

FIXING THE BIG PROBLEM The Long Awaited King, 9.1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created all things. Finally, He created man in His image—moral, with the ability to love and communicate. Man was naked and yet not ashamed. Man had no sin.

But then Satan came, in the form of a serpent, and he tempted the woman and deceived her into disobeying God. Once she disobeyed God, she was no longer sinless and unashamed. But she did not want to be alone. So she went to her husband and encouraged him to join her. He, though not deceived by Satan, chose to join his wife in sin. In that moment, the greatest creation of God—the living beings that shared His image—had fallen. They died in their souls because God, the author of life, cannot join with sin. They died in their bodies, as what was once physically uncorrupted now was subject to decay.

And they not only doomed themselves, but all their children yet to be born. For fallen man begets fallen man. God did not immediately fix this problem, nor did He destroy them and start over. Instead, He instructed them on how to live in this new reality—a reality in which they were doomed to sin and eternal punishment in Hell, apart from the presence of God.

But in giving them instruction, He gave them a glimmer of hope. After all, if the Holy God would still invest time in instructing us, then perhaps He could make a way to fix what we had broken.

God did not fix man's problem of sin, but He did make a promise that hinted at a day when He would fix it:

GENESIS 3:14-15

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

*“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.*

*¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”*

Satan is the object of God's judgment; the serpent he inhabited is just the physical tool of the devil at that time. One can envision in this curse that mankind will always be more powerful than snakes, and slay them.

But it is impossible to think that there is not more than that going on here. Satan himself will have his head crushed. But note that **the head crusher is not an angel or a spirit from heaven, but a child of a woman. A human would come to crush the head of Satan.**

Noah

And so Adam and Eve did as God told them and made children. Man began to grow in population on the earth. But mankind was not good. Because of Adam's sin, each person was fallen in spirit, a sinner, and each one did evil.

When the earth became populated with a level of sin that God refused to bear, He determined to destroy all mankind in His righteous anger. And so, this would be a natural place to end the story of the human race. God would have been justified. He had told Adam that in the day he sinned he would die, and his race would follow him into the grave.

But God prepared the heart of one man: Noah. Noah had faith. **Faith is the interesting quality of believing that God is there, that He is great, that He always keeps His word, that He is to be respected, and, mostly, that He can be trusted because He is good.**

Noah knew that God would rather save mankind than damn them. He had faith. But he was the only one.

Noah built a boat, a big boat. God instructed him to do this. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, and lots of animals boarded that boat. All the rest of mankind drowned for their sins.

Again, God kept hope alive by saving a small group of humans.

But He did not yet fix the problem of sin.

Instead of fixing our problem of sin, God gave Noah a promise of hope. He promised that man will at least be preserved on the earth:

GENESIS 8:20-22

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

The picture is of Noah worshipping the Lord, and the Lord promising to provide for sinful man on the earth, and man not changing. Life has gone on in this way ever since, even to this day.

However, God's intention is not futile. He did not create mankind just so that we could live 70 or 80 years, return to dust, and have our souls populate hell. He had a solution for our sin, and it would come through a Son of Eve, a Satan Crusher.

The Tower at Babel

Fast forward a few centuries. Noah's children are following those who came before them—making babies, building society, growing in population. But, in their human sin, they are disobeying God's command to fill the earth. They are staying in one place, building one city. Babel. They are building a tower in it. They are unified. What is

the problem with that? When all humans are united in moving away from God, they will not be motivated to deviate and search for God.

In His kindness, instead of letting mankind move as one, like lemmings running off the cliff into the fire, He divided their languages so that they would scatter throughout the earth. God took control of human destiny and determined that there would be nations. As we learn from Paul's sermon on Mars Hill:

ACTS 17:26-27

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

God divided man into nations. This did not fix our sin problem. In a way, it multiplied the expressions of sins. For mankind, in separate tribes, would now invent unique ways to sin—they would fight and war against others.

But in being separated, God left hope alive. For now, man is groping for God, searching for Him. He can't be sure his invented god is god, since the neighboring village has its own gods, and he must doubt and wonder.

But the problem is not solved. The man who is the Satan Crusher has not come. Humans are still born sinners, destined to punishment.

ABRAM

So God called Abraham. Abraham would become the Grandfather of a tribe, a great nation on the earth. And this tribe would be different from all the other tribes of the earth; all the other tribes would worship false gods of their own invention. Abraham's tribe would worship the true God.

When God called Abraham with the promise of making him the father of this great tribe of God's own possession, He said this:

GENESIS 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

What does this promise mean?

