PART TWO OUR PRESENT PLACE

"PART ONE" REVIEW (Lessons 1, 2, & 3)

In the previous section we learned 3 major biblical facts and had a surprise at the end. In review:

- 1. <u>Eph. 1:9</u> God tells us He has a plan. It is His "end game" for eternity!
- 2. <u>Col. 3:1–2</u> We are commanded to think spiritually
- 3. <u>Col. 1:19–20</u> God's "Big Picture Plan" is to bring His entire creation back under His unchallenged rulership for all eternity.

LESSON 4 OUR IMPORTANT ROLE IN GOD'S MASTER PLAN

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective. Colossians 3:1–2

Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

Col. 1:19–20



LESSON'S POINT

We are so small, and so temporary, just how important can we be in a master plan for the rulership of all creation for eternity?

INTRODUCTION

We are small when compared to God's immense, un-measurable, universe! How important can we be to God's Big Picture Master Plan? Remember, it is commanded that our perspective be the same as God's. Therefore let's make an in depth examine of God's perspective.

PART I GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

-OF CREATION-

Many people think in terms of "the real world" and "the spiritual world." However, the Bible tells us that "our real world" is only a temporary model of the true, everlasting, real world, the heavenly world—the spiritual realm. Therefore: What we call the spiritual realm is the real world and the physical world in which we now live is only a temporary representation of the real world.

They serve at a place that is a **pattern, a shadow**, **of what is in heaven**. When Moses was about to make the tent, God warned him, "Be sure to make everything **based on the plan I showed you on the mountain**." (Heb. 8:5; See also Ex. 25:40; 26:30; Acts 7:44)

This is how the lamp stand was made: The whole lamp stand, from top to bottom, was hammered out of gold. It was made **exactly like the one the LORD had shown** *Moses*. (Num. 8:4)

The copies of the things in heaven had to be cleansed by these sacrifices. But **the** *heavenly things* themselves had to be cleansed by better sacrifices. (Heb. 9:23)

These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts the shadow belongs to Christ. (Col. 2:17)

You were in **Eden, God's garden**. You were covered with every kind of precious stone: red quartz, topaz, crystal, beryl, onyx, gray quartz, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald. Your settings and your sockets were made of gold when you were created. (Ezek. 28:13)

Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to **the heavenly** Jerusalem. You have come to tens of thousands of angels joyfully gathered together (Heb. 12:22)

He carried me by his power away to a large, high mountain. He showed me the holy city, **Jerusalem**, **coming down from God out of heaven**. (Rev. 21:10)

Between the street of the city and the river there was a tree of life . . .(Rev. 22:2)

We don't look for things that can be seen but for things that can't be seen. Things that can be seen are only temporary. **But things that can't be seen last forever**. (2 Cor. 4:18; see also 2 Cor. 4:16–18)

-OF US-

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Cor. 5:17 NASB)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3)

At the moment of our salvation *spiritual things* happen to us. "You mean that we were made children of God, given the Holy Spirit, and changed into, eternally living, spiritual beings, right?" Yes, there are those three things but there is more! God changes our eternal spiritual status, He changes us, He equips us spiritually, and He enters us into a training program. Please see the Addendum, page 127 for a full explanation on how "salvation" is understood and presented in this series.

We Change

- 1. We are now completed beings (Colossians 2:10)
 - 2. We are given a proper functioning human spirit (Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12 KJV; 1 Thess. 5:23)
 - 3. The Holy Spirit Indwells us (John 7:39; Romans. 5:5; 8:9 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24)
 - 4. We become an eternally <u>living</u> spiritual being (John 3:15; 10:28; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-12)
 - 5. We receive a new, tender, spiritual heart (Jer. 17:9–10; *Ezek. 36:26; Hebrews 3:15)
 - 6. We are given new spiritual capabilities (1 Corinthians 12:4–11; 27–31)

Our Position & Situation Changes

(These are mostly legal issues in the spiritual realm.)

- 7. We are moved out of Satan's domain (Colossians 1:13a)
 - 8. We were redeemed (Christ paid the full legal price for our sin and therefore owns us) (Romans 3:24; Colossians 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18–19)
 - 9. The eternal legal consequence of death, for all our sins, is judged (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24)
 - 10. Our condemnation (guilt) is removed (John 3:18; 5:24; Romans 8:1)
 - 11. Our trespasses (to know but ignore and go past the known laws of God) are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13)
- 12. We are moved into the Son's kingdom (Colossians 1:13b)
 - 13. We are moved from spiritual death into spiritual life (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1–3)
 - 14. We are declared to be Saints (set apart for God's use) (1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:2; Ephesians 2:19)
 - 15. We are Perfected (set apart as pure) (Hebrews 10:14)
 - 16. We are Justified (by legal spiritual standards, we are declared as not guilty) (Romans 3:21 ff)
 - 17. We are made Righteous (in legal "right-standing" before and with God because Christ's righteousness is attributed to us) (2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 3:22; Phil. 3:9 See also 1 Cor. 1:30)
 - We are Sanctified <u>a legal status</u>; legally owned by God, and to be made like God. Closely related to "Perfected & Holy." (1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 1:2)
- 19. We were, and still are, spiritually sealed nothing will change any of the changes made to us at salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13–14; 4:30).

Our Spiritual Relationships Change (Intimacy & Unity)

- 20. A unique and caring relationship with God (Romans 5:9–10)
 - 21. People of God (Titus 2:14)
 - 22. Citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:19 See also Luke 10:20)
 - 23. Family/household of God (Ephesians 2:19; Gal. 6:10)
 - a. Children, strong adults, and mature adults in the spiritual family (John 1:12;1 John 3:2; Romans. 8:15, 23; 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 3:26; Ephesians. 1:5)
 - 24. We are engaged to Christ (Ephesians 5:25–27; Rev. 19:7–10)
 - 25. Given individual access to God (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 4:14–16; 10:19–22)
- 26. We are being built into a dwelling place of God, a holy temple/Living Stones (Ephesians 2:21–22; 1 Pet. 2:5; consider the stones in Ezek. 28:13–15)

Our Spiritual Responsibilities Change

(Phase 2 of Christ's Work)

(See 1 John 3:8; Acts 2:34–35; Eph. 4:10)

- 27. Members of Christ's present spiritual, earthly body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - 28. Partners with Christ in life and service (Colossians 3:4; 1 Corinthians 1:9)
 - 29. Responsible to develop godly character (James 1:2–4; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:24; 6:12–18; **Prov. 4:18**)
 - 30. Each of us now have the spiritual power to resist the temptations of the devil (James 4:8; Ephesians 6:12–18)
 - 31. Delivered from the power of the flesh, we are to live by a godly spiritual life (Galatians 3:1–3 GWN; Romans 2:29; Philippians 3:3; Colossians 2:11)
 - 32. We are commanded to live in the spirit (Romans 7:6; Galatians 3:25)
 - 33. We are to shine forth our spiritual light (Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5)
 - 34. We are to be ambassadors for Christ to the human race (2 Corinthians 5:15–20)
 - 35. We have the spiritual ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).
 - 36. We are witnesses to the rebellious angels (Ephesians 3:10, same group as in Eph. 6:12)

Now, for the fun of it, let's look at all the physical changes which are revealed in the Bible that occur at the point of our salvation.

ALL OF OUR PHYSICAL CHANGES AT THE POINT OF SALVATION (As listed in the Bible)

1. 0.0

"We are not temporary physical beings having a temporary spiritual experience; we are eternal spiritual beings having a temporary physical experience." (Modified C. S. Lewis quote)

PART II OUR PRESENT ROLE IN GOD'S PLAN

- 1. Our part in God's Big Picture Plan begins to be revealed in **Gen. 2:16–17**. There we find that God tells the humans He will kill them for eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But then we read:
- 2. They eat Gen. 3:1–7
- 3. They have the fear of death Gen. 3:8-10
- 4. The Lord God assesses the situation and begins to carry out the judgements and punishments for disobedience Gen. 3:11–19

a. We pick up the story in Gen. 3:14 where we might expect to read: "The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life and then He turned to the humans, killed them, and sent them to hell.

