that He will forgive and save all His lost children regardless?**

*When the Bible affirms that "there is none righteous, no, not one: . . . there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:10, 11), does this mean that all the "good" people in the world who do not believe in Jesus Christ are going to suffer the agonies of hell-fire and the outer darkness, where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth? Is there danger that we consider God as permissive and grandfatherly and refuse to consider the possibility of man's being eternally lost?*



## How serious is Jesus Christ about this question?

*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? . . . Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish (Matthew 18:11-14).*

**Jesus warned that men could perish—forever.** Men could build their lives either upon the rock or on the sand. **The consequence of building on the sand would be final destruction, but on the rock, life eternal.** He said further that men must choose one of two masters; they take one of two roads, the broad road or the narrow way. **The choice men make would be decisive for the life to come.** Christ spoke of the final day when He would separate the sheep from the goats:



# Let us examine what the Bible says...

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, . . . before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ([Matthew 25:31-41](#)).*

**Why not soften the blow?** Why discourage people by talking too much about their sins and their being lost? **Why not limit the classification "goats" to the incorrigibles?** Why not include with the "sheep" all the fair-minded, the orderly, those who give a good account of themselves as law-abiding citizens? **Why make salvation so difficult?** **Men need a simple way of salvation.** If men are living good moral lives, why not let this be enough to usher them through the pearly gates?



# More questions to look at...

If men join a church why not recognize they are all heading toward the one kingdom of God? Why not make a simple confession of belief in God sufficient to save men? Why not believe that to be saved God simply requires men to live up to the best they know, regardless of race, colour, creed, country, or religion? Why press the authority of the Bible upon people who live respectable lives? Why clothe the pulpit and the preaching with the claims of an infallible Bible and insist that men obey all the commandments of God? Is it not better to believe that the God who guides the stars will at last bring our earth-ship to the safe haven that God destined for her at Creation? Is not God far too good to let His wayward children perish at last?

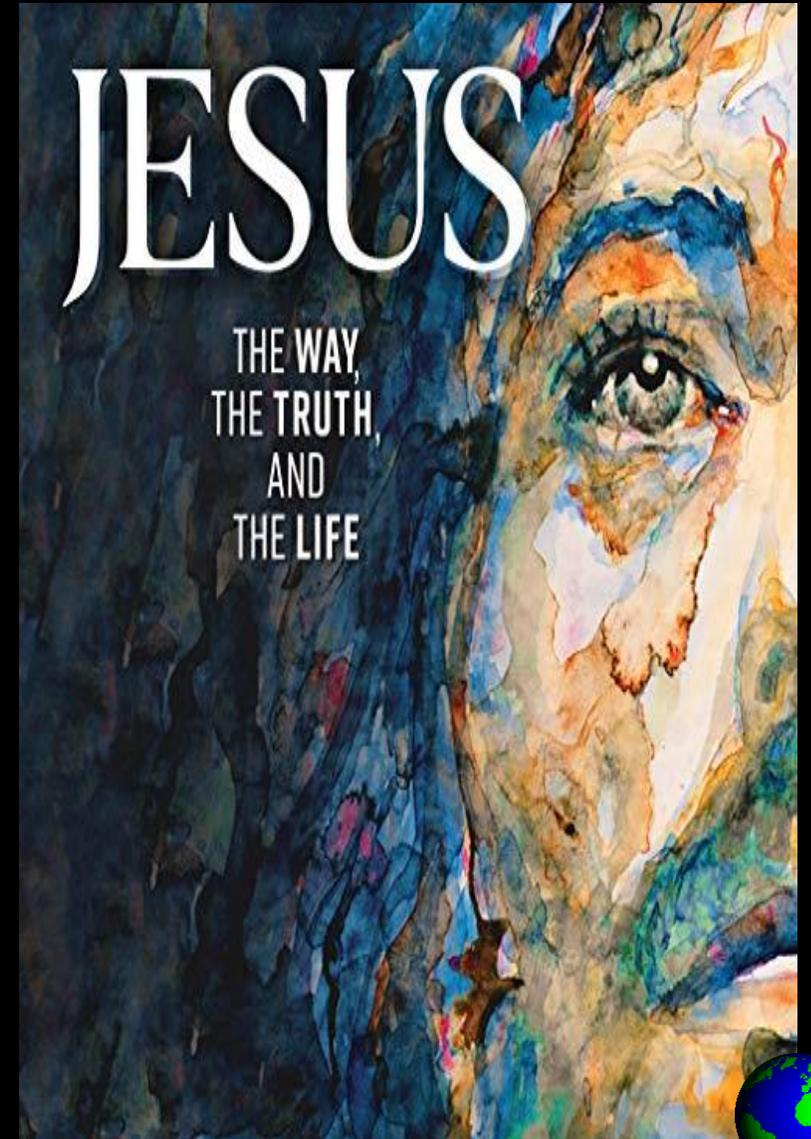
However, salvation is not to be purchased at the price of error and falsity. Sinful men are dependent upon what God has revealed. Bible truth can never be a fetter upon the freedom and salvation of man. For man to be redeemed and transformed there is need of a divine agency, but with the solemn endowment of freedom of choice.



