

THE THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN

FREE



THE
THREE
ETERNAL
DESTINIES
OF **M**AN

Doubtless you've heard about

HEAVEN

and

HELL

But did you know that the Bible
teaches that there is actually a

THIRD

eternal destiny?

DESTINY



“GOD IS GOOD! GOOD PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD DESTINY. BAD PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE A BAD DESTINY. IT’S THAT SIMPLE.” ▶▶▶

DESTINY

Destiny is like *destination*. It is the place where a person arrives at the end of a journey. When you walk towards a specific destination, each step you take brings you closer to where you are going. The further you go, the more *set* you are in that direction. It becomes harder to turn around. In the same way, each

person walks towards his own eternal destination. How a person lives his life now, determines where he is headed.

Every person will go to one of three eternal destinies. God does not decide for you, as though it were a matter of fate. No! You choose your own eternal destiny by the moral standards you live by:

good or evil. Your actions reflect the choices you make in life. The outward deeds reveal which path you are on. If you continue to walk in that same direction long enough you will eventually reach your destination.

Every person has a conscience. This tells him instinctively what is right and what is wrong. The deeds

that we do, the things that we think — we must give account for. Destiny has accountability attached to it. That is why every man is without excuse for what he does.

A person's eternal destiny is set in direct relation to how he obeys or disobeys his conscience. It is so wonderful that God has left us the freedom to choose for ourselves what our ultimate eternal destiny will be.

There is a difference between *fate* and *destiny*. It is man's fate to die once, and then face the judgment which will determine his eternal destiny. Fate, like death, is unavoidable. It is an appointment which every person must keep. You can't change fate, but you can change your destiny. It is all according to your ability to hear and respond to the inner voice of your conscience. 🌿



What About the Heathen?

Thoughtful people have long struggled in the face of the Christian doctrine of Heaven and Hell, causing them to consider the destiny of the countless millions of people who have never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

This question looms in the minds of many Christians, and the classic answer, at least from the Calvinist camp, makes God out to be a vindictive¹ monster: *all men are born totally depraved, worthy of eternal damnation regardless of how they live their lives or whether they have ever heard of Jesus Christ.*

We utterly reject this misrepresentation of God's justice and would like to set the record straight from the Holy Scriptures. While it is not possible for a man to work his way



to heaven, it is also *not* true that he is doomed to eternal death regardless of how he lives his life. What *is* the truth about man's eternal destiny?

First of all, it is true that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command in the Garden of Eden and ate the forbidden fruit, they incurred the sentence of death:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

Their physical death was not immediate, but their spiritual death was, and their fallen condition was passed on to their offspring, as the record shows, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."² Therefore, since "the wages of sin is death,"³ then "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."⁴

This much is clear to most Christians, but what happens after the judgment? This is the part that is widely misunderstood. But remember, the Bible says, "It is appointed for men to die *once*..." It doesn't say

twice. Yet there is a *second* death:

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

This verse identifies people of a certain character whose destiny will be a second and unending death in the lake of fire. But what about those who are not of that character? That is why there must be a judgment:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose

¹ *vindictive* — disposed to seek revenge; showing malicious ill will and a desire to hurt; motivated by spite. ² Rom 3:23 ³ Rom 6:23 ⁴ Heb 9:27

face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation

"Far be it from you to slay the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the judge of all the earth do what is right?"

GENESIS 18:25

20:11-15)

Let's be clear: this is *not* the judgment of *believers* in Christ, for their eternal destiny does not depend on their works.⁵ This is the judgment of all those who died *without Christ*. They are raised from the *first* death to be judged as to whether they are worthy of the *second* death, based on

how they lived their lives.

Now some will say this judgment is merely a formality — not a judgment at all, but a sentencing. They will say that no one's name was found written in the Book of Life because they didn't believe in Jesus,⁶ so all were cast into the lake of fire. They fail to distinguish between this

“Book of Life” for the nations and the “Lamb’s Book of Life” for the holy nation. They suppose that God raises men from the first death to stand before Him so that He can gloat at them while He pretends to look up their name in the Book of Life, knowing it will not be there. Then He callously casts them into the lake of fire. But this is not God’s character.

Abraham, the father of our faith,

when he appealed to God to spare the few righteous in Sodom, knew something about the character of God that escapes many Christians today:

“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25)

Of course Abraham was especially thinking of his nephew Lot, and God heard his plea and rescued Lot and his daughters. Although he was not included in the covenant with Abraham, Lot is described as being *righteous*.⁷ And while this passage does not speak of Lot’s eternal destiny, but merely his temporal deliverance from the destruction of Sodom, yet it speaks of God’s character as

⁵ There is a judgment of believers that Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, but its purpose is to determine who is worthy to rule with Christ during the Millennial Age. This judgment takes place at Christ’s return, 1000 years before the so-called “Great White Throne” judgment. But the eternal destiny of true believers is sealed according to Ephesians 1:13-14.

⁶ The “cowardly and unbelieving” in Revelation 21:8 are those who rejected the gospel as John 3:18,36 describes, not those who never heard the gospel. But some Christians will say there is no excuse, because if anyone were really sincere, God would send a missionary to him, even in the remotest corner of China. Rightly did our Master say of such self-righteous judges: “Woe to you, for you travel over land and sea to win one convert, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves!” (Mt 23:15) ⁷ 2 Peter 2:7-8

understood by Abraham, the *friend* of God.⁸

We stand with Abraham, knowing that God will righteously judge all people according to their works, and not just throw them all willy-nilly into the lake of fire. Those who are not *worthy* of the second death will be granted a second life, and it is over them that Messiah and His Bride (those who have truly believed in Him) will rule throughout eternity.⁹

Now let's take a closer look at the basis of this judgment:

"Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one

of Us, knowing good and evil...'"
(Genesis 3:22)

After Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would have to live by that knowledge, choosing to do the good and not to do the evil. Even though fallen man could not do this perfectly, God still held him accountable to exercise his will to overcome the temptation to do evil, just as He told Cain:

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:7)

Of course, Cain did not master it, but all are not like Cain. All do not murder. All are not immoral. Many strive to do the good they know in their conscience, and are grieved when they fail, and do everything possible to make restitution when they do wrong. These have a natural righteousness of their own, a natural faith or persuasion that God is good and that He will judge all men justly. They value the dignity of life. They recognize the image of the Creator in His creation. They work hard and are faithful in their marriages.¹⁰ They labor to put their values into their

10 ⁸ 2 Chr 20:7; Isa 41:8; James 2:23 ⁹ Revelation 22:3-5 ¹⁰ Genesis 3:16-19



*What about the millions of people who never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ?
Are they going to eternal destruction?*

children. They bear suffering without growing bitter. They try to keep a good conscience. And God does not despise their efforts.