- b. But that's not what happened, God inserted Gen. 3:15!!!
- 5. In **Gen. 3:15**, we find several things:
 - a. Rather than the death, which God had the legal right to immediately apply, (and which I would have) we find God leaving the humans on the earth.
 - b. God then reveals several more things:
 - i. That there will be hostility between Satan and the woman

- ii. This hostility will continue between Satan's offspring, and the woman's offspring.
- iii. <u>Her offspring (humans) will have a role in the crushing of</u> <u>Satan's rulership!</u>
- c. For a more technical presentation of Genesis 3:15 please refer to the Addendum, pg 113

Two Important Points

Point #1: It is very popular to focus on the fact that **Genesis 3:15** is the first promise of a savior. While that is a important fact, there are important facts, that should not be overlooked. These facts are the beginning of God's revelation about His Big Picture Plan! In an examination we find:

- 1. God is NOT talking to the humans, He is talking to Satan.
- 2. God is NOT telling Satan He is going to save humans He is telling Satan He is going to "crush Satan's head," that is- to destroy Satan's rulership.
 - a. God is NOT going to kill Satan or completely destroy Satan.
 - b. God is going to remove Satan from his present rulership position and destroy his rebellious system of rule.
- 3. Nowhere in **Gen. 3:15** does God plainly and clearly state, or outright promise, a savior for humanity. It is only through the progressive revelation found in the rest of the Scripture that we know God will send a savior from and for humanity.
- 4. Why do some focus on human salvation as the main point when God is addressing Satan and speaking about the destruction of Satan's rebellious rulership?
 - a. In Galatians 3:16 it states that God used the word "seed," in the singular in Gen. 22:18, to refer specifically to Christ, in a particular promise given to Abraham.
 - b. Some use the above fact as a precedent for the interpretation of Gen. 3:15.
- 5. Further Research Reveals
 - a. The word "seed," in the singular, in other passages also refers to many seeds, its usage has to be understood <u>in the context of the specific passage</u>.
 - i. Gen. 1:11: Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. (Here "plants" and "seed" are in the plural and refer to many, or all.)
 - b. By the laws of grammar, a modifying word must agree in person and number. BUT, all that does not change the definition of the modifier.

E.G. The *woman* left *her* hat on the chair. We do not say: The *woman* left *their* hat on the chair. Also, *Jason*, the woman's *child*, ran off. We do not say: *Jason*, the woman's *children*, ran off.

- i. In Gen. 22:18 seed is used to refer to Christ but in the previous verse, Gen. 22:17, it is used in the plural: *indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.* (Here, "you" and "seed" refer to many people!)
- c. Here in **Gen. 3:15** the single word "seed" can refer to one or many. Since the plural of "seed" can also be "seed" only context determines it's singular or plural number.
- d. In **Gen. 3:15** "her" is in the singular therefore "seed" is in the singular.
 - i. Simply because "seed" is in the singular here, does not automatically refer to a single person! If that were so we would not have **<u>Rom. 16:20</u>**
 - ii. Just as Gal. 3:16 clarifies Gen. 22:18, Rom. 16:20 clarifies Gen. 3:15.
- e. When all related biblical information is considered it reveals that the "seed" in **Genesis 3:15** refers to <u>all human offspring of the woman</u>.
- f. If the seed of the woman only refers to Jesus,
 - i. Then there is only hostility between Satan and Jesus.
 - ii. Humanity and Satan would always be in friendly agreement—simpatico.
 - iii. Biblical information does not support the above two points.
- 6. YES! Gen. 3:15 includes Christ <u>but it does not exclude us</u>!
 - a. **Roman 16:20** reveals, and secures, the fact that, **Genesis 3:15** is not simply referring to Christ.
 - b. <u>Genesis 3:15</u> should never be taught without reference to <u>Roman</u> <u>16:20</u>!
 - c. We have a role in crushing Satan's rulership!
 - d. Our place in God's plan is to have a role, positive or negative, in crushing Satan's rulership.

Point #2

It is important to note that, in this passage, <u>GOD DID NOT SAY</u>, nor even infer that:

- 1. He would give us an easy life here on this earth (See Gen. 3:16–24)
- 2. He would fix all our problems

- 3. He would fix all the worldly problems
- 4. He would fix all of our relationships
- 5. He would make us to be happy all the time and always be prosperous
- 6. He would make the entire world a better place for us to live

Point: While it is true that God is a God of love and blessings, here in Gen. 3:15–24 God is preparing us for a hard life of conflict and struggle!

CONCLUSIONS AND BLESSINGS

- 1. The Lord Jesus told Paul: "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God . . ." (Acts 26:18).
 - a. This was Paul's commission
 - b. Everything he did, and wrote, which was much of the NT, was to fulfill this commission!
- 2. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Rom. 16:20).
- 3. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)
- 4. When our struggle is over, look what happens: For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (Rom. 8:18–19)

REMEMBER – Our <u>Thinking</u> is Commanded to Be Spiritual

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (Col. 3:1–2)

Since you were brought back to life with Christ, focus on the things that are above-where Christ holds the highest position. Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. (GWN)

ALSO – Our Values Should Be Spiritual

Instead, these men were <u>longing</u> for a better country-a heavenly country. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God. He has prepared a city for them. (Heb. 11:16)

If our thinking, values, and goals are spiritual then we can take whatever this temporary world, ruled by Satan, throws at us:

... and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive <u>what</u> <u>was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart</u> from us they would not be made perfect. (Heb. 11:35–40)

Upon eating the fruit God did not kill us, and send us to Hell, He left us on this earth for a specific reason—to have an active spiritual role in the destruction of Satan's rulership. That role continues to this day.

LESSON 4 SUMMARY

Each one of us can have <u>a victorious role</u> in the crushing of Satan's rebellious rulership!

What an important, and enormous, place God has given us physical specks of dust, in His Plan!

DISCUSSION

1. How does this lesson affect your view of this physical world by understanding we live in a temporary model of the real, eternal, heavenly, world?

2. How does this information affect the view of yourself to know that you are - primarily - a spiritual being?

3. When you understand that your purpose on earth is a spiritual one, how does if affect the value of your daily obedience to God?

LESSON 5 OUR VICTORIOUS ACTIVITY

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective.

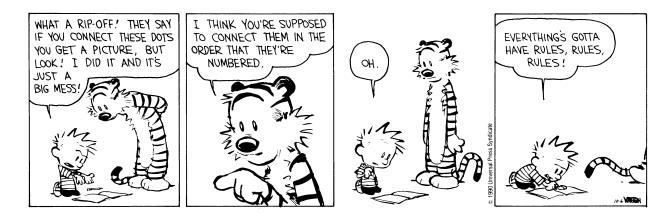
Colossians 3:1-2

Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

Colossians 1:19-20

Lesson 4: We were left on this earth to be Active Agents which God is using to crush Satan's rulership.

Gen. 2:16-17; 3:15; Rom. 16:20



LESSON'S POINT

If we don't follow God's rules we will not be victorious in the godly role assigned to us (Our Place); we will only make a "big mess" out of God's plan for our lives.

GOD'S RULES FOR VICTORY AGAINST SATAN AND TO GLORIFY GOD

INTRODUCTION

It must be noted that all creation is watching us live by God's rules, "connect the dots." While humans watch, most don't understand (1 Cor. 2:14; Job 4:1–37:24). The ones who truly understand are the angels in heaven, both obedient and rebellious (Job 1:6–12; Eph. 3:10). This means the greatest number of witnesses who understand what and why you are living by God's rules, a godly life, are the angels in heaven!

Your godly life gives its greatest witness, to the angels in the heavenly realm!

Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made. (Isa. 43:7)

so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. (Eph. 3:10)

God has designed a victorious role for us in His victorious plan. This victorious role provides us with every victorious activity we are to use in our life against Satan! These victorious activities are called "faith." This makes an accurate understanding of the faith found in the Bible, which will now be referred to as "Biblical Faith," of ultimate importance! <u>This type of faith, "Biblical Faith," applies to all believers, past, present, and future</u>! Let's make sure we properly connect all the dots on how Biblical Faith functions so we can be victorious agents in God's victorious plan.

BIBLICAL FAITH

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the entire Bible we see that God has placed humans on the front lines of the battle between Satan's rule and God's rule. Our front line activity is to live a life under God's rule, a life of Biblical Faith. But – "Houston We Have a Problem."

THE PROBLEM

There Are Many Different Types of Faith!

- 1. Religious Faith "If I do the activities my church tells me to do, then I am living by faith."
- 2. Mystical Faith "When I use mystical activities I am living by faith." These are activities that can be performed by anyone and will produce results. These activities include, using a Ouija board, magic 8 ball, burying an idle in your front yard to sell your house. Also, special prayers, using "special spiritual" words in the prayers. Dropping the Bible and wherever it opens, the answer will somehow be there.
- 3. Supernatural Faith "When I use my personal supernatural powers I am living by faith." These supernatural powers are resident within the person and can be used whenever the person so desires.
- 4. Personal Reality Faith "If I believe hard enough, and long enough, it will come true."
- 5. Interactive Personal Faith "God speaks to me and tells me what is true and what to do." Typically these people have little or nothing to do with the Bible.
- 6. Intellectual Faith Biblical knowledge is their prime goal. "All I have to do is to understand and accept the Bible as true." Personal application is rarely, if ever, considered. It is very hard, and sometimes impossible, for this type of person to recognize their own sin but use their Scriptural knowledge to justify their desired actions.

