

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

Heaven's Remedy to Sin's Problem

Open:

- * Much is written on cancer as I googled it ... things I don't fully understand.
 - Suppose in the pharmaceutical lab a cure for cancer was discovered ...
 - Different ingredients were mixed together until a pill could be developed.
 - How cool would it be after 10,000 pilot tests were done with a 100% success rating ...
 - A breakthrough like this would need to be shared with the world!
 - Hold that thought.

- * Who can say for sure what someone is thinking but God ... what I'm about to share with you is speculation.
 - Humiliated because of his demotion (kicked out of Heaven) and with 1/3 of the angels looking to him for leadership, Lucifer makes his presence known in the Garden of Eden.
 - Disguised as a serpent, he patiently waits until Eve is alone. His goal is to get mankind to side with him ... to persuade them to follow him instead of God.
 - Having successfully tricked Eve, he thinks ... "I have won her allegiance and all her offspring yet to be born will join my cause.
 - God will be dethroned and vanquished, and I will be the god of this world.
 - √ In time I will have an innumerable host of obedient servants ready to do my bidding.
 - If these were the thoughts of Satan, not only was he the deceiver ... but he himself was the most deceived of all.
 - √ He underestimated the length that God would go to in order to rescue man, demonstrate His love, and defeat this enemy of whom the Bible calls the serpent, the dragon ... of which Isaiah says:

Isaiah 27:1 NLT In that day the Lord will take his terrible, swift sword and punish Leviathan, the swiftly moving serpent, the coiling, writhing serpent. He will kill the dragon of the sea.

- In Genesis 3 we see the first promise, the first prophecy in the Bible.

(1) A prophetic word

Genesis 3:14-15 NKJV ¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- The serpent who had lent his body to the evil one was condemned to crawl on his belly in the dirt.
 - √ It may have been that prior to the curse that serpents had legs like other reptiles?
 - √ They would now be slithering creatures ... eating dust in defeat and humiliation.
 - √ Even today ... snakes are repulsive, feared and avoided by most people.
- The curse would go beyond the serpent (snake) to Satan himself.
 - √ “You dare attack my prize creation ... you want to pick a fight? You’re on!” God declares war on Satan.
 - The woman’s offspring would not become a willing ally of Satan. **I will put hostility between you and the woman ...**
 - Next we have the first mention of the Gospel message.
 - **Her Seed will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.**
 - > This statement has in mind both comings of Christ ... His second coming and His first.
 - > Thus a conflict begins in the Garden that will not end until the end of earth (time) as we know it.

- > The Seed of the woman is a reference to the Redeemer who came in the Gospels and returns in the book of Revelation.
- I want to move from a Garden view to a helicopter view.
- Some of this information comes from: *Zion's Fire, When Kings, Countries and Gods Collide*.
- √ Satan wanted and still wants to rule the world. He desires the worship of mankind.
 - Those who deny him have simply been blinded by him.
 - The Seed of the woman is described as being unique, one of a kind.
 - These words are not accidental but inspirational. They serve as a sign and are significant.
- > No less than 40 times in both the Old Testament and the New Testament when the word “seed” is modified by a pronoun, it is always done so in the masculine form ... his seed.
 - Ex. **Genesis 17:19 KJV** And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.
 - **Genesis 46:6 KJV** And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him.
- > The only exception of “seed” being spoken of in the female gender is **Genesis 3:15**.

- ;> Why? Because it points to a stable in a small village in Bethlehem where a young girl named Miriam (Hebrew name) who never “knew a man” gave birth to the Son of God of whom we call Jesus Christ.
- > The promised Seed would not inherit the sin nature of Adam’s children ... he would be a man but his father was God.
- > Later in Scripture, God would tip us off when His prophet, Isaiah, said:

Isaiah 7:14 NLT All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

- > Not knowing when this might happen ... God’s enemy, Satan ... went on the offense immediately.
 - He had Cain kill Abel thinking he could prevent the “Seed of the Woman” from crushing his head ... but then Seth was born.
 - Later (Genesis 6) he had the “sons of God” intermingle with the “daughters of men” thinking he could corrupt the bloodline of humanity and prevent the Seed of the woman from coming into the world.
 - The world grew wicked, and God sent a universal flood but spared Noah and his family because they had not become contaminated by the union of the sons of God and daughters of men.
 - On the other side of the flood, God told Noah and his family to multiply and replenish the earth (**Genesis 9:1**) ... the promise of a “coming Seed” that could provide salvation was still possible.
 - When Nimrod built the city of Babylon, it was a satanic attempt to establish a one-world kingdom without the rightful king ruling over it.

- > The Tower of Babel promoted idolatry and a religious system that intended on bypassing the message of hope centered in the coming of the Seed of the Woman.
 - > To prevent this wickedness, the Lord came down and scattered the people by confusing their languages. The people would then spread across the land, but they carried with them a desire for a one-world government ruled by Satan and a religion that centered on worshiping Satan rather than God.
- To counter Satan’s plan, God chose to call out a new nation who would focus on Jehovah God.
 - > God selected Abraham to be the father of this new nation.
 - > It would be through that people group that the “Seed of the woman” would come and crush the serpent’s head.
- God blazed a path men could follow so they might recognize the “Seed of the Woman” when He appeared.

- The Seed would come through Isaac not Ishmael. **Genesis 17:19**
- The Seed would come through Jacob, not Esau. **Genesis 25:23**
- The Seed would come through the tribe of Judah, not the other 11 tribes of Israel. **Genesis 49:10**
- The Seed would come through a descendant of King David, not King Saul. **2 Samuel 7:15-16**
- And so it was, God made a covenant with King David.