# *Jesus is the Way, Truth & Life!*

God's revelation in Jesus Christ and in His Word alone can show man the way, the truth, and the life. Man must see the truth of God before he can appropriate it. His response to God's way of salvation cannot be blind reception. Redemption is reconciliation to God and restoration of man to the image in which God created him. His salvation cannot be realized except as he discerns God's supreme effort in human history for man's rescue.

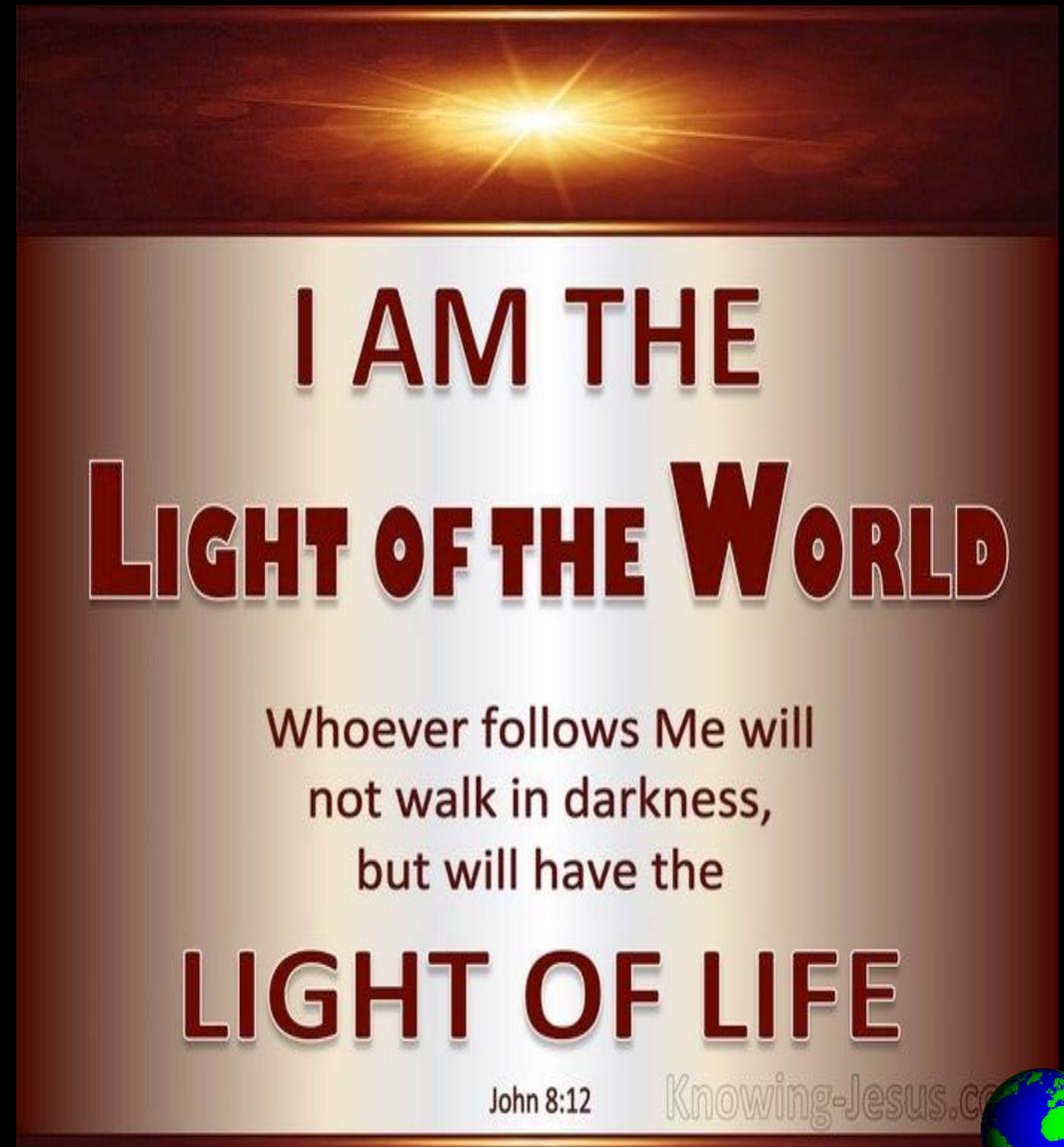
Men do differ as to the nature of man, sin, and Jesus Christ. The struggle of the Christian church shows the encounters between truth and error. The choice lies, therefore, between the Word of God and the word of men. **What a man believes does matter.** Men may affirm they care little or nothing for the great truths of the Bible. Men also may affirm they care little or nothing for the doctor's knowledge of medicine. **But this is perilous.** The sound mind must insist that the doctor, the dentist, the builder of the house, the man who repairs his shoes, must know his business before he begins to practice it. So it is that if a man does not believe the revealed Word of God, then there will be no need to live by it. He has made the choice and he cannot avoid the consequences.