All of these "faiths" are simply different satanic rules which Satan uses to "connect the dots" to suit his purposes. And yes, at certain times they all produce wonderful earthly/physical results.

BUT, THE FAITH OF THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY TRUE GODLY FAITH AND DIFFERS FROM ALL OF THE SATANIC "FAITHS" LISTED ABOVE!

BIBLICAL FAITH

- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Rom. 10:17; See also Rom. 14:23)
- And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Heb. 11:6; See also Rom. 14:23)
- 3. Now faith is the assurance of what we expect, being convinced of what we do not see. (Heb 11:1 GW + Clarification; See also Rom. 14:23)
- 4. For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)

From the **above verses**, and by the examples of **the lives** of the people in Hebrews chapter 11, we glean **three elements**, and **five activities**, of Biblical Faith:

The Three Elements

- 1. A spiritual perspective of life (Heb. 11:14–16),
- 2. Eternal goals (Heb. 11:14–16),
- 3. A life actually lived for God's eternal goals (Heb. 11:6; 35–40; Rom. 14:23)

The Five Activities of Biblical Faith

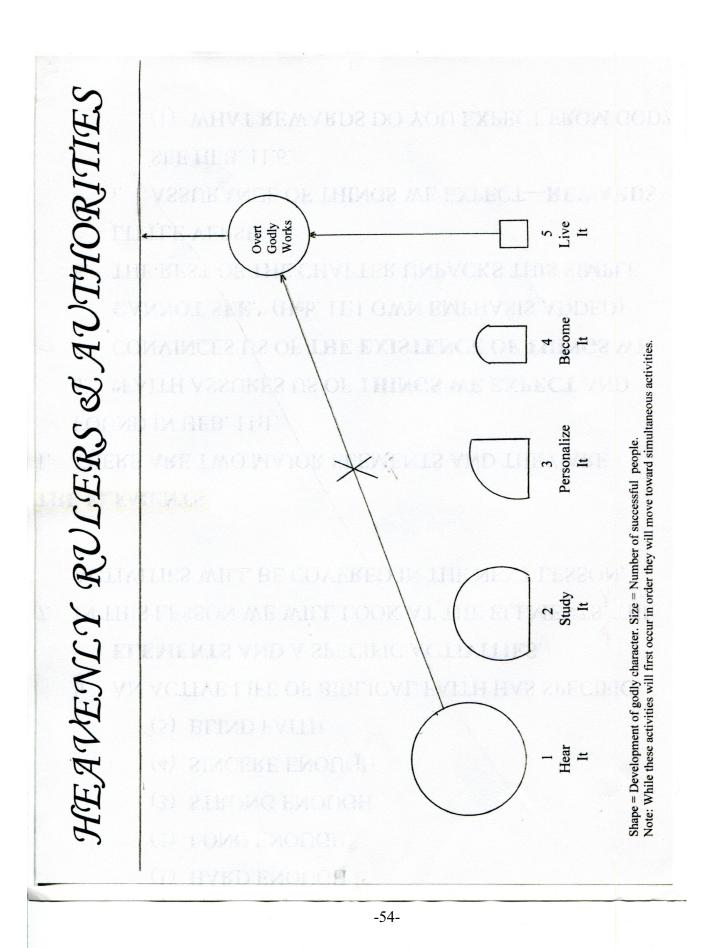
- 1. Hear It <u>Receive</u> God's Word
- 2. Study It <u>Understand and confirm</u> God's Word
- 3. Personalize It <u>Absorb</u> God's Word, and embrace & acknowledge the work of the HS who is writing/planting it on your heart.
- 4. Become It <u>Apply it to yourself in order to develop Godly Character</u>
- 5. Live It <u>Be It</u>; Living God's character in every situation of your life

Clarification of the Five Activities

- 1. Hear It <u>Receive</u> God's Word accurately taught/lived out on a regular bases. I must be trained by those who consistently live by accurate, intimate, Bible knowledge.
- 2. Study It I should <u>study God's written Word for myself</u> to understand, and confirm, the accuracy of the received information from activity #1. Study is more than reviewing the teachers notes, it is proofing out and validating the information in the notes, received material, and the lives of the "teacher".
- 3. Personalize It Accepting God's Word. Personal acceptance through the "teaching of the Holy Spirit." Believing, and absorbing, God's Word as the HS plants it in the very core of your being.
- 4. Becoming It Personal application for the purpose of changing my character into God's character—see Gal. 5:22–23. Not perfection or

sinlessness or religious compatibility, but a continual progression toward godliness—spiritual maturity. Become a godly tree.

- a. Godly maturity is a condition of mind, heart, and soul. When our godly character is developed we can respond to any situation in a godly manner, automatically, not needing to make a conscious choice. For a mature Christian, a proper godly response is their natural, normal MO.
- b. Mature Christians don't look for, nor do they need, a reward, or a pat on the back. Through their close relationship with the Savior, they consider their obedience to be more important than any reward. Their only desire is that God be glorified always." (Kris Drake, with modifications)
- 5. Live It With God's mature, and continuing developing character, rather than just being reactive, we can now be proactive toward all creation.
 - a. Godly character will naturally *respond* to any situation; based on the degree of godly maturity.
 - b. However we can also be *proactive* and *initiate* godly activity toward all creation, as commanded in the New Testament, (Ephesians 4:20–24; Luke 6:45; Romans12:1–3; Hebrews 5:11–6:1).
 - c. Bottom-line: A healthy godly tree <u>will naturally, without great effort</u>, <u>produce godly fruit</u>!



BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL FAITH

All the people in Hebrews 11 **valued** and **lived** for God's **eternal goals**; they **trusted Him** that He would accomplish those eternal goals and provide them with eternal rewards. It is why God was not ashamed to be called their God. When we exchange eternal goals for temporary, earthly goals, we are no longer living by Biblical Faith. And, when we only go to the Bible to look for earthly blessings we are not living by Biblical Faith. When all our values are earthly we are not living by Biblical Faith. When we live by Biblical Faith <u>our values will slowly change</u>. We will **seek to glorify God**. We will look forward to **His eternal blessings**.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:14–16)

Faith and The Bible Cannot Be Separated

- 1. We cannot have the faith of the Bible without the Bible.
- 2. God speaks to us through the Bible (Hebrews. 1:1–2; John 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:20–21; 2 Tim. 3:16–17).
- 3. The Bible is the power of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians. 6:17. The Holy Spirit uses the information from the Bible stored in our minds so we can accurately live by faith, Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 6:17; Psalms 119:9 & 11.
- 4. Biblical Faith is a consistent godly life; it is not a bunch of repetitive actions preformed at an established place and time. It is a life style of living by *God's standards written in the Bible*.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the person of God may be **completely, equipped for every good work.** (2 Tim. 3:16–17, clarification and emphasis added)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

WARNING

Satan will attack everyone of the 5 activities of Biblical Faith. Satan wants to convince us to turn away from Biblical Faith and establish "our own faith" based on our own logic, standards, desires, experiences, and physical needs. This is exactly what he did to the woman in the Garden. (Gen. 3:5–6; Deut. 12:8; Isa. 5:20). When we live by our own rules we connect the dots improperly and just make "a big mess" out of God's plan for our lives. However, when we live by Biblical Faith we live by God's rules and our lives are victorious in God's plan.

God will be victorious in His Big Picture Master Plan. But, will you be a victorious active agent for God by a life of Biblical Faith?

LESSON 5 SUMMARY

We are godly Victorious Active Agents only when we live by God's rules—Biblical Faith

DISCUSSION

Biblical Faith is not some vague mystical activity of personal believe-ism. It is simply living under God's wonderful rule by knowing His written Word, living by it and trusting God for His eternal rewards. **Know It and Live It**.

1. Does the above knowledge impact, and or change, your understanding of Christianity? Please explain.

2. Does this simplify your daily godly living or make it more complex? How so?

3. Is it possible to balance what God wants, what we, and what the world wants?

LESSON 6 OUR IMPORTANCE

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

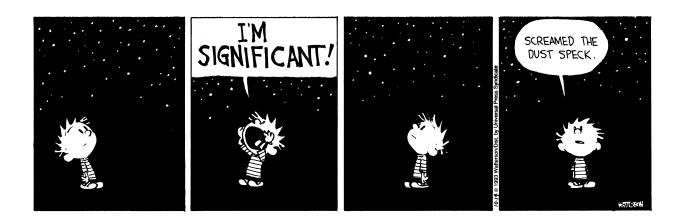
- Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective. Colossians 3:1–2
- Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

Colossians 1:19-20

Lesson 4: We were left on this earth to be Active Agents which God is using to crush Satan's rulership.