True, all men sin and fall short of the glory of God, but not all fall *utterly* short. Glory means weight or value. Adam, before he fell, had great value, having been made in God's image. When he fell, God's image in him was marred, but not obliterated. This is very clear from what God said *after* Adam's fall, and in fact even after the Flood:

"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in

the image of God He made man. And you, be fruitful and multiply; abound on the earth and multiply in it." (Genesis 9:6-7)

Man still bears God's image and has great value in God's eyes, as He requires capital punishment for any who would fail to respect His image in his fellow man to the point of committing murder. But beyond that, God commissioned Noah and his sons after the flood to be fruitful and multiply abundantly on the earth. If man was now worthless and totally depraved, why would a loving Creator want to fill the earth with such

creatures?

So fallen man still bears the image of his Creator and retains intrinsic¹¹ worth to the degree that he lives by the knowledge of good and evil, inherent¹² in his conscience. Even though he has an inborn inclination to sin, he is able and accountable to do the good that he knows in his conscience and to keep himself from the kinds of sins that would make him worthy of the second death.¹³

Yet regardless of how carefully a man lives by his conscience, he will not do so perfectly, for he is a fallen creature. He will sin, and his sin must

¹¹ *intrinsic* — belonging to a thing by its very nature. ¹² *inherent* — existing as an essential constituent or characteristic; in the nature of something. ¹³ Revelation 21:8; 22:15; Romans 1:28-32

be paid for, as it is an inviolable law that the wages of sin is death. A man's good deeds cannot save him from the consequences of his sin — the first death. His natural righteousness cannot restore him to fellowship with God, nor make him worthy of ruling and reigning with Christ. All of his good deeds are of no more value than filthy rags¹⁴ for obtaining the righteousness of God, which can only be imputed to a man on the basis of faith, which comes from hearing the word of Christ from someone sent to preach the Good News.¹⁵

So whoever dies without Christ

must go to the first death to pay the wages of his own sin, since he does not have a sacrifice for his sins. How then does he pay these wages? It is according to how much worth remains in him, how much integrity and courage he has to face the truth about himself. For in death he is finally alone with his conscience, forced to face his sin, with nowhere to hide and nothing to distract his mind from the awareness of his own guilt. Every evil deed, every base thought, every selfish motive comes out of hiding to torture him. Like a worm burrowing into the recesses of

his memory, eating away at his every excuse, so is the path of his thoughts as his conscience fully awakens. The unquenchable fire of his self-inquisition leaves him either weeping in remorse or gnashing his teeth as he resists the truth about himself.¹⁶

Those who resist the truth, reasoning away their guilt even in death, prove themselves unable to pay sin's wages. They are the same in death as they were in life — set in their ways, their hearts fully hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. A second death awaits them, where they will gnash their teeth eternally. There is a mys-

¹⁴ Isaiah 64:6 ¹⁵ Romans 10:13-17 ¹⁶ Romans 2:14-16; Matthew 18:34; Acts 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:55-56

tery here. King David wrote,

“From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth — He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.” (Psalm 33:13-15)

The Creator of man forms, fashions, or molds each man’s heart according to what he does or gives himself to. Eventually the heart, like clay, becomes “set” in its way, and so that person’s character will remain eternally¹⁷ — some bent towards evil, and some towards good.

The latter, in death, will weep in remorse, accepting the full responsibility for their sins rather than blaming them on others. They are the ones who are able to pay sin’s wages. When they are resurrected to stand judgment, they will have fully received the discipline of death and will find mercy and not condemnation. This mercy and comfort will come at the hands of the bride of Messiah, who, according to the Apostle Paul,¹⁸ will be judging the nations on God’s behalf. They will wipe away the tears of those who were judged not worthy of the second death:

“Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’” (Rev 21:2-4)

The “tabernacle” or “dwelling place” of God is the bride or *wife* of Messiah,¹⁹ who will dwell with men — the resurrected righteous people of the nations. That is how God Himself will be with them — through the wife of Messiah.²⁰ Redeemed Man will rule with Messiah over Restored Man,²¹ and the original commission given to Adam will be restored to him, once sin and death and the evil one himself are no more:²²

“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea,

over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

Amazingly, in Psalm 8, King David prophesied that man (both the redeemed and restored man) would rule over all the works of God’s hands, including all the galaxies of planets. Surely without death, restored man will quickly fill up the earth and go on to colonize the universe with restored humanity, under the ever-increasing government of God²³ — the redeemed corporate²⁴ man, which is the wife²⁵ of Messiah.