# ***Man needs to be enlightened to truth***

Man's lost condition is clearly seen in the greatness of the salvation provided for him by God in Jesus Christ. The price that God paid to save men speaks unmistakably of who man is and how vital it is to rescue him from sin and eternal loss. Men measure the worth of the kidnapped by the price paid for his ransom. How great must man I be who must be rescued at such a price!

Jesus Christ is the centre of human history, the Rock, the unmovable Foundation upon which man can depend. All the lines of history converge toward this one Man. The universal tragedy of sin and the divine redemption in Christ belong together. Man in himself has no way back to God. He cannot be lured by clever arguments and social improvements into reconciliation with the God of heaven. Man is blind to his lost condition unless he is enlightened by God and by His Word.



**I AM THE  
LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

Whoever follows Me will  
not walk in darkness,  
but will have the

**LIGHT OF LIFE**

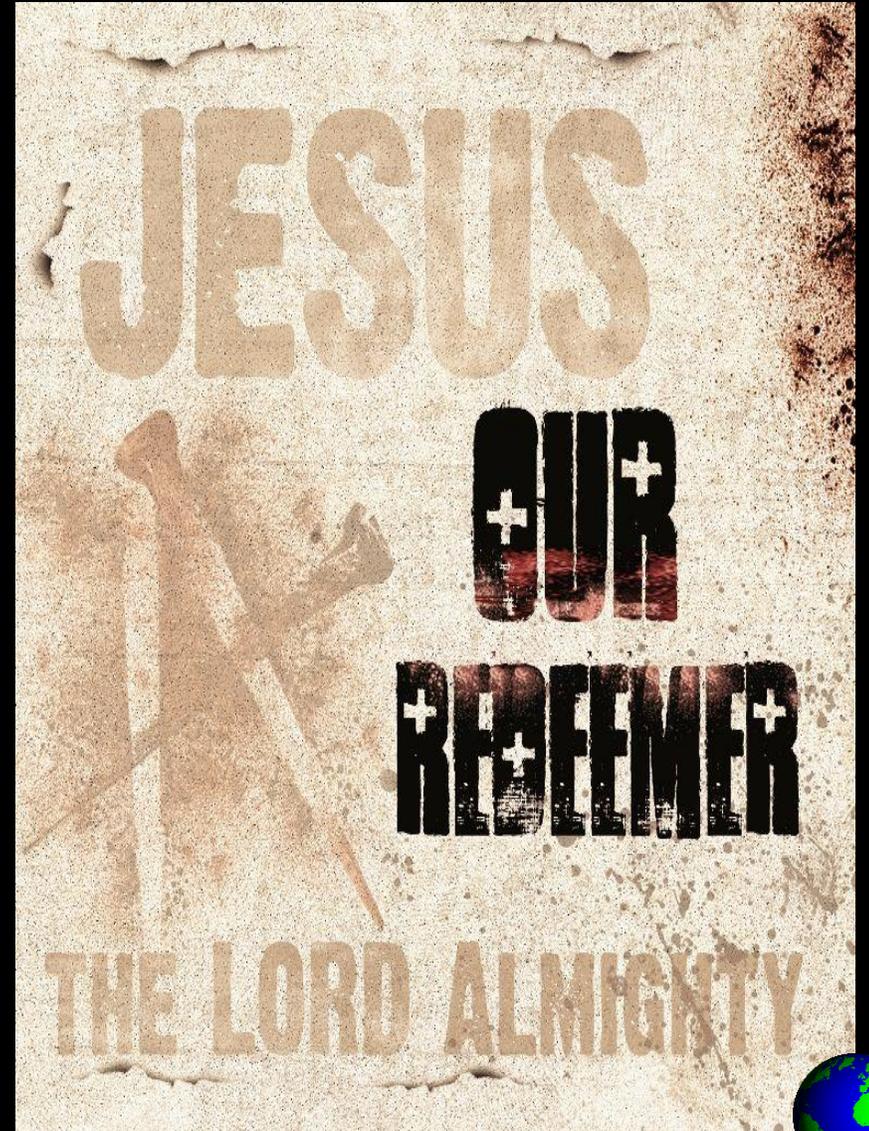
John 8:12 [Knowing-Jesus.com](http://Knowing-Jesus.com)