Gen. 2:16-17; 3:15; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 5:18

Lesson 5: Victorious Active Agents, of God, live by God's rules—Biblical Faith Isa. 43:7; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6



LESSON'S POINT WE ARE IMPORTANT TO ALL CREATION - TODAY

INTRODUCTION

We are significant/important only because of our position in God's Plan.

Remember the picture puzzle with all of its pieces? So it is with our importance. God has given each one of us an important place in His Big Picture Plan. If there is no God with a plan, then all of humanity becomes just another speck of unimportant dust. We are not important because of who and what we are apart from God.

THE EFFECTS OF OUR BIBLICAL FAITH TODAY

IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS

IN GOD'S REALM

I tell you that in the same way, there will be more <u>joy in heaven</u> over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7)

Be diligent to present yourself <u>approved to God</u> as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore <u>God is</u> <u>not ashamed</u> to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. (Heb. 11:16)

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of <u>witnesses surrounding us</u>, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Heb. 12:1)

Important Note: The saints of old, in Heb. 11, stand as a past witness to us, but presently, angels, are watching us run the race set before us (Eph. 3:10)

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will <u>disclose</u> <u>Myself to him.</u> (John 14:21)

IN SATAN'S REALM

The purpose of this enlightenment is that through the church <u>the multifaceted</u> <u>wisdom of God should now be disclosed</u> to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 3:10 NET)

The enlightenment of Eph. 3:10 continues on to this day because <u>Satan is not yet</u> <u>defeated</u> (Rom. 16:20; Eph. 3:10; 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8).

IN THE PHYSICAL REALM

Even though all the activities of my life are spiritual they effect the physical creation.

ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANITY

Listen to the word of the LORD . . . for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear. (Hosea 4:1–4)

When all the inhabitants of a country obtain, and live in the knowledge of God, the people, the land, and all the animals, will flourish. But this is an earthly result, not the eternal goal.

ON ME

- 1. Living by Biblical Faith will result in knowing Him and His truth more intimately (Philippians 3:10; John 8:31–32; **14:21**).
- 2. Living by Biblical Faith will result in a growing ability to acquire, recognize, and utilize the spiritual tools which enables me to produce every godly work (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- 3. Living by Biblical Faith will result in the proper functioning, and unity, of God's Spiritual Family (Ephesians **4:11–16**: 1 Cor.14:26–33).
- 4. Living by Biblical Faith will result in my personal stability:
 - a. CLARITY OF THINKING (Rom. 8:5–8; **12:2**; Jeremiah 17:9–10; Heb.4:12; James 1:1–8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Col. 3:1–2).

- b. REST IN MY SOUL (Jer. 6:16; Mat. 11:29; Hebrews 4:12).
- c. COMFORT IN MY HEART (Psa. 13:5; 116:7; John 14:1–6).
- 5. Living by Biblical Faith will result in a victorious ministry
 - a. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. . . (2 Cor. 5:18–19)
 - b. Not the ministry of physical comfort, human popularity, or worldly prosperity.
- 6. Living by Biblical Faith produces a growing godly character, also called **godly maturity**.
 - a. Because it is always stated as a command to do, we know this is optional for Christians. Some Christians grow in God's character, some do not.
 - b. Godly maturity is expressed in several ways.
 - i. *Mature person*: Eph 4:13
 - ii. *Grow up*: Eph. 4:15
 - iii. Put on: Rom. 13:12, 14; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
 - iv. Imitate God: Eph. 5:1
 - v. *Perfect*: James 1:2–4; Phil. 3:12
 - vi. See also, 2 Peter 1:1–9
 - c. Progression toward godly maturity is the ultimate here & now goal but . . .
 - d. <u>Our progression toward godly maturity also effects all creation</u> <u>for all eternity!</u>

THE EFFECT OF OUR BIBLICAL FAITH ON ETERNITY

INTRODUCTION

While there are many present effects of our faith throughout God's entire creation through all time <u>the primary effect is on eternity</u>.

Heaven is not egalitarian. We do not all hold the same level of position in heaven (Zech. 3:7; Mat. 20:21–23; Luke 22:30; 1 Cor. 6:2–3). It is the degree of our development of godly maturity produced by a lifetime of Biblical Faith while on this earth, which determines our eternal position in heaven (**2 Tim. 2:12**; Rev. 5:10; Phil. 3:7–16; 1 Cor:3:10–17; Heb. 10:36).

THE STUDY

- 1. God is going to "fix everything just right"
 - a. God created everything perfect and it operated by His rules, under His command <u>through His angelic work force</u>.
 - b. But Satan and 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God and His rules; <u>the angels left His workforce</u>. (Isa. 14:12–14; Eze. 28:12–18; Rev. 12:4).
 - c. God is restoring His future eternal rulership over His entire creation by His Big Picture Master Plan of reconciliation.
 - d. The question I ask now is where will God obtain new, eternal rulers to replace the angels which rebelled?
 - e. The answer is from the human race!
- 2. God is now offering positions of rulership to His chosen.
 - a. Positions of rulership are not automatically given to all Christians.
 - b. Positions of heavenly, eternal rulership, are optional!
- 3. Future eternal positions, are based on the level of godly maturity one reaches in their lifetime (Zech. 3:7; Mat. 20:21–23; Luke 22:30; 1 Cor. 6:2–3, 12)

4. "<u>WE ARE NOW IN TRAINING FOR ETERNAL REIGNING</u>.";

YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT!

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (Rom. 8:18–22)

For a complete picture of God's Plan, throughout all time, please see Addendum, page 129, "God's Plan Our Place Through Time"

LESSON 6 SUMMARY

PEOPLE LIVING BY BIBLICAL FAITH EFFECT ALL CREATION FOR ALL TIME & ETERNITY

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & DISCUSSION

1. Does knowing that your daily life can have a godly effect on all creation affect your self-worth? Please Explain.

2. How would knowing that you can have an effect on the entire creation strengthen you to live every day by Biblical Faith even if your godless community does not recognize your godly life?

3. Does this knowledge bring peace to your soul and strengthen your daily life with Jesus Christ? If so, please explain how this is manifested in your daily life.

LESSON 7 GOD'S PROVISIONS FOR A VICTORIOUS LIFE OF BIBLICAL FAITH

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

- Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective. Colossians 3:1–2
- Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

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Gen. 2:16–17; 3:15; Rom. 16:20

- Lesson 5: Victorious Active Agents, of God, live by God's rules—Biblical Faith Isa. 43:7; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:18
- Lesson 6: Our daily lives of Biblical Faith have a present affect on the entire creation—spiritual & physical.

Hos. 4:1–4; Eph. 3:10

God's Plan Our Place



LESSON'S POINT

God has some unexpected provisions, to enable us to develop godly character.

GOD'S PROVISION'S TO DEVELOP GODLY CHARACTER

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD (THE BIBLE)

Completely equips us for a godly life:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the person of God may be <u>completely equipped</u> for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16–17 emphasis & clarification added)

Important Point: It does not say that The Scripture provides us with instructions on every good work, it says it *completely equips* us for every good work. There are times when we have to take the *equipment* and determine what is the godly action in a particular situation. Remember it's all about developing and using godly

character. And with godly character comes responsibility. <u>See Heb. 5:14 for the logistics</u>.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit <u>teaches</u> us by making it clear in our minds. It <u>writes God's words</u> <u>on our hearts</u>, and gives us <u>the ability</u> to live by Biblical Faith:

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you** all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26)

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, (Ephesians 3:16)

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (2 Tim. 1:7)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, *faithfulness*, gentleness, self-control. . . (Galatians 5:22–23)

GOD'S SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Do not confuse our Sunday-go-to-meeting organizations with God's spiritual family. God's spiritual family <u>encourages</u> and <u>build ups</u> each other:

It was he who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God– a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature. But practicing the truth in love, we will **in all things grow up** into Christ, who is the head. From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love. (Eph. 4:11–16 NET)

not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; <u>and all the more</u> as you see the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:25)

VARIOUS TRIALS

Trials strengthen us to endure:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. And let **endurance** have its perfect result, <u>so that you may</u> be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2–4)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, <u>so that</u> also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. (1 Pet. 4:12–13)

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <u>so that</u> the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Pet. 1:6–7)

"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be." CS Lewis)

Important Note: There is a modification in the standard operating procedure (SOP) from the OT to the NT. In James we receive the new commandment to submit to God **and personally resist the devil**. In the OT, when Satan attacked, we were to call on God and He would intervene and save us. See Adam and the Woman in Gen. 3:8–24; Job in Job 38:1–42:10; David in 1 Chron. 21:1–27; and Joshua in Zech. 3:1–7. However in the NT we were given the tools and the power to **stand firm** (go head to head and toe to toe) with Satan. We first see this modification with Christ when tempted by Satan in Mat. 4:3–10. For the importance of this endurance in this satanic battle see Hebrews 10:26–39! Also see Eph. 6:12.