So we hope that you can see that there is a lot more in God’s heart towards His highest creation, mankind, than to throw countless millions into the lake of fire for the crime of not having been born in the right place and time to hear the true gospel. If you are interested in reading more about man’s eternal destiny, please visit our web site, 3EternalDestinies.org. Or better yet, just come and visit any one of our communities (listed on the inside back cover) and we will be happy to talk with you. 🌿

¹⁹ Revelation 21:9 ²⁰ Revelation 21:9,12 ²¹ Revelation 22:5 ²² Revelation 20:10,14 ²³ Revelation 21:24, NKJV; Isaiah 9:6-7

²⁴ *corporate* — composed of individuals acting together as one entity. ²⁵ Revelation 21:9,12

*From the beginning, man's
three eternal destinies
have been clearly seen. In
the Garden of Eden, our
Creator placed the tree
of the knowledge of good
and evil and the tree of
life. These two trees
foretold the three eternal
destinies of mankind.*

*Hard work — God's
prescription to remedy
the plight of man — is
now regarded as a
thing to be avoided.*



The Three Eternal Destinies of Man¹

God made a covenant with Adam and Eve (which we refer to as the *first covenant*), and placed them in the Garden of Eden. They were to *rule for Him* over all creation.² God said they were to freely eat from any of the trees of the garden, but for their own good, He instructed them *not* to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil — “for in that day you will surely die.”

Adam and Eve were given

the *freedom* to choose to obey His instruction or to disregard it. This was a test to see what they would do with their freedom. It was our Creator’s desire from the very start to know what was in the heart of His highest creation — *man*.

Would they trust Him and obey? He wanted to know what was in the *will* of Adam and Eve once they were tested. Ultimately, what a person *does* comes from the inner judgments of his mind and



Since few of us grow our own food, we seldom stop to consider how much we must depend on God to send the rain.

¹“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” *Revelation 22:11*

²Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” *Genesis 1:26*

heart.³ The will of the man *is* the man himself.

Alone, with no one to know what she would do, Eve was approached by the serpent who came to test what was in her heart towards her husband and the Creator (*see article "What have you done?" on page 24*). Would she trust them and obey? The serpent appealed to Eve through her reasoning and led her astray. He asked, "Has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Ignoring the

voice of authority within her own heart, she made the choice to do what she already "knew" was not right⁴ and followed the serpent to the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Again he said, "You surely shall 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."

Drawn away by the seduction of his cunning and craft, she then ate from the "forbidden fruit." Weakened by

doubt and the serpent's accusations against her Creator, Eve was enticed with the desire to be *like God, knowing good and evil*. There was nothing inherently wrong with this desire (for Adam and Eve were created in God's very own likeness and image), but Eve was made to think that God was withholding hidden knowledge and wisdom from her. God wanted Adam and Eve to have this knowledge, yet without having to experience evil themselves.

³"For from the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas which lead you to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly—all these evil things come from inside you and make you unclean." *Mark 7:21-23*

⁴Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat

18 of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" *Genesis 3:1-3*

To have this knowledge of “good and evil” with unfallen nature was always God’s intent for mankind. However, Eve was deceived into thinking that she did not yet have this knowledge, and could not have it through trust and obedience alone. As a result, she transgressed the boundaries where love could protect her — the love of her husband and Creator.

Every man and woman will have to give account before his or her Creator for what they have *done* — whether *good or evil*.⁵ They will be judged on the basis of the *deeds* which they have committed during their lifetime.⁶ A person’s deeds will be examined in relation to the highest standard of

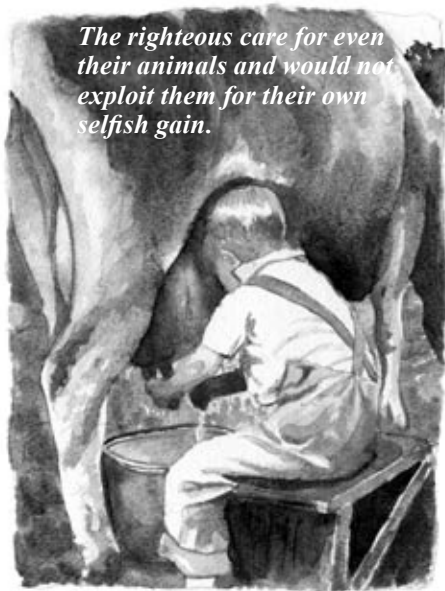
knowledge within his conscience. Conscience is the built-in power of our minds⁷ to pass moral judgment on ourselves, approving or disapproving our actions, thoughts, and plans.⁸ It tells us whether what we are going to do or have done already, is right or wrong, good or evil.⁹

Obedying the conscience helps to remedy fallen man’s plight of being separated from his Creator and his inability to carry out the purpose he was created for. Giving to man the covenant of conscience was done with the hope that he would be restored one day to the original covenant his Creator made with men and women. If in this life they would rule over themselves then in eter-

nity they would be restored to their rightful rule over creation.¹⁰ Within the boundaries of conscience, a man can choose his own eternal destiny. He can choose *blessing* or *calamity* — *an eternal second life* or *an eternal second death*.¹¹

Adam and Eve chose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, forfeiting their right to the tree of life. Since that time it has been appointed for all men to die *once*¹² as the wages for their sins.¹³ It is the just sentencing for all who, like Adam, go against their better judgment. Death (which we refer to as the *first death*) is the *temporary abode of the dead*, where disembodied spirits wait in hope or in torment for their final

The righteous care for even their animals and would not exploit them for their own selfish gain.



judgment. All men must keep this appointment with death as payment for the sins they committed while bound to live under the covenant of conscience. After the first death is completed, comes *final judgment* where every person's *eternal destiny* will be determined.¹⁴

If a person's deeds in judgment align themselves consistently with

the "good" he knew to pursue in his conscience, then an *eternal second life* will be awarded to him. His part will be in the "eternal kingdom of the *nations*."¹⁵ He has earned it and he deserves it. However, if a person's deeds in judgment aligns him consistently with the "evil" he knew in his conscience to turn away from, then an *eternal second death*

⁵The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. *Ecclesiastes 12:13,14*

^{6a}For God will reward every man according to what he has done. Some people keep on doing good, and seek glory, honor, and immortal life; to them God will give eternal life. Other people are selfish and reject what is right, in order to follow what is wrong; on them God will pour out his anger and fury. *Romans 2:6-8*

^{6b}And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works,

will be awarded to him. His part will be in the “lake that burns with fire.”¹⁶ This is the *second death*. He, likewise, deserves it. You can be certain that everyone will be awarded in eternity that which he truly deserves.