# *The need of a Divine Redeemer*

The more we face the truth about man in this world, the more salvation by Jesus Christ is seen as necessary. The right view of sin and death demands the right view of the divine remedy. Let a man state his understanding of the nature of man and he will state what he thinks of Jesus Christ and His work. Both truths stand or fall together. Where a man is able to redeem himself, he is no longer in need of a divine Redeemer.

Apart from the person and work of Jesus Christ man must sink under the eternal judgment of God.

*For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (Hebrews 9:26-28).*



# ***The Only Solution for the Sin Problem***

There is no easy or cheap solution to the sin problem. Sin cannot be overcome by human determination and perseverance. Sin is larger than we are. The solution must therefore also supersede our possibilities. There is a lot of confusion among people about the issue of salvation. Many claim there are many different roads to the kingdom. The roads differ, they say, but they all lead to the same destination. But they are wrong. - John 10:7; John 14:6; Acts 4:12.

We do not know who will enter through the gates of the kingdom. Thank God, that decision is in the hands of the One to whom judgment has been given, the One who is love and justice personified. But we do know one thing: Those who receive eternal life do so only because Christ died for them. Some may never have had the privilege of learning about their Saviour. But that takes nothing away from the fact that if they are saved it will be through the name of Christ, even if they have never themselves heard that name. - Philipians 2:6-8; Hebrews 1:1-5; Revelation 5:9-12.

THE PROBLEM IS

SIN

THE SOLUTION IS

CHRIST



# Summary

Through the ages some Christians have declared that they achieved a state of perfection. Yet, those who claim perfection delude themselves. It is contrary to the clear words of Scripture.

Quoting [Psalm 106:6](#) Paul stated: " 'There is no one righteous, not even one!' " ([Romans 3:10](#)). Apostle John is just as adamant: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves" ([1 John 1:8](#)).

"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, or a day. It is a continual growth in grace. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. Satan lives, and is active, and every day we need to earnestly cry to God for help and strength to resist him. As long as Satan reigns we shall have self to subdue, besetments to overcome, and there is no stopping place. There is no point to which we can come and say we have fully attained." - [The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 947.](#)



# Conclusion

Sin has infected all spheres of life. We are faced with the reality of something that far exceeds our abilities to deal with. But it does not exceed the power and the love of God. He has decisively dealt with the sin problem in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Only God is equal to the sin and death problem. Men need to believe in the one true God whose Word and acts reveal He is truly able to save the world. Men do not need theories about salvation and self-improvement that are the product of man's own thinking. They need the mighty acts of God, a salvation wrought out by God Himself and not by man.