Psalms 89:3-4 NLT ³ The Lord said, “I have made a covenant with David, my chosen servant. I have sworn this oath to him: ⁴ ‘I will establish your descendants as kings forever; they will sit on your throne from now until eternity.’”

- √ God told David his throne would endure forever.
- √ God told David if his descendants sin, he would punish them. There could be wars, famines, captivities or interruptions of the kingly reign, but that David’s throne would endure forever.

- √ God told David that from his lineage would come the Seed of the Woman.
- Somewhere along the way, the Seed of the Woman was given a title. He would be called “the Messiah,” meaning Christ, or the anointed one:
 - He was anointed as the Prophet who could communicate His Father’s truth to the people.
 - He was anointed the High Priest who would satisfy His Father’s holiness by offering himself as the perfect sacrifice for man’s sin. He would be the priest and sacrifice; the One who offered and the offering.
 - He was anointed as the King of kings and the Lord of lords who will remove sin from this world and set in place the millennial reign of Christ on earth.
- Satan eagerly looks on and there were times when it appeared he was about to ruin God’s plan.
 - One such event happened with King Zedekiah. He watched as his two sons were murdered and then he was blinded and carried off in captivity.
 - √ He was the last of David’s kings to rule over Jerusalem through whom the Seed of the Woman would come.
 - √ The book of Daniel speaks about the 70 year reign of Babylon ... this was the beginning of the “times of the Gentiles.”
 - √ During this period of history, no God-appointed Jewish king of the family of David would rule over Jerusalem.
 - √ Instead, Jerusalem would be ruled by foreign nations, each with a government that pointed to other gods.
 - The Babylonian rule – 606-536 B.C.
 - The Persians rule – 536-332 B.C.
 - The Greeks rule – 332-63 B.C.
 - The Romans rule – 63 B.C. to nearly 390 years.
 - √ During these centuries of Gentile rule over Jerusalem, there were descendants of King David being born.
 - However, none ruled as king over Jerusalem.

√ Then one day in a little village of Bethlehem, a son of Abraham, son of King David was born.

- He was the legitimate heir to the throne of Israel, the Seed of the Woman who became known as the Messiah.
- Matthew opens his gospel: **Matthew 1:1 NLT** This is the record of the ancestor of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham.

√ Matthew must have been ecstatic to write these words! The long-awaited King “Seed” had come.

- Hopes were high among the apostles that He would overthrow Rome and establish Himself as king in Jerusalem.
- But this is where we see “the Seed’s” heel bruised.
- The majority of the Jews rejected “their Messiah.” Of course, this was all a part of God’s plan.
- Just days before His crucifixion Jesus said of the Jews:

Luke 21:24 NLT They will be killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.

√ The “times of the Gentiles” will be completed when Jesus comes the second time as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

- First, Israel is judged and then she turns to the Lord for deliverance.

Hosea 5:14-15 NLT ¹⁴ I will be like a lion to Israel, like a strong young lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces! I will carry them off, and no one will be left to rescue them. ¹⁵ Then I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and turn to me. For as soon as trouble comes, they will earnestly search for me.”

➤ When Jesus is on the scene the first time, Rome is in control.

- In AD 66, Israel attempted to rebel against Rome.

- In AD 70, General Titus (son of Roman Emperor Vespasian) broke through the walls of Jerusalem, gained entrance to the Temple ... set it on fire and tore the massive Temple down.
- The Jews scattered over the face of the earth.
- √ Rome continued its rule until AD 324.
- Other foreign nations followed:
 - √ The Byzantine Empire ruled Jerusalem: AD 324 – 638.
 - √ The Muslim Empire: AD 638 – 1099.
 - √ The Crusader Kingdom: AD 1099 – 1244.
 - √ The Mamluk (Egyptian) Dynasty: AD 1260 – 1517.
 - √ The Ottoman Turkish Empire: AD 1517 – 1917.
 - √ The British ruled: AD 1917 – 1948.
- In 1948 following World War II, Israel became a sovereign nation once again.
 - 2500 years after the Babylonian Empire conquered them.
 - At this time they were given half of Jerusalem (it did not include East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount).
 - In the Six-Day War in June 1967, Israel captured all of Jerusalem ... but due to political pressure, East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount remain under Islamic control.
- Since 1948, Israel has been ruled by prime ministers.
 - Some have ruled well, but none were the descendants of King David.
- At the present time, the nations of the Middle East are plotting and maneuvering in preparation for a final attack against Jerusalem.
 - We are living at a time in history where we have box seats to see the end-time events.
 - √ Many have chosen to remain spiritually blind.
 - √ Middle East Muslim nations planning to attack backed by other nations are not aware they are doing Satan's bidding ... that in fact they are fighting against the God of the universe.

- Soon God will fight for Israel ... the Seed of the Woman, the descendant of King David will come.
 - The battle of battles will occur – Armageddon.
 - It won't be pretty but God's righteousness demands it!
- After rescuing Israel and defeating the armies of the world, Satan who is behind it all is dealt with.

Revelation 19:20-21 NLT ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.

Revelation 20:1-2 NLT ¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. ² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years.

Close:

- * God has been working His plan since time as we know it began.
 - Choose your side carefully ... don't be spiritually blind.
 - The antidote to sin is found in the "Promised Seed," Jesus Christ.
 - God has been working out His plan and now you must decide ... do you believe, will you place your complete trust in Jesus, God's Promised Seed?
 - Why has it taken so long?

2 Peter 3:9 NLT The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

- I turn your attention back to our experiment ... if you had cancer and there was a remedy ... would you take it?

Illustration:

- √ You are a sinner and death is certain, but Christ offers you eternal life.
- Side effects? Yes ... He begins to change you little by little until you begin to reflect the character traits of Christ.

Next Week: Back to the Garden, where we will finish this passage and go on to Chapter 4.

Message Notes
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