Adam and Eve ate from the wrong tree — the one that did not *freely* bestow eternal life upon them.

Genesis 3:16-19 outlines the *second covenant* God gave to Adam and Eve after they fell. They would now have to work hard to live by the *instinctive knowledge* of right and wrong within them in order to gain eternal life. This was in hope of their complete restoration to the *first covenant* for mankind, which they had broken.¹⁷ The ability

for fallen man to obey the second covenant of conscience is obvious, since our Creator would have never told Adam and Eve to obey such directives if it were not within their fallen ability to do so.¹⁸ Only those who are “unjust” would actually think God “unjust” as to demand of His creatures what they could never do.

as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:12-15*

⁷For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them [in their conscience]. *Romans 1:18,19*

⁸[When those who] do not have the Law do by instinct what the Law commands, they are their own law, even though they do not have the Law. Their conduct shows that what the Law commands is written in their hearts. Their consciences also show that this is true, since their thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them. And so, according to the good news I preach, this is how it will be on that day when God through Yahshua Messiah will judge the secret thoughts of all. *Romans 2:14,15*

⁹Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin. *James 4:17* ¹⁰*Revelation 20:12-15*; see footnote 6b.



Within the boundaries of conscience there is no room for a husband to be passive or lazy, or to be harsh or tyrannical. There is no room for a wife to dominate or manipulate her husband. But there is much room for mutual love and care.

Most importantly, (after the fall) man was commissioned to overcome and *master* those kinds of sins that would cause him to break even this second covenant.¹⁹ If the second covenant was broken, the second death would be inevitable — unless the mercy of our Creator could reach man's heart through the sacrifice of His Son Yahshua. It was Yahshua the Messiah who would make the third

eternal destiny possible for all of mankind. Both the righteous sinner (who remained loyal to the covenant of conscience) and the wicked (who forsook this covenant) were in need of forgiveness and a means of escape from death altogether.

It was our Master Yahshua (Jesus)* who made the way possible for both the *righteous*, and the *filthy* and *unjust* to be a part of the third eternal destiny — *the Holy City*.

* The name *Yahshua* is His original Hebrew name — see page 33 ¹¹...Then the Lord God said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” *Genesis 3:22* ¹²It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. *Hebrews 9:27* ¹³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Messiah *Yahshua* our sovereign. *Romans 6:23* ¹⁴*Revelation 20:12-15*; see footnote 6b. ^{15a}“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;’ and these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” *Matthew 25:31-34,46* ^{15b}The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. *Revelation 21:24,26* ^{15c}...On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. *Revelation 22:2* ¹⁶“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” *Revelation 21:8* ¹⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” *Genesis 1:27,28* ^{18a}To the woman He said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” And to the man He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” *Genesis 3:16-19* ^{18b}*Romans 2:14,15*, see footnote 8 ^{18c}...God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.” *Acts 10:34-35* ¹⁹“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Cain said to Abel his brother, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. *Genesis 4:7-8* ²⁰And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. *Revelation 21:10, 23*

What have you done?

*God holds all men
accountable for
what they say and
do. Nothing escapes
His notice. Even as
the smallest act of
kindness will be rewarded,
all selfishness that hurts
others will be punished.*



In a grove of trees, a man and his wife stood together looking with revulsion at the bitten fruit lying at their feet. The sweetness lingering in their mouths only sharpened the wretched feeling that swept over them — guilt. Their consciences raged, “Why didn’t you listen to me? Why did you rebel? Why didn’t you trust and obey?”

They knew that they had turned against their loving Creator by doubting His words and not heeding His instructions. They had left the secure place of total dependence on His words and put themselves in a vulnerable, independent state. As they stared at one another with wide and

frightened eyes, they became aware of something else, something that wasn't new, but that they hadn't noticed before — they were naked!

As the sickening sensation of guilt filled their beings, they both had one simultaneous impulse. “We need to hide!! We need to cover ourselves! Surely our Maker will come here soon, desiring to meet with us. We cannot let Him see our nakedness!”

Adam approached one of the fruit-bearing trees, a fig tree heavy with purple fruit. Breaking off some of its big green leaves, he gave them to his wife, who then sewed them together into coverings large enough for themselves. Fearfully they awaited the approach of their Maker...

Adam and Eve had just been freshly created; their consciences were still totally sensitive, the way their Maker had created them to be. As soon as that bite of fruit entered their mouths, they knew immediately — overwhelmingly — that they were guilty and naked, in need of covering. They knew that they were unfit in their naked state to come into the presence of God.

Today, we human beings have become used to living in a state of guilt and independence from our Creator. Our consciences have become dull, desensitized. We need to be told in order to realize that we are guilty and become aware of our nakedness before God.

All through the ages
God has been speaking through the conscience of every man and woman on the face of the earth. If only we listened and faced our condition, we would see how desperately we need a covering!

But what was wrong with the fig leaf covering that Adam and Eve covered themselves with? Why was it that when their Maker finally appeared, they still hid themselves from Him, even though they were now covered?

They had covered themselves, in an attempt to *hide* their shame. They did not want their guilt to be exposed and laid bare, so they desperately sought to make themselves

What have you done?

presentable. But somewhere deep inside, they knew that they were still unfit to come into the presence of God — they were still naked and guilty.

When their God finally came in search of them, they had hidden themselves in the trees of the garden. And when He called to them and then questioned them, their responses to Him showed that they were still afraid of freely exposing their guilt, as they both put the blame

onto someone else. But our Maker's heart was to provide mankind with a true covering: a *sacrifice*.

Adam and Eve finally had to remove all their fig leaf coverings and expose their true state of nakedness so that they could receive the garments God provided for them, taken from an animal whose blood God had shed to cover them in the very first physical death creation had ever seen. Even way back then it was in our God's heart to provide a sacrifice to cover mankind's sin.