## Seal of God

- ▼ True Worship
- ▼ Adoration to the Creator
- ▼ Commandment of God
- ▼ Protection signal
- ▼ Placed on the forehead



**Sabbath**

Revelation 12:17 & 14:12

## Mark of the Beast

- ▼ False Worship
- ▼ Adoration to the Beast
- ▼ Commandment of man
- ▼ Sign of condemnation
- ▼ On the forehead & in the hand



**Sunday**

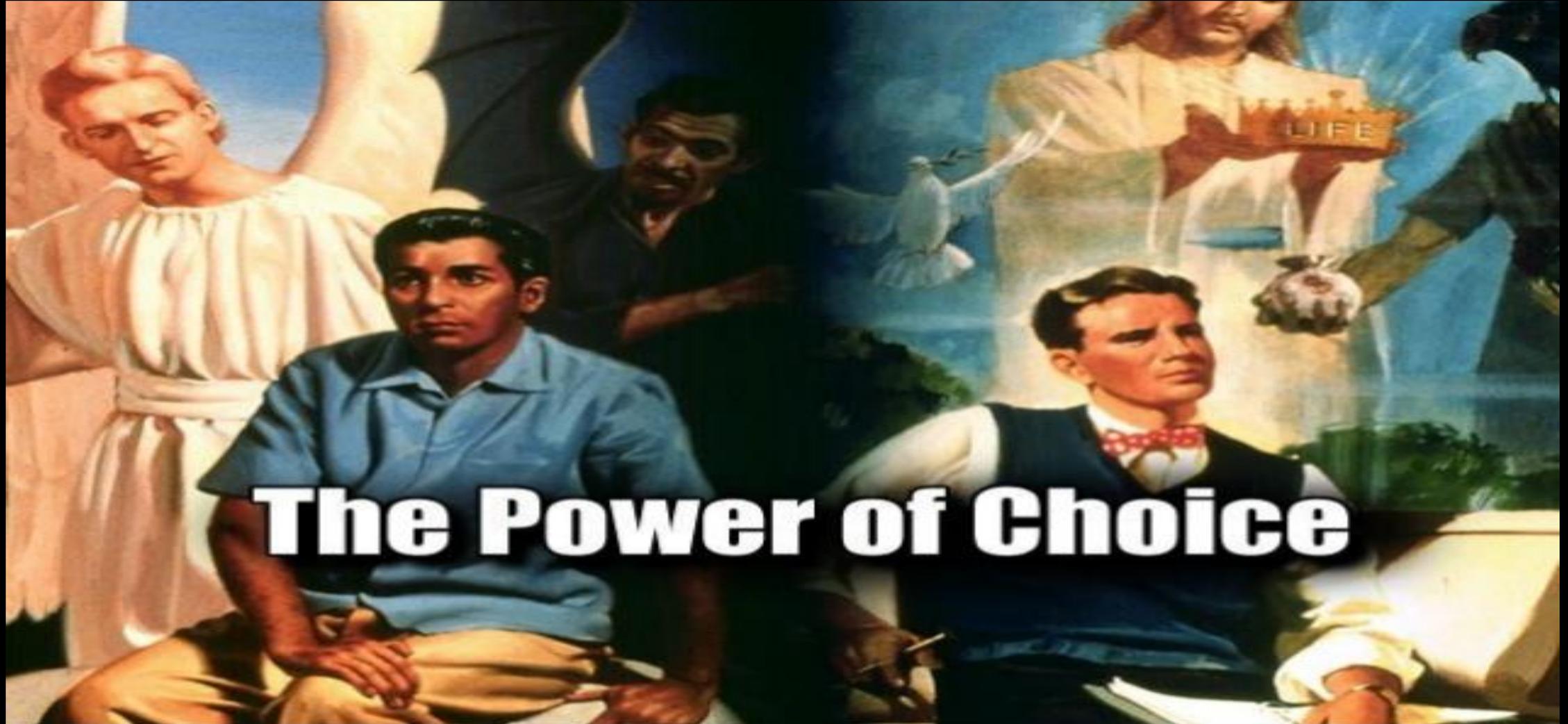
Revelation 13:16

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Mensaje Adventista

When the observance of Sunday be mandatory, each person must decide whether to accept the sign of authority of God (Sabbath) or the authority of men (Sunday).

