

Perspective – Setting the Foundation

Perfection

In the first two chapters of Genesis God creates what He wants within each part of His glorious creation. “What’s that?” The expression of His Perfect Love; His Holy eternal Perfection; all a manifestation of the essence of God revealed through all He created. Why? Because nothing better can exist.

Perfection is not a what, it’s a Who. That “Who” is God. True Perfection cannot exist outside of God, because He is the Origin of any Perfection that exists. That does not include any perspectives of the world now. God alone is perfection. Any perspective that does not align with God’s perspective is false.

Creation before sin entered the world was an expression of Who God is, and His desires within Perfect Love. It is critical that we understand this. Also, it’s best we each think about how this forms a foundation of thought that affects any other thoughts we might have about God.

Genesis helps us greatly in understanding where God started. Of particular importance is the fact that He “started” at all. After all, He knew what was going to happen to His perfect creation before He ever spoke it into being. Now that’s something to contemplate.

He knew that it would end up with all the things that are wrong today. He knew He would have to destroy all life with a flood except for what He saved in a wooden ark. More than that, He knew He would have to send His only Son to die for us, so why ever say the words, “Let there be light”? This is significant because it tells us something very important about God. God chose the potential of Life over the potential of Death.

Why? Because He is Life and will always be the only true Life that exists. He already knew the source and the result of Death. Clearly God’s Life is, and will always be better. They are so far apart as to be incomparable, except by those of us who don’t truly know the real nature of either. It is a simple but eternally powerful Truth. God is Life. The distinction is so important that the word Life is capitalized when referring to the Life Who is God, or God’s Life.

Life is not a What, it's a Who. Yes, and that Who is God. You may wonder why this repeated emphasis. It's because we need to change our perspective from a bunch of "whats" about God, to a focus on our relationship with the Person Who is God, and how He has manifested Himself as God for our benefit.

This may cause some confusion in our minds. This truth may feel like a sword cutting through the fabric of our minds and all that we think about the meaning of our lives.

Each of us has our own perspective on life; what it is and what it means. As people we have much in common about our thinking, and at the same time many things that deeply divide us.

My prayer is for all of us to let go of everything we think we know about life for a moment, and start at the beginning with God. Start with this great Truth: God is Life.

No Life existed apart from Him because He was, and is, and will always be the only true Life that exists.

Death By Satan

By making this statement something else becomes clear: apart from God there is no Life. So, to be separated from God is Death. Death with a capital "D" because we're not referring to our physical death on this earth, but the power of eternal Death as a person's state-of-being. It is not a point at which we become dead. Without God's Life, after our existence on the Earth ends, we become Death for eternity. There is an eternal difference between these two realities of existence of an eternal being; Life, or Death..

So what is the origin of Death? Perhaps we should ask where is the origin of Death? Maybe it's a "who"?

Well, the scriptures are profoundly clear about God being the Origin and Originator of Life. They are less clear about how Death originated, but quite clear about "who" was the cause of Death, and that is Lucifer; an angel. It seems Lucifer was in a high position among the angels. Many think he was an archangel who was beautiful; also known as the angel of lights. We know him by his common title of Satan.

As best as mankind has been able to understand Lucifer was an angel that wanted to take the place of God. Essentially, he wanted to replace God and take over God's position of power and authority. The prophet Ezekiel writes about the position of Lucifer, also known as the Morning Star, and mentions his shift to sinful ways.

"12 b..., Thus says the Lord God, 'You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.'" (Ezekiel 28:12-15)

From the prophet Isaiah we learn what that unrighteousness was that caused Lucifer to be cast down from heaven, thus a self-declared enemy of God that we know as Satan.

“12 How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 But you said in your heart, `I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

There are other references in Revelation that reveal that other angels were cast out of heaven with Satan. Some believe that Revelation 12:4 indicates that a third of the angels fell with him. It is clear that Satan was cast out of heaven, and we know from other passages that the angels who aligned with Satan, now are demons and are a part of his army of evil.

Lucifer had to be expelled from God’s presence. There was no question that God must be separate from these eternal beings He had created who had rebelled against Him. Their Death was the result. Since Lucifer was the cause of this he was the source of Death; the root of its origin. The “D” is capitalized when referring to this reference to Death, because it is the opposite of God Who is; Life.

Why did God have to force Satan out of His presence? Because God is not only perfect, He is Perfection. It’s not just that He is perfect; He is the origin of Perfect. His Perfection could not be retained if the rebellion of Lucifer was not dealt with in truth and honesty.

God is Perfect, and thus He can only retain, within His Unified Life that which is Perfect. Since Perfect only exists within God’s Perfection, anything that is not a part of Who God is as Perfection cannot remain in relationship with Him. God in His essence, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is eternal Perfection.

