

Chapter 7

The Trinity's Central Objective

Violated Law:

We cannot fully realize the Trinity and the need for a Savior without coming to terms with Satan's true objective in the "Garden of Eden." His obvious motive was to bring about sin, but as we shall find out, this was not his only intent. The first chapter of Genesis discloses the granting of the dominion authority to man. In doing so, God made man responsible for all earthly matters. The only condition placed on Adam was to abstain from the forbidden fruit. At the same time, embedded within this condition, was man's right to choose. Thus, by acquiring freedom to choose, he was also free to partake of the forbidden fruit or abstain from it.

When God created the universe He set certain ethical and comprehensive guidelines in place. Since God made man in His own image and likeness, and placed him in such high authority on the earth, the rules relating to man are firm. One thing is certain; these regulations are for our protection. Nevertheless, sin invaded the heart of Adam, and in so doing, set off a series of events. God absolutely had the power and capacity to intervene when Adam and Eve disobeyed, but by doing so, He would have intruded on the very directive He set in place. That principle declares, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4 and "The wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23.

Man in Bondage:

As a fallen angel, Satan was fully aware of the consequences for disobeying God. He had held a high position among the ranks of the angels. Therefore, being in such high standing, not only was he aware of God's laws, but he was also conscious of God's integrity. He knew that God holds firm to His word. By deceiving Adam and Eve, Satan not only tempted them to sin, but his true intention to seize the earthly dominion was realized. This occurred when Adam disregarded God's directive. Adam no longer remained obedient to God, but assumed obedience to Satan. What resulted from this act continues to haunt man, even to this day. As it happened, another precept was violated, which placed man under the control of Satan. The following Scripture verses may shed some light on this principle.

- Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. - (John 8:34)
- ...to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? - (Romans 6:16)
- He that committeth sin is of the devil; - (1 John 3:8)

No Way Out For Humanity?

Thus we discover that man was disobedient to God by submitting to Satan's deception. In turn, this produced the transfer of the dominion authority from man to Satan. In the exchange, man became servant to Satan. The situation created by sin took on a look of hopelessness. Not only did sin bring forth death, but now, man essentially became slave to Satan. Was there any way possible for redemption back to God? After careful analysis, there was a way, but simply *one* way. Still, that way seemed impossible in the eyes of man. Only a human being free from bondage to Satan and sin could redeem mankind.

Humanity Doomed?

Since Adam had no children before the fall, meant no more sinless people existed. Also, Adam's future descendants would acquire his sinful nature. Without such a person available to deliver man from his despair, humanity was doomed. Satan obtained control of the dominion authority over the earth and *fallen man* was under the authority of the *fallen angel*.

The Father of Lies:

- Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. - (John 8:44)

This Scripture illustrates that man transferred his loyalty from God to Satan. Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders in His day when He made this statement. If the religious superiors were children of the devil, where did everyone else stand? If Satan is our father, then God cannot be our Father.

Satan's Authority Undisputed:

We find another piece of evidence to back up the claim of Satan's authority. At one point, Satan tempted Jesus while He was in the wilderness. In the following Scripture passages we find Satan offering Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would only bow down to him. Although He did not give in to the temptations of Satan, Jesus also did not dispute Satan's claim to the dominion authority.

- And the devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. - (Luke 4:5)
- And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. - (Luke 4:6)
- If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine. - (Luke 4:7)

The Result of Obedience to Satan:

If Jesus had agreed to Satan's request, He would have fallen into the same trap as Adam. By submitting to Satan's temptations, Jesus would have been disobedient to His Father's will. Notwithstanding, Satan would be under no obligation to fulfill his end of the bargain, since he is the father of lies and void of any moral standards to live by.

God's Answer for Man:

In examining the situation, only a human being, not connected to the lineage of Adam, would qualify to restore man back to God. This is not all—the individual must be without sin to gain back the dominion authority from Satan. The big question was—where would he come from? Angels or beasts were not eligible because they are not human beings, nor are they made in the image and likeness of God. That meant there was no one left to redeem fallen man from his bondage.

God may have been in heaven, but He was fully aware of the desperate situation of man. He knew that man had no way out of his affliction. Still, despite man's unfaithfulness, God's love for humanity did not stop. That was good news, because God had an answer to the problem. The question was what was that answer and just how did God propose to accomplish His plan?