LESSON 7 SUMMARY

GOD HAS PROVIDED EVERYTHING WE NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY CHARACTER

THE BIBLE THE HOLY SPIRIT HIS SPIRITUAL FAMILY & - TRIALS -

DISCUSSION

1. Share how a past trial strengthened your faith.

2. Share how a Christian brother or Sister helped you in a time of trial or a time of fighting sin in your life.

3. Share how you have been strengthened by simply learning Bible doctrine.

LESSON 8

SATAN'S ATTACKS

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

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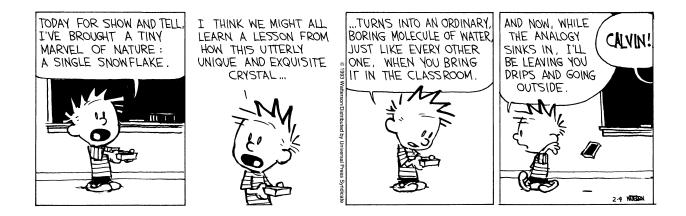
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- Lesson 5: Victorious Active Agents, of God, live by God's rules—Biblical Faith Isa. 43:7; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6
- Lesson 6: Our daily lives of Biblical Faith affect the entire creation—spiritual & physical.

Hos. 4:1-4; Eph. 3:10

Lesson 7: God has unexpected provisions for a victorious life of Biblical Faith.

The Bible - The Holy Spirit - His Spiritual Family - TRIALS



LESSON'S POINT

Satan works to change our perception, of what is true and good, in both the physical and spiritual realm.

SATAN'S ATTACKS ON GOD'S PROVISIONS

On Various Trials

Satan tries to change our perception of suffering.

Many say: "If it is good for me and I enjoy it, then it's godly." But nothing could be further from the truth:

"When the woman saw that the tree was <u>good</u> for food, and that it was a <u>delight</u> to the eyes, and that the tree was <u>desirable</u> to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate." (Genesis 3:6 underlines added)

The woman decided what was good, delightful, and desirable, based on her standard of logic, not on God's commandment (Gen. 2:16–17). If we say "it is painful therefore it is not godly" that is our logic, not God's (James 1:2–4; Heb. 11:34b–40).

Important Note: A major factor in suffering is determining good suffering from bad suffering. 1) All suffering can bring about advancement in godly character. 2) However, good suffering can be produced from undeserved trials such as Job had:

The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him <u>without cause</u>." (Job 2:3)

I call this good suffering because God considered Job worthy of this suffering. It came straight from the hand of God "*you incited <u>Me</u> against him to ruin him*." (Job 2:3). All good suffering comes directly from God and goes directly to His glory! 3) Good examples of this are Job and Lazarus (Job; Luke 16:20–25).

Bad suffering is suffering I bring upon myself because I did something sinful. BUT, when I admit to it, repent, and learn from it, that activity glorifies God. It will even be used for discipline toward godliness. Rom. 8:28 includes this process.

On God's Spiritual Family

Satan is constantly working to change our perception of what constitutes God's Spiritual Family.

Satan has convinced some that the Sunday religious traditions are all that matters. To them an intimate spiritual family, which actually helps us to live by Biblical Faith does not feel right.

"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition." (Mark 7:8–9)

To this day many, especially pastors, have a blind spot in their thinking, and their theology, on this point. They believe that their Sunday-go-to-meeting organization is a spiritual family but in reality their structure and operation is based on, and promotes Satan's worldly business designs rather than the spiritual family model of the Bible. The present religious structure is designed to disperse information, and place teachers as authorities over the "flock." They do not promote godly maturity in the individual, they mainly advance knowledge and promote obedience to "The Church." It should not surprise us that we are redefining the biological family. <u>We are doing to the biological family what we have already done to God's spiritual family</u>.

I have to add - the smaller the Church the more it is able to function like a godly spiritual family - a true *ekklesia*.

On The Holy Spirit

Satan works to move our focus onto observable miraculous, and personal supernatural works rather than the personal, internal, miraculous supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in transforming one's sinful character into godly character (Mat. 7:22–23).

that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with <u>all</u> power and signs and false wonders, (2 Thes. 2:9)

As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. (Luke 11:29)

Any time you observe a true miraculous work/activity beware, it is probably from Satan's camp, even when it produces good things (2 Cor. 11:14).

The Written Word of God

From the very beginning Satan has attacked God's Word. This continues to this day, Satan works to change our perception of the source of truth:

And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '? . . . The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:1–5)

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"... (Jn. 18:38)

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, 1) then you are truly disciples of Mine; 2) and you will know the truth, 3) and the truth will make you free. (Jn. 8:31–32; "1,2,3" added for clarification)

<u>Trust the Written Word of God when placed against what society says, what</u> <u>our logic determines as true, and what our experiences "prove" as true</u>.

SATAN'S EXTRA ATTACKS IN OUR TIMES

I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, <u>we are not ignorant about Satan's</u> <u>scheming</u>. (2 Cor. 2:11 GWN)

INTRODUCTION

For some time now we have seen the schemes of Satan gathering on the horizon. Some of us, in America, have not recognized these schemes. Some schemes are new to us while being very old, even ancient. Therefore, we need to be aware of, and ready for, these schemes/trials.

This study is only to **make us aware** of these schemes so we are not taken by surprise <u>- when -</u> we encounter them. We do not need to, and should not, spend valuable time on in-depth studies of Satan's activities. Thyatira made that mistake, and pursued more intricate knowledge about Satan (Rev. 2:24.) We simply not to be surprised by these schemes and continue to stay faithful to the Lord.

We should not shorten our Bible study time, <u>for any reason</u>, nor reduce the number of our Spiritual Family gatherings. To do so will lead to defeat!

STUDY FORMAT

PART ONE

The Flow of The End Time

- 1. Read and examine the flow of the times in Mat. 24.
- 2. Determine our "time"

PART TWO

Satan's Old & New Schemes

- 1. Important Verses
- 2. The Demonic Infiltration
- 3. Videos and discussion

PART THREE

Encouragement

- 1. What We Should Remember
- 2. God's Provisions
- 3. Our Eternal Goals and Method of Victory

PART ONE THE FLOW OF THE END TIMES

When the disciples asked Christ about His return, and the end times, <u>Christ</u> <u>answered them directly and clearly in Matt. 24</u>. Read Matthew 24 and follow the flow of "all these things" to determine in which time we might fall.

First Phase

- 1. Have I seen saviors try to arise among men? \checkmark Yes
- 2. Have I seen wars and rumors of war? ✓Yes
- 3. Have I seen nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom? ✓Yes
- 4. Have I seen famines and earthquakes in various places? ✓Yes

Then I am living in the birthing times.

Second Phase

- 1. Have I seen Christians hated by ALL nations at the same time? **X**No
- 2. Have I seen world wide tribulation and death being leveled against all Christians? **X**No
- Have I seen Christians turning away from their faith in large numbers?
 ✓Yes
- 4. Have I seen Christians hating one another? ✓Yes
- 5. Have I seen prophets with enormous followings, even though some of their prophecies don't come true? ✓Yes
- 6. Have I seen those who claim to be Christians but don't love the truth of God's word and change its meaning so they can live the life style they want? (Increased lawlessness and love growing cold.) ✓Yes
- 7. Have I seen true Christians fail to continue on with a Christian life? ✔Yes
- 8. Have I seen the gospel being carried into every nation in the same time period? **X**No

Then I might be living close to, but not yet fully in, the tribulation times.

Last Phase

- 1. Have I seen the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place (in the temple in Jerusalem)? **X**No
- 2. Have I seen the greatest flight, fight, and torture of Believers in the history of mankind? **X**No

When, within my lifetime, I see "<u>all these things</u>," listed above, I will be seeing the Lord's return to earth (Mat. 24:33).