So, when Lucifer chose to rebel against God he caused his own expulsion from God. Why? Because Lucifer’s rebellion caused him to become the origin of Sin, and so he is best known as Satan, the Devil, the Great Dragon, the old Serpent by so many of us.

Again, perfection cannot be joined with imperfection if it remains unresolved. So, Lucifer’s choice caused his automatic separation from God. God didn’t have to get angry, judge Lucifer, and condemn him. The expulsion of Lucifer, and the angels who joined him was the absolute result of their choice and actions regardless of how that expulsion took place. Satan and his angels will be judged later.

It isn’t that God didn’t care, or wasn’t affected, but Lucifer’s choice left no choice for God to make. Their separation from God would have been immediate, even if their expulsion from Heaven was delayed by God for a brief time. My guess is only God’s Love would compel communication first, before Lucifer and his angels were cast out of Heaven. No doubt Lucifer knew exactly what the results of his actions would be if his rebellion was unsuccessful, but he and his angels rebelled anyway.

A point to remember is a being who is Dead, separated from God, can be in God’s presence. They can have dialogue, but such a being must be separated from the Holy Perfection and Life Who is God.

So, Death now existed personified. Now did God know ahead of time what Lucifer was going to do? Yes.

We may quickly jump to a list of questions that seem to have no answers. One might be, “Well, why didn’t God stop Lucifer?”

Why?

Within God Who is Love and Perfection, the gift of individual choice is an essential aspect of all eternal beings God creates. Why? Because choice is a part of Who God is, and to be created by Him includes the potential to choose.

Well, if He knew ahead of time then why did God create Lucifer in the first place? Couldn't God just avoid the issue by not creating Lucifer? Interesting questions!

We have considered similar questions about God creating Adam and Eve, and everything else He created. Hopefully we recall that a relationship without choice is not a relationship at all.

Our thinking, which is outside of God's perfection, causes us to think the nature of relationships can vary greatly. Most all relationships are less than what they should be in this world. That's just the way things are when Sin dominates this world through Satan.

They were not that way when God created the angels, the world, or Adam and Eve. God created perfect relationships with anyone created by Him. They were Perfect. There is no room for a different kind of relationship that is less than Perfect to exist within God Who is Perfection. In order for us to exist within God-Perfection and Life we must be made Perfect by His Grace through Jesus His Son.

The reason God extends Himself to those of us who are separated from Him is because He seeks a relationship with us being united with His Life, Love, and Perfection. In other words, a Life filled with and in the presence of God Himself.

Satan and his demons are different. We know that Satan can be allowed to come before God's presence, and talk to God. In Job1:6-7 we find the following: "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.'"

My perspective is Satan's presence on earth as God's enemy was an impossibility until after God finished His creation looked at it, and called it Good and rested on the seventh day. God didn't look at His creation and say, everything is good except for Lucifer and his angels over there.

Ezekiel's writing in Ezekiel 28:12b-15 has already been looked at, but in it we found these words: "Thus says the Lord God, 'You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: "...'"15 You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.'"

So, we might conclude that before his rebellion the "Angel of Lights" may have been in the Garden of Eden. This could've been the case after God completed His work and rested on the seventh day, and the Garden of Eden had been created. Lucifer's presence changed after his rebellion against God that

included, perhaps a third of the other angels. Following that event Lucifer-Satan, and the angels that followed him had become enemies of God forever.

While it might be of interest to consider this further, what does it add? If there ever is an appropriate moment, now is not the time for that so we'll get back to what really matters.

As it was God's creation was Good, and so was God's relationship with Adam and Eve. It was a perfect relationship. If a relationship is not Perfect then God is not the source and essence of that relationship. That does not mean God has nothing to do with the relationship. It, however, is not contained within His Perfection.

So, where there's no Perfect relationship sustained by God's Life (God-Life) within us, Death will reign in and over our existence and relationships. We may wonder about relationships where no choice exists. A relationship where one person's control over another seems absolute. That's a problem we have on this earth due to Sin, and is not an indication that God is the problem, no matter what we may think, or how many of us think it.

A Perfect relationship always includes the ability for those involved to choose God's Unity rather than separation, or separation instead of God's Oneness. Interestingly, within a Christ-centered relationship with God we can still choose to act outside of God's Perfection, which will not end that relationship, but will diminish the effectiveness of the relationship due to our sins.

Absent this ability to choose, our relationship with Him could not offer the depth of meaning that a Perfect relationship with God must include. We are limited in our understanding of intimacy with God, meaning, understanding, and obedience that our personal relationship with God possesses.

What Does The Mean To Us?

Today, what we may not realize is God brings into His relationship with us, through Christ, the depth of meaning and completeness found only in the finished work of Jesus, the Lord of all, and overall. That's what makes a relationship with God through Jesus absolutely Perfect.