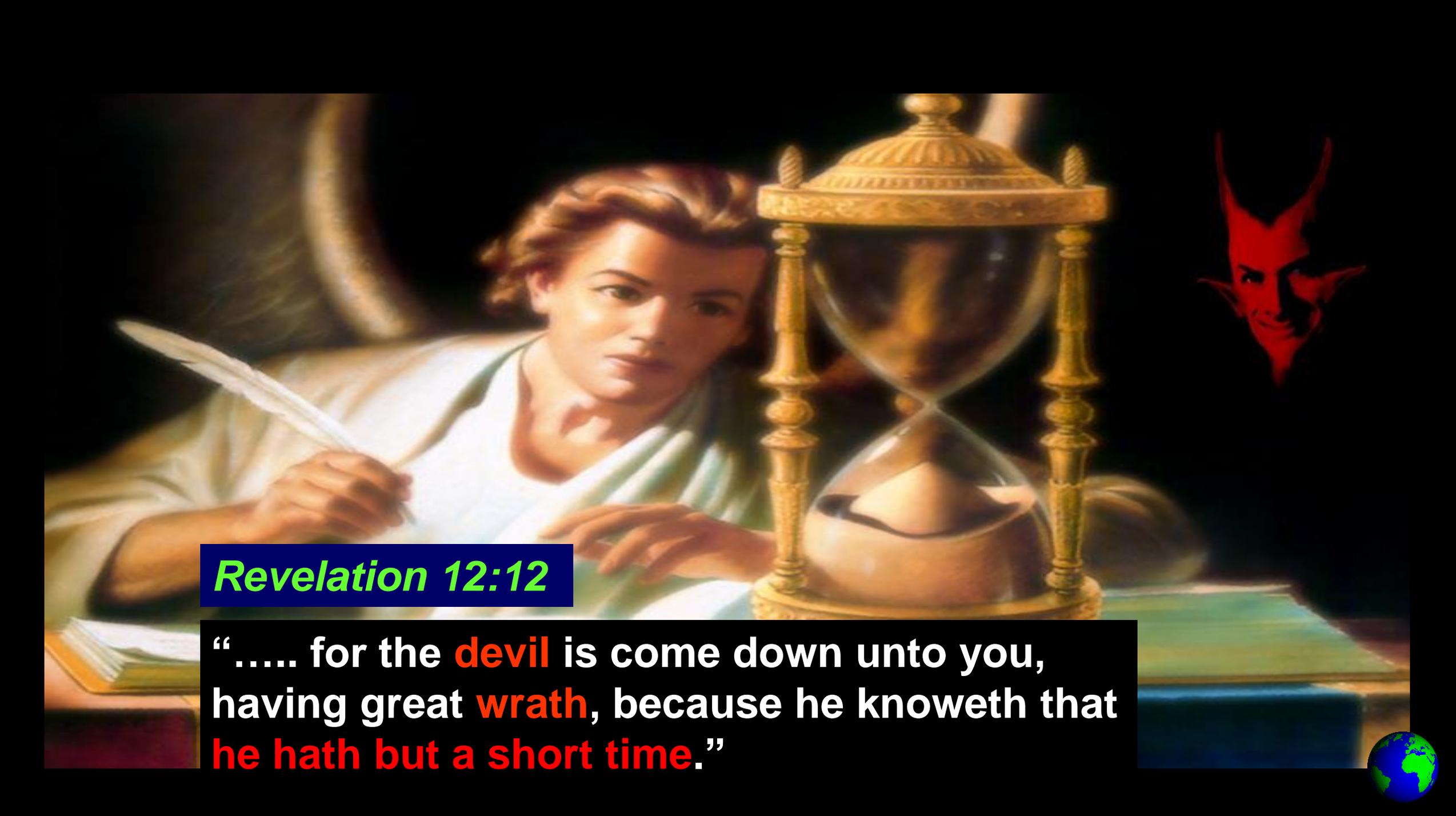


*God has given all:*



**The Power of Choice**



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

**Revelation 12:12**

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



# Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –  
Revelation 3:20





**THE END**



**ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?**