PART TWO SPECIFIC & UNIQUE ATTACKS

Important Passages

Gen. 6:1–2, 4

Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose... The **Nephilim** were on the earth in those days, **and also afterward**, <u>when the sons of</u> God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

- 1. Angles intermixed with human women & produced a race of beings that were half angel and half human.
- 2. They were first called Nephilim
- 3. The Nephilim were mighty they had great power, some probably had supernatural powers
- 4. This did not happen only in the days of Noah, it continued on, "*and also afterward*".
 - a. Anakim are Nephilim Num. 13:33
 - b. Emim probably Nephilim Deut. 2:10–11 ESV
 - c. Zamaummim Deut. 2:20–21a
 - d. OG/Rephaim Deut. 3:11; 4:7 ESV
 - e. Bashan/Rephaim Deut. 3:13 ESV
 - f. Amorites Num. 21:26
 - g. Goliath 2 Sam. 21:20 ESV also see 1 Chron. 20:5–6, 8 ESV

Jude 6–8

And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in **gross immorality and went after strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, **defile the flesh**, and **reject authority**, and **revile angelic majesties**.

2 Peter 2:1–11

But *false prophets* also arose among the people, just as there will also be *false teachers* among you, who will *secretly introduce destructive heresies*, even *denying the Master who bought them*, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

Many will follow their **sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they *revile angelic majesties*, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

Mat. 24:37-39

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Genesis 11:6

The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now **nothing** which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

From Genesis 6; Jude 1:6–8; 2 Peter 2:1–11 we learn

- 1. Angels intermix with humans and produce a different being.
- 2. In the end times normal people will
 - a. Sink to a level of *gross immorality*
 - b. Go after *strange flesh*
 - c. Have false prophets
 - d. Have false teachers who have secret agendas and deny Christ
 - e. Promote sensuality
 - f. Greed will abound
 - g. They will revile angelic majesties!

- 3. But it also says in the end times life will be going on as normal!
 - a. But their standard of normal is different than God's standard of normal.
 - b. Jude & 2 Pet. 2:1–11 sheds light on **what was, and will be, accepted as normal** by the world.
- 4. From Genesis 11:6 we also learn:
 - a. If we can imagine it we can find a way to do it.

Demonic Infiltration

Normal Life in The World Will Be:

Gross Immorality Produces

- 1. False Teachers
- 2. False Prophets
- 3. Sexual Sensuality
- 4. Greed

Reviling of Angelic Majesties

- 1. Blaspheming angelic majesties
- 2. Speaking evil of them
- 3. Charging them with false accusations
- 4. See Zec. 3:2; and Mat.16:22–23 for clarification

Pursuit of Strange Flesh

- 1. Satan has always tried to intermix with us and is now doing it again.
- 2. There are 3 ways which Satan is now trying to intermix with humans.
- 3. See the following 3 videos

THREE VIDEOS

<u>Video #1:</u> Rebellious angels and demons appear to be presenting themselves as extraterrestrials who want to live among us and possibly help us. Please watch the following video "<u>OUT OF THE BLUE</u>" Narrated by Peter Coyote. It is free on Amazon Prime Video (without adds) or go to the link below. It is an old video but this one of the best.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYPCKIL7oVw

(Over for Discussion Notes)

DISCUSSION

<u>Video #2:</u> Now produced in book form. The rebellious angels and demons might try to help us to "evolve to the next level of human evolution". Remember Genesis 11:6. Please go to Amazon and purchase and watch "<u>INHUMAN" - "The Next and Final Phase of Man is Here</u>." produced by SkyWatch TV; or purchase the book.

NOTES ON TRANSHUMANISM

The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now **nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them**." (Gen. 11:6, emphases added)

DEFINITION

(From the Encyclopedia Britannica)

Transhumanism, social and philosophical movement devoted to promoting the research and development of robust human-enhancement technologies. Such technologies would augment or increase human sensory reception, emotive ability, or cognitive capacity as well as radically improve human health and extend human life spans. Such modifications resulting from the addition of biological or physical technologies would be more or less permanent and integrated into the human body.

ORIGINS

The term transhumanism was coined by English biologist and philosopher Julian Huxley in his 1957 essay of the same name. Huxley referred principally to improving the human condition through social and cultural change, but the essay and the name have been adopted as seminal by the transhumanist movement, which emphasizes material technology. Huxley held that, although humanity had naturally evolved, it was now possible for social institutions to supplant evolution in refining and improving the species. The ethos of Huxley's essay—if not its letter—can be located in transhumanism's commitment to assuming the work of evolution, but through technology rather than society.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOVEMENT

The movement's adherents tend to be libertarian and employed in high technology or in academia. Its principal proponents have been prominent technologists like American computer scientist and futurist Ray Kurzweil and scientists like Austrian-born Canadian computer scientist and roboticist Hans Moravec and American nanotechnology researcher Eric Drexler, with the addition of a small but influential contingent of thinkers such as American philosopher James Hughes and Swedish philosopher Nick Bostrom. The movement has evolved since its beginnings as a loose association of groups dedicated to "extropianism" (a philosophy devoted to the transcendence of human limits). Transhumanism is principally divided between adherents of two visions of post-humanity—one in which technological and genetic improvements have created a distinct species of radically enhanced humans and the other in which greater-than-human machine intelligence emerges.

The membership of the transhumanist movement tends to split in an additional way. One prominent strain of transhumanism argues that social and cultural institutions—including national and international governmental organizations—will be largely irrelevant to the trajectory of technological development. Market forces and the nature of technological progress will drive humanity to approximately the same end point regardless of social and cultural influences. That end point is often referred to as the "singularity," a metaphor drawn from astrophysics and referring to the point of hyperdense material at the centre of a black hole which generates its intense gravitational pull. Among transhumanists, the singularity is understood as the point at which artificial intelligence surpasses that of humanity, which will allow the convergence of human and machine consciousness. That convergence will herald the increase in human consciousness, physical strength, emotional well-being, and overall health and greatly extend the length of human lifetimes.

The second strain of transhumanism holds a contrasting view, that social institutions (such as religion, traditional notions of marriage and child rearing, and Western perspectives of freedom) not only can influence the trajectory of technological development but could ultimately retard or halt it. <u>Bostrom and British philosopher David Pearce founded the World Transhumanist Association in 1998 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to working with those social institutions to promote and guide the development of human-enhancement technologies and to combat those social forces seemingly dedicated to halting such technological progress."</u>

(Encyclopedia Britannica, Sean A. Hays; emphasis added)

My Personal Clarification

Transhumanism is seeking to move humans into the next level of "evolution." This is to be accomplished through several means: intermixing man and machine, which appears to be inter-laced with AI development. Also, genetic manipulation

through gene splicing with animals, and possibly other, now unknown, creatures, and achieving immortality by the ability to transfer the human essence into a machine, or robot, or a synthetic body of any desired shape.

Current Status of Transhumanism

- 1. Well-established area of study in every major country.
- 2. A primary interest is to develop a super soldier.
- 3. No country wants to be behind the curve on the super solider development therefore funding for this research appears to be consistent and sufficient.
- 4. In 2001 the USA established a council on bioethics "The President's Council on Bioethics."
- 5. Some researches and developers state that the progress and development of transhumanism is approximately 100 years ahead of what the general population knows and understands about transhumanism.
- 6. In recent surveys as much as 68% of those surveyed believe we should research and develop transhumanism technology. (If this is accurate for the entire population that means we have gone past the "tipping point.")
- 7. Four important "elements" of transhumanism: (I understand these as goals.)
 - a. Radical self design How you want to improve yourself.
 - b. Procreation design Design our progeny as you so desire them to be.
 - c. Immortality
 - d. Become a god. (I understand this to be saying that we can become our own god with god-like powers.)
- 8. Science fiction is yielding to science fact
- 9. We are trying to produce our own evolution and transcend our humanism by our methods.
- 10. Transhumanist look forward to the age when the physical needs of money, exercise, hunger, and rest, will be greatly reduced possibly even eliminated therefore making us immortal.
- 11. "If we were created beings, would God want us to stay children forever, or wouldn't he want us to become more wise, and more like him, in order to understand the divine purpose, and join in that divine purpose. A child can't help with the goals of the parents in a very competent way, but a grown up child can. So when are we going to grow up, and how are we going to grow up? I think transhumanism might be one of the ways Christians eventually figure out that they can grow up." (James Hughes Ph.D., Executive Director, Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies)

This is nothing more than an extension of what Satan presented to the woman in the garden.

DISCUSSION

<u>Video #3:</u> In order to intermix with us, Satan might promote gene splicing his DNA into ours. Please watch the following video this week:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=LuceXFxLDCw&t=19s

A personal note: Mr. Hamp's take on the gene splicing of humans with the demonic are some unique insights with which I think we should be aware.

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION OF ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION

- 1. Can super-beings return to earth in our lifetime?
- 2. What will the standard or "normal" life look like in sex, business, personal relationships, family, and governments?