What Was God's Answer?

After analyzing every possible option available, it turns out that there were no available options, but one. That one ultimate answer was -- God Himself. God devised a plan whereby He would come down to this earth to redeem fallen man from his plight and make a way for restoration. In light of the fact that no other perfect beings existed anywhere in the whole universe, God truly was the only answer to man's predicament.

Hope for humanity was now in the hands of a merciful God. Yet, how would He achieve this feat, since the Bible tells us that no man can look upon God and live, Exodus 33:20. If that was the case, God could never have come down to earth to live among mortal man. Nevertheless, with God all things are possible.

- I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death; O death: I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from Mine eyes. - (Hosea 13:14)

Prophecies Regarding the Messiah:

Throughout the history of the Old Testament, God made certain prophecies to various individuals. The first one was presented to Satan in the "Garden," where He prophesied that the seed of the woman would bruise Satan's head. God also promised a Messiah would come from the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He would be from the tribe of Judah. The Kingdom of this coming Messiah would be established forever upon the throne of David, and He would be born in the town of Bethlehem. Moreover, He would be born of a virgin and called the mighty God and Immanuel (God with us). These prophecies were there; open for all to see, and certainly Satan was aware of each and every one.

- Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David.... - (Isaiah 9:7)
- Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. - (Isaiah 7:14)

Jesus - His Lineage through God:

When the time came, God chose a virgin, named Mary, whose family tree went through King David back to Jacob, Isaac and Abraham. Even Joseph, Mary's espoused husband, traced his lineage back to David and Abraham. An angel, named Gabriel, appeared to Mary and told her that the Holy Ghost would come upon her, and overshadow her, and she

would conceive, and be with child. The Child she would bear would be from God. She was to call His name Jesus and He would be born in the town of Bethlehem. In similar fashion, the angel also appeared to Joseph with news about the Child.

- But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judea, *yet* out of thee shall He come forth unto Me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting. - (Micah 5:2)

What took place at the birth of Jesus is quite significant, in contrast to what took place in the "Garden of Eden." God's strategy to redeem fallen humanity involved using a virgin, of the lineage of David, of the tribe of Judah, as the instrument to bring forth His only begotten Son into the world. Therefore, by using a woman fulfilled the requirement of belonging to the human race. The fact that her ancestry went back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob satisfied the covenant God made with them.

Because she was carrying a child by the Holy Ghost insured that Jesus was of God, and He was the perfect being needed to restore fallen man.

- For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. - (Isaiah 9:6)

The Only Begotten Son:

As it was, the child met every requirement necessary to become a human being. Whereas the ancestry goes back through the father, Jesus was not linked to the bloodline of man through Adam, but was an offspring of God. Another thing, Adam was a created being; therefore all of his children would become created beings as well. This is significant because Jesus was not created, making Him the first-born of God. Thus, Jesus has the distinction of being called the only begotten Son of God. In addition, since the Holy Ghost was His Father, His blood was not stained by sin.

- I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto Me. Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. - (Psalms 2:7)

A View of the Cross:

Jesus fulfilled all the conditions needed to redeem fallen humanity; yet, He had a lifetime to complete His mission without dishonoring His Father. He was fully Man and that subjected Him to the same temptations and hindrances as everyone else.

- Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. - (Hebrews 4:14)
- For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. - (Hebrews 4:15)

Even so, in leaving His “glorious estate” and His “majestic throne,” He fashioned Himself and became obedient even to death on the cross.

The Book of Isaiah gives a better portrayal of what Jesus went through to redeem fallen humanity.

- Behold, My servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. - (Isaiah 52:13)
- As many were astonished at Thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men. - (Isaiah 52:14)
- He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. - (Isaiah 53:3)
- Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. - (Isaiah 53:4)
- But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace

was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. -
(Isaiah 53:5)

- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. - (Isaiah 53:6)

This report from the book of Isaiah, chapters 52 and 53, generates a dramatic picture of what the Lord went through as He endured the cross. Moreover, Isaiah 53:10 says, “it yet pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put *Him* to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin....” God’s only begotten Son was made an offering for sin, yet it pleased God because it gave fallen humanity a means to return to Him.