God has not fixed the sin problem, yet. He has not freed our race from being born sinners and being under the angry punishment of a holy God. But He is making a promise to one man—a promise to bless not just Abraham's family, but all families of the earth.

God had not fixed our sin problem yet. But He had not left us on our own either. He had a plan to free us. Abraham is a part of that plan.

Abraham has a son who wonders if the “God of Father” is leading him too. Isaac is the son’s name. God tells Isaac this:

GENESIS 26:3-5

³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

To Isaac he says, “In your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” God had told the serpent that an offspring of the woman would crush his head. Now, God is telling Isaac, the son of Abraham, that one of his offspring would bless all nations. The Hebrew people of God will remember this promise as their nation grows. Where is this offspring that blesses all the nations?

Moses

And so, we go forward 400 years, and God’s promise to multiply Abraham’s offspring is true. There are millions of Abraham’s kids, Hebrews, as they are known. They live in slavery among the Egyptians.

Through Moses, and many powerful acts, God frees them, leads them out of Egypt, and brings them to the edge of the land that He had promised to their grandfather, Abraham.

But the problem of sin is not fixed by this partial fulfillment of the promise. There are many children of Abraham; they will have the land God promised. But the problem of sinful mankind still remains. Sin is not taken away. Shame remains.

And where is the blessing for the nations?

So God makes a promise to them, through Moses:

DEUTERONOMY 18:15

¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

And with this promise, more becomes clear about the promise of God to fix sin. **A man, a Jewish man, is coming. He will be a prophet. He is the offspring of the woman, the Serpent Crusher; He is the offspring of Isaac, who blesses all the nations; He is the coming prophet, raised up like Moses. There had never been a man like Moses. But One is coming.**

The Hebrews would take their land, Israel, and be known as the Jews. And due to their own sins, they would struggle many times. But they were always awaiting this prophet, this One.

David

And then came their great king, David.

There is no one like him. He is a great warrior because he has great faith. He always trusts God. And God blesses all that he does. No one can beat him in battle. He has wisdom. The people love him.

This is a great time to be in the family, the tribe, of Abraham.

But the problem of sin is still not fixed. Children still are born sinners. Even David struggles with sin. The grave still dominates Adam's race, and Hell and punishment still await the sinful. Where is the promise of God? Where is the One who can save man from his sins?

God makes a promise to David:

2 SAMUEL 7:12-13, 16

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

This offspring would be Solomon. But the promise goes on forever. The throne of David will long outlast Solomon. It is a forever promise. God goes on to add:

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

David's house, his family name, would go on forever. How can that be?

The centuries would go by. David would die, Solomon would take over, and he would die. Many of David's offspring would sit on his throne, but because of so much sin in the land, they would do evil, and God would allow Persians and Greeks and then Romans to come and oppress the people. David's house hasn't had a king in Israel since 600 BC.

And during these 6 centuries after Israel fell, the Jews wondered, "Where is our long awaited King, a Son of David? Where is our Prophet, who is like Moses, who will lead us?"

In the bigger picture, the problem is not solved; the human race is still under death of body and soul. The problem of Adam and Eve is not fixed. There is still no final hope for our race, it seems. When will the Salvation come to us?

Christmas

And so, we fast forward 600 years to some poor Jewish men who were working the night shift. Suddenly, they are called to attention by angels who frighten them. And messengers from Heaven bring this message to these few men, but it is a message that would be broadcast to all nations as time went by:

LUKE 2:10-14

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby

wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

Finally, 1000 years after the promise to David, 1500 years after the promise to Moses, 2000 years after the promise to Isaac, the son of Abraham, thousands and thousands of years after the curse upon the snake, the Son is finally here! He is the One who is the Prophet who will lead Israel. He is the King who sits forever on the throne of David. He is the offspring who will bless all the families of the earth. He is the Crusher of the serpent’s head.

The King has come to the earth. Not just to free the Jews, but to bring light and life to all mankind. For the offspring of man will walk among us without sin, and will love no matter what comes His way, and will die on a cross as a substitute for Adam’s race.

And He will bear away the sins of the world. He will fix the problem of death. He will rise from the dead. He will cleanse sinners’ souls and make them alive again. He will give eternal life. The Long-Awaited Savior has come.

All who come to Him by faith, like that of Noah, shall be saved. **(Remember, faith is the interesting quality of believing that God is there, that He is great, that He always keeps His word, that He is to be respected, and, mostly, that He can be trusted because He is good.)**