3. How long will it take these activities to become the normal way of life?

- 4. If Satan is able to thwart our spiritual, godly maturing process, would this leave positions of eternal rulership unfilled and make it impossible for God to complete the reconstruction of His new eternal rulership?
- 5. Is Satan trying to exercise his rule over the earth?
- 6. Can he use some of the above methods?
- 7. It is my thinking that Satan is trying to establish an eternal rulership for himself while simultaneously finding fault with God's character & laws, and destroying the human bloodline so God cannot construct His new eternal system of rulership.

Do not be surprised or misled by any miraculous activities presented to us in order to make us more godly, and, or, better human beings. These are the same motives which the woman used in the garden to follow Satan.

CONCLUSION

WHILE SATAN IS STILL TRYING TO THWART GOD'S MASTER PLAN OF RECONCILIATION–ETERNAL RULERSHIP, WE DO NOT NEED TO HAVE AN IN DEPTH DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ACTIVITIES, WE ONLY NEED TO BE AWARE OF THEM.

PART THREE ENCOURAGEMENT

"If the maker of the entire universe also made man He knew exactly what He was doing. And for a man to come along and say – I can improve on that – is *hubris of the first magnitude." (Gary Stearman) (*exaggerated pride or self-confidence)

Our Method of Victory

- 1. **Keep focused** on the issue **Reconciliation** (Who will rule all creation for all eternity.)
- 2. **Remember** you are in training for eternal reigning
- 3. **Continue to**
 - a. **DEVELOP godly character** (By continual application of the 5 activities of Biblical Faith)
 - b. **KNOW** the world will progressively get worse & worse (Mat. 24).
 - c. **PRAY** for peace but prepare for the worst

No matter what Satan is doing to the world, and trying to do to me, I can be obedient to God.

No matter what the entire world is doing with transhumanism, I can be obedient to God.

- No matter what the demons are doing to and with humanity, I can be obedient to God.
- No matter what science, my government, my society, and even my church is doing, I can be obedient to God.

No matter what my physical capabilities are, I can be obedient to God. No matter what my mental capacity is, I can be obedient to God.

Even if I don't own a motorcycle, I can be obedient to God. (But I don't let the fun worldly stuff <u>consistently</u> override and displace my Bible studies and Family time!)

GOD'S PROVISIONS

- 1. The Word of God (The Bible)
- 2. The Holy Spirit
- 3. HIS FAMILY (Not a religious church)
- 4. TRIALS!!!

LESSON 8 SUMMARY

God is able to use Satan's attacks, to *strengthen* us, and bring His Master Plan to a *victorious culmination*.

Strength

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:2–5)

Victory

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good -to those who love God, (see John 14:21) -TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED <u>ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE</u>.

(Rom. 8:28 emphasis added)

Culmination

DISCUSSION

1. How does this information affect your view of your trials?

2. How could this information bring greater peace into your life?

3. How could this information help those who are going through some of these trials?

LESSON 9

"THE END"

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

- Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective. Colossians 3:1–2
- Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

Colossians 1:19-20

Lesson 4: We were left on this earth to be Active Agents which God is using to crush Satan's rulership.

Gen. 2:16-17; 3:15; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 5:18

- Lesson 5: Victorious Active Agents, of God, live by God's rules—Biblical Faith Isa. 43:7; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6
- Lesson 6: Our daily lives of Biblical Faith affect the entire creation—spiritual & physical.

Hos. 4:1-4; Eph. 3:10

Lesson 7: God has unexpected provisions for a victorious life of Biblical Faith.

The Bible – The Holy Spirit – His Spiritual Family – TRIALS

Lesson 8: Satan attacks all of God's provisions for a victorious life of Biblical Faith but God uses these attacks to make us strong.

1 Pet. 5:8–9; James 1:2–5

www.things-above.org



LESSON'S POINT

If this is the end of the world what should we be doing?

Trying to identify the end of the world (or "the end-times") by a physical view of the world, causes confusion.

A spiritual view of the end-times, as found in our New Covenant, is very clear. This spiritual view gives simple, clear, and direct information about this being the last spiritual age. It clearly states that the end will come when all attempts of rebellious rule are put to an end—made into a footstool for Christ/God.

Bottom line is, when we ignore Col. 3:1–2 and turn our attention to the physical world, we try to figure out where we stand in the progression of the end-times by examining the current physical activities. This approach causes confusion and disagreement. We are commanded to view the end-times from a spiritual frame of reference (Col. 3:1–2).

In the New Covenant – our covenant – we are to view the end-time from a spiritual frame of reference.

OPERATION FOOTSTOOL FINALE

(The present, & final, <u>spiritual phase</u>, of God's Master Plan.)

INTRODUCTION

For well over 2000 years reputable theologians have discussed and constructed **<u>earthly physical pictures</u>** for the end of the world, and or, the return of Christ. But the New Covenant's (NC) <u>primary focus</u> is not on a physical presentation of the end-times. The NC is on *new information* about the end of this world. This new information focuses primarily on <u>the spiritual progression to the end of the world</u>. "Operation Footstool" is the final spiritual age/phase. We are now in THE LAST SPIRITUAL AGE! Please refer to page 129 in the Addendum.

For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: "THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES <u>A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET</u>." (Acts 2:34–35)

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. (1 Cor. 15:24)

For a complete picture of God's Plan, throughout all time, please see Addendum, page 129, "God's Plan Our Place Through Time"

SATAN'S GOALS IN OPERATION FOOTSTOOL

In eternity past Satan rebelled against God and His rulership. It must be noted that Satan rebelled against God's *eternal rulership* over *all creation*. Satan did not rebel against God simply to obtain rulership over this earth and humans for *all time*. He challenged God's *laws*, questioned God's *character*, and took 1/3 of God's *workforce* away with him in his rebellion (Isaiah 14:13–14; Revelation 12:4). This was a major impact to God's system of ruling His creation. This is what God's Big Picture Plan of total reconciliation is correcting. With that in mind let's look at <u>two scenarios</u> concerning the present activities of the conflict between God and Satan.

Scenario #1

A very popular scenario says that because Christ was victorious on the cross Satan knows he is defeated. Therefore, he is roaming around causing as much destruction to God's creation as he possibly can before he is thrown into the lake of fire.

There are four problems with that scenario. <u>The first</u> is that it makes human salvation the ultimate goal of the work of Christ. In Colossians 1:19–20 and Romans 8:20–21 we find that is not the case. Christ came to this earth to reconcile His entire creation back to God. Christ, here on this earth, in His physical body, only completed the physical part of His ministry. He now has an ongoing spiritual ministry through His spiritual body. This spiritual ministry is now active through His spiritual body.—His Spiritual Family (Eph. 3:10; 2 Tim. 2:12).

<u>The second problem</u> with this scenario is that God is waiting to cast Satan into the lake of fire. Let's look at a human analogy of that logic. The analogy is that there is a gang of criminals operating within the United States. They make up their own laws! They go about killing, raping, stealing, and destroying at will. All the people in the United States are afraid of these criminals. They constantly hide themselves in their homes behind locked doors and barred windows. When they do have to venture out of their homes they go in groups for fear of attack. After many years of this situation, the criminals are apprehended, tried in a court of law, and sentence to a lifetime of hard labor in prison. The country breaks out into joyous celebration. But then something strange happens, the judge turns to the convicted, and sentenced, criminals and says "go back out and continue what you were doing. When I am ready to send you to prison, I will let you know." This is not the picture of the Bible.

<u>The third problem</u> is that this scenario changes Christianity to humanism. Humanism sees God's plan, and all of Christ's work, climaxing in human salvation. Humanism removes the truth of Satan, the spiritual rebellion, and God's eternal rulership over His entire creation. It's all about human improvement *now*, and making this world a better place to live, *now*.

<u>The fourth problem</u> is that this scenario actually makes Satan more intelligent in his fallen state than he was when he was perfect. When Satan was sinless, complete, and perfect, his intellect, and logic, convinced him that he could takeover God's rulership. Now that he is fallen many say his logic has improved! They say he is now smart enough to bow his knee and accept his fate? (!)

Scenario #2

The second scenario is based on Revelation 20:11–15. In that passage we see humans that have already been sentenced to the lake of fire engaged in a court appearance. It is a court of appeals—an appellate court. They present their good

works to God in an attempt to reverse their sentence. This appears to be happening to Satan. The convicted Satan is now in the process of presenting his appeal to God and God is answering and dealing with each specific point of that appeal.

In his appeal Satan is allowed to examine – and test – God's character and His laws at every point. Satan is also presenting his version of an operating procedure for creation. When the appeal is concluded, Satan will be proven wrong, and God's character, and laws, will be proven true, just, and loving – to the entire creation!

The activities for this appeal are played out on this earth. Humans are the perfect instrument to be used as God's proof/example in the appellate process because, just like the angels we have volition. By His relationship with another being with volition, God's consistent character of truth, love, and justice, are being revealed by example and proven to be infallible and immutable.