Clearly God is willing to suffer the pain and disrespect of rejection by those He creates. In order to provide those He creates the opportunity to fully Live within His Life, He paid an infinite price. True Life is only possible through a Perfect relationship with God, which He freely gives to those who accept Jesus as Lord.

Why? Because He knows what His amazing Perfection means for us. There is nothing better He can give to any of us, or the angels, than to have a relationship with Him. The fullness of Life: Joy that overflows our capacity; Peace unavailable in any other way; Love beyond words to express; and Completeness unparalleled. All of this and much, much more is freely given to us for all eternity!

We don't have the capacity to begin to imagine how wonderful being with God is forever. Our emotions can't contain an understanding of the Joy that God is eternally. This is true concerning every aspect, characteristic, or manifestation of God. We may each have an understanding, but not a complete understanding as we shall enjoy within God's presence after we leave this earth.

His presence with, and in us today can be overwhelmingly wonderful if we seek Him first in all things. Still, we are barely scratching the surface of Who God is, and will continue to be within us forever!

So many of us have questions as we learn about the tragedy of the rebellion of Lucifer, or the similar rebellion by Adam and Eve. We think all of this should've been avoided by God. We act like we understand the reasons for God creating, and the circumstances associated with God's decisions, but we are wrong. Our understanding is very limited.

It's amazing that we assume we have enough information and understanding to know God's possible choices. We fixate on what we believe is the right thing for God to have done. So, quickly we seek to judge God as though our thinking is superior to His. Such thinking only reflects our systematically taught, Sin directed thinking that is contrary to everything about God's nature.

The sad thing is most of us don't even realize what we've done. That's because we have been lied to, and have accepted Satan's lies as our truth.

We focus on the negative events and experiences that exist in this world. Of course, the horrendous results of Sin dominating this world are sickening. It's so tragic we might conclude it would be better if people didn't exist, or if no one ever had the ability to choose to reject God and hurt others.

This is because we don't understand what we would be missing if choice wasn't a part of our relationship with God. We don't understand the glorious greatness of God that we can experience forever. If we did then we would think differently, and we would never consider second guessing God.

What's It All About?

Again, our conclusions may be more a reflection of what we don't know, rather than evidence of true knowledge or wisdom. My comments aren't meant to take the position often used by others that states, "Well, God works in mysterious ways beyond our comprehension. So, we must just trust Him."

If we learn to know God a lot better, by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, this issue will become unimportant to us. Why? We will better understand how wonderful it is to be one with God. Our knowledge about who God caused us to become through Christ, will greatly deepen. This will cause heights of amazement that seem beyond our grasp right now. This can be the case for all of us.

This, in turn, will cause us to better understand what the richness of having a choice brings into our perfect relationship with God. Being made a new creation, through our new birth in Christ, will bring the opportunity for unending and exciting discoveries that will captivate our mind, heart, and imagination.

Learning about, and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us will fill us with the magnificence of being one with God. The Holy Spirit will be our personal Teacher. He will guide us

moment by moment if we let Him. Thus, freeing us of the burden we've accepted as ours alone as we live daily in a world filled with Sin and Death.

One day, perhaps we will not be asking why God made what some of us have judged to be a monumental mistake. We may be humbled by the Love of God that enabled Him to trust us with the ability to ruin His perfect creation. Who does that? "A fool", some may say.

Only a Perfect God, Who is Perfection and Perfect Love, could create a Perfect world, and still Love perfectly those responsible for destroying it. God Loved them and Loves us enough to provide a way for all people to become one with Him. We are able to experience the fullness He is, because God chose to sacrifice His Son to become the Eternal Life we all need, forever.

An overarching Truth is God will always make provision for His Life to remain. God-Life will ultimately have dominion over all that exists. His Life must remain because it is eternal. His Life will remain because He is God; the Creator of all Life in Whom there is no end.

God's Love is so Perfect, and our minds so imperfect that some of us may never understand this glorious Truth until we are with the Lord in Heaven. To the degree that we do understand this we will be overwhelmed by the Holy Perfection of God's Love with deep humility being the result within each of us.

Being in a perfect relationship with God as Adam and Eve were may be beyond our reach here on this earth, it was not, however, incomprehensible for the two of them. It was their reality. It was what they knew and experienced every day. As we will see in the chapter "The Garden Event" God gave them a choice. Hopefully, we have a little better understanding of why God created, and why He gave Adam and Eve a choice. The potential for Life is greater than the potential for Death.

Just as Lucifer tried to take God's place in Heaven, he would also try to take God's place with anyone or anything that God created. Satan would do that in exactly the same way when he rebelled against God. In Heaven Lucifer worked to get other angels to rebel with him. Within God's creation Satan would try to get the eternal-beings that God created to join his rebellion. He would try and persuade Adam and Eve to choose a new perspective and try and become their own god.