From the beginning God had a plan. In His amazing love, He would send His only begotten Son, Yahshua, the Lamb of God, to be slain and to shed His blood so that we could be clothed in white garments and be restored to being found worthy to walk with Him as He had always desired. He was well aware of what He was going to do when He asked them the question: "*What have you done?*" 🌿

The Unjust

Lying, deceit, greed, laziness, and slander are some of the character traits of the unjust.

There are many ways a person can fit into the category of the unjust: by injuring or hurting others, by being unfaithful or treacherous in his business dealings, or by being dishonest. Lying, deceit, greed, laziness, and slander are some of the characteristics of those whom God considers unjust. People who may fall into doing these things once or twice aren't unjust, but those who *practice* them are. The unjust are chameleons. Many who appear to be quite respectable in

society are, in fact, unjust.

Lying. This is an outstanding characteristic of the unjust. Some professions capitalize on lies and deceit. Somewhere, a lawyer defends the guilty and defames the innocent for money. A judge favors the guilty for a bribe. A journalist slanders men in authority and ruins their reputation, all to advance his own career. Some exaggerate and sensationalize facts to sell papers. They sway public opinion to fit their agenda. But, what about their

victims? What would be justice for someone who deliberately ruined other people's lives?

What is to be said about those who live on welfare, but are able to work? They are leeching off society, and often condemning the system that feeds them. Are they not unjust?

Cowards also fall into this category. The most outstanding example of the cowardly is someone who hears the good news of Yahshua's sacrifice and rejects His generous offer of forgiveness and

The Unjust

(continued)

eternal life. They love the darkness more than the light because their deeds are evil.

Rejecting Yahshua and refusing to drink the water of life (to receive His Spirit) is such a serious sin that it is named first among the sins that make one worthy of the eternal sea of fire. They will be unjust *still* — forever and ever. 🌿

*Their eternal destiny is
the sea of fire.*

The Filthy

Again and again

The filthy and unjust share the same eternal destiny. Both gave up the good conscience they were endowed with by their Creator and chose to do evil instead.

The word *filthy* fittingly describes the character of those who give themselves over to degrading acts of sexual immorality. They suppress the *good* they instinctively know, in order to satisfy their craving for pleasure and indulgence. At first their moral filth may not appear obvious. However,

their deeds eventually betray them. They use and abuse others to fulfill their own sensual lusts, without any restraint or regard for the people they destroy and then discard.

They were *not* born filthy. They became filthy. This was done by continually rejecting their conscience. They grew to despise God's voice within their conscience. They stopped acknowledging Him for the acts of kindness He bestows on everyone.

*they persist in craving
what is vile and detestable.*

Their conscience became seared, as if a branding iron were applied to it. They became calloused. Hard. In this state of mind, good is called evil and evil good. This is what it means to be depraved: no fear of the eternal consequences for your actions. No fear of leading others to the same destiny. No fear. No regret.

Those who passively consent to what is evil, due to fear, are also guilty. By their cowardice, they sup-

press the good they know and allow society to be destroyed.

The filthy have set themselves on a course to their destiny — never-ending separation and punishment — because of the ways they have ensnared others and destroyed human lives. They will continue to follow the evil one, sharing his eternal destiny — the sea of fire, which was originally only prepared for him and his angels. They will be filthy *still*

— forever and ever. ❁

But for the cowardly and unbelieving, and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

(Revelation 21:8)

Their eternal destiny is the sea of fire.

The Righteous

Going against the current of evil in society is a struggle, but the righteous do it.

All people are born **righteous**. God is *righteous*, and every person is created in His *image*. This is where a person begins: *innocent and pure*. Although all people are born with a tendency to sin, they are also born with a conscience and the ability to obey it. This takes an act of the will. It takes determined effort.

A righteous person would never say that he is righteous.

Humility and self-doubt are qualities they possess. They care for their neighbors as they would for themselves. They do not tear down others, but strengthen them. They are not partial. They are fair. It's important to them to keep a good conscience and maintain their integrity. Deep inside, they know there will be a judgment. They know they are accountable for what they do. The righteous conduct their lives in

anticipation of that day.

In marriage, a righteous man will work hard and honestly to provide for his family. He loves his wife and children and will sacrifice his pleasure for their welfare. A righteous woman bears the pain of childbirth and continues to bond with and care for her children as they grow up. This produces secure children who know they are loved. People like this genuinely care about

others and treat them fairly and respectfully. They do what is good, not to be noticed, but because they value goodness.

There are only a few truly righteous people left. Society does not make much room for them today. They are not going to Hell, as many Christians think, simply because they did not believe in Jesus. They probably would have believed if they had heard about Him from someone who really knew Him. By their good deeds, the righteous made themselves worthy of a second life in the eternal *kingdom of the nations*. Righteous men and women must pay for their sins in death, but comfort awaits them at the judgment. They will be righteous *still* — forever and ever. 🍁



Their eternal destiny is in the nations of the eternal age.

The Holy

The holy are people who are consumed with the purpose of God. They are being restored back to what it means to be human.

The term *holy* means: *to be set apart for a special purpose.* Those who obey the good news of Yahshua's salvation are set apart for *Him* and *His purpose.* The holy people dwell in communities. These are special places He has established where they can live a pure life, separate from the evil influences that permeate the world. This

does not mean they live on isolated compounds out in the woods. No, they live in towns and cities. They have neighbors that they can be kind to, and with whom they can share the hope they have found.

The category of the holy is made up mostly of those who were once filthy and unjust. A few might have been righteous. These

are people who longed to love and be loved. When they came in contact with someone who had the love of God in his heart, they responded. They joyfully gave up all they had (both materially and spiritually — their former religions and philosophies) to follow Yahshua. They distributed their possessions to those who had needs within the community

of the holy. For this reason, there is no rich or poor among them. They spend their time, energy, and gifts caring for their brothers and sisters. They no longer live for themselves.