Only after Satan's loss in his appellate court will his sentence be carried out and can God establish His eternal *unchallenged* rulership system for all eternity (2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:19–20; 1 Per. 5:8–11; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 22:5)!

OUR PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES

INTRODUCTION

We are now in training for eternal reigning, which God will use to restore His eternal rule over His entire creation. This future rule will be an unchallenged rule.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

PERSONAL RESISTANCE TO SATAN

- 1. We are now God's Active Agents on earth in Operation Footstool and have expanded responsibilities.
- 2. We are given the *indwelling* Holy Spirit!
- 3. We are members of Christ's spiritual body and continue His work in O.F. (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27;1 John 3:8; Rom. 16:20)
- 4. Rather than calling on God to save us from Satan's attacks, as they did in the O.T., we are able to, and commanded to, personally resist Satan (Jam. 4:7; Eph. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:9).

PERSONAL TESTIMONY TO REBELLIOUS ANGELS

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of

1) the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

2) <u>so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the</u> <u>church</u>

3) to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

4) *This was in accordance with the eternal purpose* which He carried out in Christ

Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in

Him. (Eph. 3:8–12, formatting for emphasis added)

- 1. The mystery which was not known in the past is now revealed.
 - a. Neither the Jews nor the angels knew of this mystery
 - b. This mystery can not be found in the OT
 - c. Some scholars struggle with or completely reject some of the facts in this verse because they cannot find them in the OT Daaaaa!
- 2. The mystery & greater personal witness
 - a. *Through the church;* (God's spiritual family):
 - i. The mystery includes but does not end with the salvation of gentiles.
 - ii. GENTILE salvation is not the complete mystery.
 - b. The mystery is that present activity reveals the manifold wisdom of God is the complete mystery.
 - c. The primary recipients of this revelation are THE RULERS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES
 - d. See Eph. 6:12 as Paul used the same language for the rulers and authorities (powers).
- 3. *"This was in accordance with the <u>eternal purpose</u>"*
 - a. The eternal purpose is not simply the salvation of humans, it is the destruction of Satan's rulership and the reconciliation of the entire creation back to God's rulership!
 - b. The salvation of humans is only one of the actions referred to here in Eph. 3:10, don't ignore all the other revealed actions.
 - c. The primary action is the revealing of God's manifold wisdom to the separated rebellious angels

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Maturing in God's image—growing in godly character.

- 1. Eph. 4:15: *but speaking the truth in love, we are to <u>grow up in all aspects</u> <u>into Him</u> who is the head, even Christ, (emphasis added)*
- 2. Eph. 4:11–13: And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, <u>to a mature man</u>, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Emphasis added)

- 3. See also Phil 3:12; Col. 3:1–2
- 4. Review the 5 activities of Biblical Faith
- 5. Draw together more often for fellowship and encouragement (Hebrews 10:25)

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LESSON 9 CONCLUSIONS

The final spiritual phase within time is Operation Footstool. In this final spiritual phase Satan's rulership is being destroyed and positions of new eternal rulership are being offered to the saved.

As a Christian in Operation Footstool, God presents us <u>with the</u> <u>opportunity and the ability</u> to be victorious Active Agents for God by maturing in godly character. Those who mature in this lifetime are the victorious, and will be placed in positions of eternal rule (2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 22:5)!

God will be victorious, BUT will you?

DISCUSSION

1. How does this information change your view of Satan's present activities?

2. How does scenario #2 increase the importance of your obedience to God?

3. God wants us to know and to look forward to our eternal rewards how does this affect your relationship with God/Jesus Christ?

4. Why do you think this information is rarely taught in church?

LESSON 10 A BLESSING

REVIEW

Lesson 1: God has revealed His plan (will) to us. His plan gives our lives value and importance, just as the picture on top of the puzzle's box does for the individual pieces within the puzzle.

Ephesians 1:9

- Lesson 2: God's plan must be seen from His perspective, a spiritual perspective. Colossians 3:1–2
- Lesson 3: God's Plan is, to unify all creation, physical & spiritual, back to His rule for all eternity.

Colossians 1:19-20

Lesson 4: We were left on this earth to be Active Agents which God is using to crush Satan's rulership.

Gen. 2:16-17; 3:15; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 5:18

- Lesson 5: Victorious Active Agents, of God, live by God's rules—Biblical Faith Isa. 43:7; Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6
- Lesson 6: Our daily lives of Biblical Faith affect the entire creation—spiritual & physical.

Hos. 4:1-4; Eph. 3:10

Lesson 7: God has unexpected provisions for a victorious life of Biblical Faith.

The Bible – The Holy Spirit – His Spiritual Family – TRIALS

Lesson 8: Satan attacks all of God's provisions for a victorious life of Biblical Faith but God uses these attacks to make us strong.

1 Pet. 5:8–9; James 1:2–5; To Revelation 22:1–5

Lesson 9: Operation Footstool is completed when all rule is handed over to God. And the victorious Active Agents of God are equipped to obtain positions of eternal rulers in God's new unified, (reconciled) eternal, rulership system.
2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 22:1–5

Morons



A BLESSING

You are not a moron, neither are you wasting your time by building godly character. You are building something that cannot be destroyed, <u>something that you can, and will, take with you to heaven</u>. Something for which you will be blessed for all eternity. <u>SOMETHING THAT WILL SEE YOU THROUGH THE COMING TRIALS</u>! So don't give up, stand up and STAND FIRM!

If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. (1 Cor. 15:19)

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16–18 Emphasis added)

AN IMPORTANT MUST THAT BE ASKED

IS THERE SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL THAT GOD WANTS ONLY YOU TO DO?

This important question must be answer!

EOther than living by Biblical Faith to mature in godly character, does the Lord have an extra special plan (will) for your life? He had such a plan for Moses, King David, John the Baptist, and Paul. If so, what do you have to do to find it? Let's examine some of the people for whom the Lord had an extra special plan for their life and see what action they all employed to find God's extra/special plan for their life:

Noah - Gen. 6:13 Jonah* - Jonah 1:1 Job - Job 1:12; 2:3 Abraham & Sarah* - Gen. 12:1 Isaac & Jacob - Gen. 28:13–14 Joseph - Gen. 37:5–8 Moses* - Exod. 3:1–2 David - 1 Samuel 16:11–13 John the Baptist* - Luke 1:11–18 Paul* - Acts 9:1–19; 26:16–18 (* = not living by Biblical Faith)

*Only half of these people were living by God's faith but they all employed one "activity" which caused God to reveal His extra/special plan for their life. What was that one "activity?"

★NOTHING!★

All the people listed above did nothing for God to reveal His extra/special plan for their life! If God has an extra plan for your life IT IS HIS PLAN and HIS RESPONSIBILITY to reveal it to you – and HE WILL REVEAL IT – WHEN HE IS READY. But He will only reveal it when He is ready—ACCORDING TO HIS TIMETABLE, not yours! It is HIS extra activity for you so that His Big Picture Plan will progress to its culmination.

However, if you have a desire to do something "extra" with your life then it is your desire and there is nothing wrong with that! Having and acting on those godly desires is wonderful but remember, it is not the primary goal for your life. Godly maturity is the primary goal. If your desire, or your ministry, gets in the way of your godly maturity then that extra special activity is wrong for you!

Also, be very careful about claiming that your desire is "a special or direct calling from God." It is also important to note that there was only ONE special or extra calling for each of the above people. That calling consumed, or at least

highlighted, their entire life. Therefore, beware of people who have several "special callings" from God in their life.

OUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO GLORIFY GOD by living a life of Biblical Faith. If God has something else, something extra He wants us to do He will reveal it to us when he is ready! SO, RELAX AND ENJOY THE WONDERFUL SIMPLICITY OF LIVING A LOVING LIFE OF BIBLICAL FAITH.

CONCLUSION

Don't worry! If you are old and thinking you missed God's special calling for your life, you didn't. If you are young, don't worry about finding or missing God's calling. It's hard to miss a burning bush or being swallowed by a whale—God knows how to get your attention. However, if **you** have a desire to have a special ministry, go for it and enjoy. But not if it stands in the way of living a life of Biblical Faith and maturing in godly character. It is that character by which you become a victorious Active Agent, and will be eternally blessed.

LESSON 10 SUMMARY

A simple life of Biblical Faith is not moronic, or a waste of time, it is what we are here for. It is our calling. It is our destiny. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF ALL OUR LIVES! It glorifies God and brings eternal blessings.

TODAY WE ARE IN TRAINING FOR ETERNAL REIGNING! AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS:

LEARN HIS WRITTEN WORD – TODAY & *LIVE* BY HIS WRITTEN WORD – TODAY