This love among a people is an example to all the nations. It demonstrates to the world the power God has to restore and purify people from their sin — the factor that divides all people from each other and from Him. Because they experience love and

forgiveness, they are able to offer it to others. That is their life's purpose: to love others like God loved them.

The spiritual reality of the holy is that they have become God's dwelling place. By their response to His call to forsake all and follow Him, they have made themselves worthy to be His Body on the Earth. They will be His representatives to the righteous of the nations in eternity. They will be holy *still* — forever and ever. 🌿

Their eternal destiny is the Holy City.

Our Master Yahshua

Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the Son of God. It is what His stepfather Yoceph (Joseph) and His mother Miriam (Mary) called Him when He was born, as recorded in Luke 1:31 and Matthew 1:21. The footnote for the latter verse in the NIV New Testament reads: *Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua*. In Hebrew, as in old English, there is no “J” sound, so the name is more accurately rendered *Yahshua*. It means, “I am powerful to save,” since it is constructed from *Yah* — the name of the Father (Psalm 68:4 in the KJV; also as in Hallelujah, “Praise Yah”) — which means “I AM,” and *shua*, which means “power and authority to save.” We call Him *Yahshua* because that truly is His name (John 5:43, 17:11).

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed... (Romans 1:16-17)

The Gospel is something that reveals the righteousness, or *rightness* of God. The knowledge of His righteousness is instinctively know to mankind:

...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident

to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)

In verse 18, Paul says that the truth they suppress is something that is evident within them (for God has made it so). It is an inborn understanding of God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature. Not only is that knowledge known

deep within each one of us, but it is also substantiated through what has been made. Nature clearly reflects the righteous character of God.

THE CONSCIENCE

Is this "truth" revealed to them speaking of John 3:16? Is that what is known about God innately? Not according to Romans 10:14 and 17:

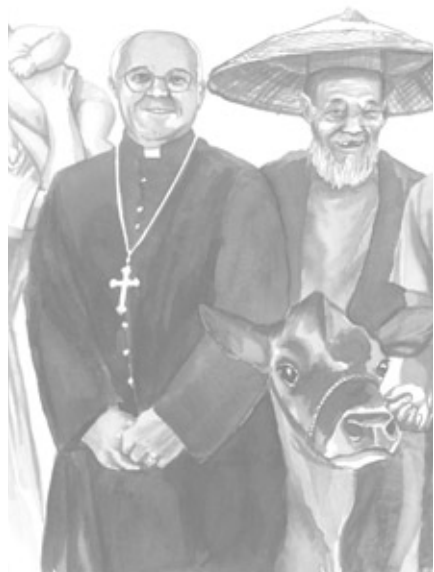
How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And

how shall they hear without a preacher? ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

So John 3:16 is not instinctively known, but has to be *heard*. What kind of knowing could they innately have of God and how could they honor Him as God according to that knowing? There is a requirement put upon men based on what they are born with, apart from John 3:18 (active disbelief). There, Jesus said that the one who has not believed in Him is judged already. Paul would ask, “How can they believe if they haven’t heard?” *Not believing* indicates a *conscious rejection* of something that has been clearly presented — it is

understandable that God would hold one accountable for that. However, to say that God would hold accountable those who have not heard the message from a reputable source *conceals*, rather than *reveals*, the righteousness of God — taking away the power of the gospel.

The gospel derives its power from the fact that it reveals His righteousness to man. When that is revealed, the heart of those who have a will to do His will is captured and the love affair begins. It is the love that produces 2 Corinthians 5:14,15. The innate knowledge that Paul was talking about in Romans 1 is referred to in chapter 2 as the *conscience* — the law written in men’s hearts as





to what is good and evil, and also a witness to their deeds. Since God put the conscience in us, when we obey that inner voice, we honor Him.

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them...

(Romans 2:14-15)

The ones Romans 1:25 is talking about exchange that truth for a lie that suits them better at the moment, allowing them to do what they want, rather than what they *know* to be

right. They elevate themselves to the stature of their Creator, saying in their hearts that there is no one greater to determine what is right and wrong than they themselves. They say in their hearts, "There is no God," becoming the fools that King David wrote of in Psalm 14:1,

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works; there is none who does good.

Can one honestly say that there is no difference in the eyes of God between a terrorist and a hard-working farmer who wears himself out in his struggle to feed his family? Will God send them both to the

same eternal destiny of the Lake of Fire simply because he never heard the Gospel? This is certainly not the impression of God that Abraham had when he pled for the lives of the few righteous in Sodom:

Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee... Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?
(Genesis 18:25)

THE JUDGMENT

These considerations start to give understanding of the final judgment:

And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it... And

I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ...and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

(Revelation 20:11-15)





This judgment is based on deeds. Books are opened, which are the individual records of a person's deeds as recorded in his conscience. It is according to each one's deeds, not religious beliefs. On that basis, a person's name is either kept in or erased from the book of life. What we see in Revelation 20:12-15 is the separation of two types, or categories of people. They are all outside of the realm of John 3:18, having never been faced with the opportunity in John 5:25.

Those who stand in the final judgment are the ones spoken of in John 5:28,

Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in

the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

So there are two categories of man clearly described in the judgment of Revelation 20, each with its own destiny. Those having the righteousness of man, living according to the inborn knowledge of good and evil, will go to a second (eternal) life in the nations of eternity (Revelation 21:24,26; 22:2). Those who hated all righteousness (the filthy and unjust) will have as their eternal destiny a part in the Lake of Fire, which is the second (eternal) death (Revelation 21:8).

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

The people of the nations must struggle to live according to the voice of their conscience and uphold the righteous standard within themselves. Jesus mentioned them in Matthew 6: 31-32 but was not condemning the Gentiles for their anxiety to provide food and clothing for themselves and their families. He knew it is a normal part of life — they have no choice but to consume themselves with getting what they need for survival. The issue for them is *how* they go about it.

Matthew 6:31-32 is not for the nations; rather, it was given as a standard to those who wanted to follow Jesus. To them He said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and

His righteousness.” They were called to a higher dimension of righteousness than those locked in the struggle of working for what they need to live. They were called to partake in His righteousness by trusting and obeying Him *completely*. These are His *holy* people — those wholly devoted to bringing about the purpose of God on the earth — a witness of His righteousness.

Such was the life recorded in Acts (especially chapters 2 & 4). The life of serving one another to meet each other’s needs rather than one’s own needs is what expresses His righteousness. This love between them was the sign that they belonged to Him. After all, isn’t that why He died? (2 Corinthians 5:14-15,21) 🍀



Our Days Are Numbered

The tragic story of the Garden of Eden has haunted the soul of man for thousands of years, offering its clues to the mystery of the human condition, and the hope of man's restoration to his created purpose. That hope is expressed in two special trees that stood out from all the other trees in

the Garden: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life.

You know the story.¹ Deceived by the serpent, the woman ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, although it was the only tree forbidden to them. The man joined in her rebellion, and the two were

banished from the Garden, never to eat from the tree of life. But where is the hope in that? Surprisingly, it lies in the words God spoke to the woman, to the man, and to the serpent regarding the consequences of their rebellion.

He told the woman that she would bring forth children with much pain and effort, that she would desire her husband, and that she would submit to his rule. Likewise the man would bring forth crops from the earth by the sweat of his brow, to provide and care for his family, and he would rule lovingly over his wife. These are the terms of an everlasting covenant with their Creator by which they could stay within the boundaries approved by their

¹ Genesis 3

conscience. It is the essence of what it means to live by the knowledge of good and evil, for that is the tree from which they chose to eat.

The faithfulness of a woman to her husband and children, and the faithfulness of a man to his wife and family, is the foundation of all morality. Without it human society decays, and indeed the earth also, as the prophet Isaiah said, “The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, changed boundaries, broken the everlasting covenant.”² Thousands of years later we see all too clearly the devastating effects of man’s unfaithfulness in both human society and the ravaged earth.

Yet each one of us is accountable for

the impact of our own life on the lives we have touched and even the earth itself. We will neither be condemned nor acquitted based on the condition of the society into which we were born, or by



comparison with others more righteous or wicked than ourselves, but only by the record of our own conscience. Each one of us is born with the knowledge of good and evil inscribed in our conscience, for that is the “tree” we were born under, so to speak. We know instinctively that keeping a good conscience has its eternal reward, and that living in contempt of conscience also has its eternal reward. This expectation of eternal consequences based on the way a person lives his life is common to all cultures, regardless of religion.

How then should we live our short life in this age? Our days are numbered.³ Inevitably death awaits us, and then the judgment. And then what? According

² Isaiah 24:5 ³ Psalms 90:12

to the Bible, it is either a second and unending life, or a second and unending death. There is a chilling passage near the very end of the Bible, in the book called the *Revelation*:

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

(Revelation 22:11-12)

The word *still* here means to remain in that state forever. The way you live your life eventually becomes *set* in your character and determines how

and where you will spend eternity. Four different classifications of people are identified here — *unjust, filthy, righteous, and holy* — which describe all of humanity. Perhaps you will be able to see yourself in one of these, and consider whether you want to remain there *still*.

THE UNJUST

To be *unjust* is to disregard the rights, needs, and suffering of others in the decisions you make, especially for the sake of your own comfort and advantage. For some this is a way of life — they are the *unjust*. Some are lawyers who use their wit to help the guilty avoid the just consequences of their crimes; or judges who condemn

the innocent or acquit the guilty; or politicians who advance themselves by flattery and empty promises, using their office for their own personal gain; or doctors who prescribe unnecessary tests and procedures in order to generate income; or reporters and publishers who exaggerate or misrepresent stories to appeal to people's lower nature, or to advance their own agenda; or merchants who knowingly sell faulty merchandise; or craftsmen and laborers who do shoddy work; or even the middle-aged man who forsakes his wife for a younger woman after she has borne his children and cared for his household for thirty years; or the woman who neglects the care of her children for the sake of her own career; or the lazy who live off the

labor of others.⁴

There are countless examples, but they all have one thing in common. The *unjust* justify themselves in the pursuit and maintenance of their own comfort at the expense of the suffering of others. At the end of their lives they will have received their comfort in full.

THE FILTHY

The *filthy* are those who use and abuse others to gratify their own sexual cravings, as well as those who indulge and profit from the sexual cravings of others. The sexual desire and capacity of men and women were given to them by their Creator for the purpose of bonding one man and one woman together in a

lifelong marriage covenant that bears the fruit of healthy, happy, and secure children. Sexual relationships outside of a lifetime commitment to love and care for the other person and the children that may be conceived is just selfish indulgence. It degrades everyone involved and decreases their capacity to form deep and lasting relationships.

The *unjust* and the *filthy*, although they may appear different outwardly, they are really two sides of the same coin, and they will share the same eternal destiny. It is



the place the Bible calls the *Sea of Fire*, which was prepared for the Evil One and his deceiving spirits.⁵ There will be room there for all who have followed these evil spirits in this life, suppressing the voice of their conscience to choose the evil over the good.

THE RIGHTEOUS (their names were found in the Book of Life⁶)

The *righteous* are those whose lives were characterized by faithfulness in their relationships, diligence in their work, and

⁴ Revelation 22:15 ⁵ Matthew 25:41 ⁶ Revelation 20:15

kindness toward the lives they touched. Although they were not perfect in it, they suffered to do the good they knew in their conscience, even when it cost them discomfort or rejection. They lived within the boundaries of the everlasting covenant in fear of their Creator. They will be restored to their created purpose and given a restored earth to care for and fill with their offspring, with no trace or influence from the Evil One. Although there are very few of them in comparison to the *unjust* and *filthy*, ultimately they will fill the universe, for the earth will be too small for them. That is their eternal destiny.

THE HOLY

But who are the *holy*? That takes us back to the tree of life, and the words spoken to the serpent in the Garden long ago:

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.

(Genesis 3:15)

This is the first promise in the Bible of the coming of a Savior who would bring an end to the tyranny of the Evil One on the earth. In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a Hebrew virgin named Miriam⁷ who was betrothed to Yoceph.⁸ They called

Him *Yahshua*,⁹ which means *Yahweh's Salvation*. The prophecy calls Him *her seed*, even though “seed” (*sperm*) doesn't come from woman, in order to emphasize that He would be human, born of woman, but not from the fallen seed of man.

There is a lot more that could be said about this miraculous birth, but space doesn't allow it here. The point is that Yahshua did not inherit the fallen nature of Adam, but was from His conception vitally connected to God. Although He was human, His spirit was organically “one” with the Holy Spirit in His human spirit.¹⁰ He lived in constant communion with His Father, eating from the tree of life just as Adam had the potential of doing before he fell. Yahshua's life of

unbroken communion with His Father put Him on a collision course with the religious leaders of His day who were threatened by His spiritual authority. But when they who were controlled by the Evil One crucified this perfectly innocent man, they unwittingly sealed the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15.

Yahshua bruised the serpent's head, being bruised on the heel Himself in the process. He overcame the Evil One, never giving in to the voice of the tempter, for He would only heed the voice of His Father. Having no sin of His own, He willingly took all of our sins upon Himself, dying and going into death in our place. But because the Evil One had no claim on Him, death could not hold Him, and He rose triumphantly

from death. Now He is at His Father's side, waiting for His enemies to be crushed under His feet.¹¹

You see, the serpent's head was bruised, but not crushed.¹² That is where the *holy* come in. By His death, Yahshua opened the way to the tree of life so that a people could walk in the same way He did. Those who are weary of their own sin and the death sentence it merits, and who see Yahshua as worthy of their whole life, will leave everything behind to follow Him — not only their sin, but everything — family, career, possessions. They will become a set-apart people, wholly devoted to Him, for that is what *holy* means. They become His visible, tangible Body on earth, living together and loving one another just as their

Messiah Yahshua loved them. Through their vital communion with Him they overcome just as He did, putting all of His enemies under their feet. Then He will return for them, as a bridegroom comes for his bride, bringing an end to this fallen age as they crush the serpent's head.¹³ Together they will rule through all eternity over the *righteous* people who will fill the earth and the universe in the ages to come.

Have you considered what path you are on, and where it is leading? We would love to talk with you about it. You are welcome to call or visit any of the communities. 🌿

¹¹ Hebrews 10:13 ¹² Romans 16:20

¹³ Revelation 19:11-20

Community Churches

All who believed were together and had all things in common... Acts 2:44



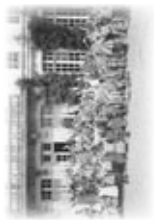
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Like a Beehive

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating seeing thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you come near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a little bee.

This is much like the life that we have. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. Daily we gather to thank our Master for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. This gathering keeps alive a genuine love and care for each other. As we work, we take advantage of the daily situations, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that would come in to separate us and take away our love. Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only homeschool them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain a family life. Our life is not a dull routine of chores, but is full of the warmth that comes from the sweet fellowship of friends speaking their hearts to one another.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. Each of us is here because we chose to leave behind our own separate lives to increase the life of this hive. Our life is not enclosed like the hive of a bee, nor do we have a stinger to harm any uninvited guests. We welcome anyone to experience our life with us. Please come and see what it is like to be part of a beehive of people expressing the warmth and love of our Creator. 🐝

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Stepping Stone Farm, Rt. 2, Box 55, Weaubleau, MO 65774
☎ (417) 428-3251

Community in Manitou Springs, 53 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829
☎ (719) 573-1907

Community in Vista, 2683 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084
☎ (760) 295-3852

Morning Star Ranch, 12458 Keys Creek Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082
☎ (760) 742-8953

Community in Brunswick, 815 Albany Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
☎ (912) 267-4700

Community in Savannah, 223 E. Gwinnett Street, Savannah, GA 31401
☎ (912) 232-1165

Community in Chattanooga, 316 N. Seminole, Chattanooga, TN 37411
☎ (423) 698-6591

Community in Arcadia, 601 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266
☎ (863) 494-3305

Community in Hillsboro (Washington, DC area)
15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132 ☎ (540) 668-7123

CANADA (1-888-893-5838)

Community in Winnipeg, 89 East Gate,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2C2, Canada ☎ (204) 786-8787

Community in Nelson, Mount Sentinel Village Farm 2915 Highway 3A,
South Slocan, British Columbia V1L 4E2, Canada ☎ (250) 352-0325

GERMANY

Gemeinschaft in Klosterzimmern,
Klosterzimmern 1, 86738 Deiningen, Germany ☎ (49) 9081-2901062

ENGLAND (0800-0743267)

Stentwood Farm, Dunkseswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 4RW, England
☎ (44) 1823-681155

SPAIN

Comunidad de San Sebastián,
Paseo de Ullia 375, 20014 San Sebastián, Spain ☎ (34) 943-58-00-29

FRANCE

Communauté de Sus,
11, route du Haut Béarn, 64190 Sus/Navarrenx, France
☎ (33) 5-59-66-14-28

ARGENTINA

Comunidad de Buenos Aires, Batallón Norte y Mansilla 120,
1748 General Rodríguez, Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ (54) 237-484-3409

BRAZIL

Comunidade de Londrina, Rua Jayme Americano 420,
Jardim California, 86040-030 Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
☎ (55) 43-3025-2066

AUSTRALIA

Community in Sydney (Oatlands), 204 Pennant Hills Road,
Oatlands, NSW 2117, Australia ☎ (61) 2-9683-5395

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