

27- On The Wrong Side Of The Barrier

When Moses recorded the manuscript we call the Book of Genesis, he used the Hebrew word "אֱלֹהִים" (pronounced "el-o-heem" in English) to tell us that in the beginning, the universe and all that is in it was created by the **Three Mighty Ones**. The Hebrew word "אֱלֹהִים" (pronounced "el-o-heem" in English) is the plural of a Hebrew word that refers to God. Yes, even in the beginning of "Old Testament days", the people knew the Creator of all things as a Divine Trinity. As we continue to study the first book in our Bible, we will see that the rest of book of Genesis reveals God as an intellectual personality or manifestation (God the Father), as a material personality or manifestation (God the Son) and as a spiritual personality or manifestation (God the Holy Spirit).

Moses, when he recorded the events of the creation in Genesis 2:4-5, referred to the Creator of all things as "**Lord God**" or "**The Self Existent, Three Mighty Ones**". Yes, it is important that we recognize that those who were saved during "Old Testament days" knew the Living God was the **Triune Controller Of All Things**. Those saved during "Old Testament days" knew all things began with "**The Self Existent, Three Mighty Ones**" and all things are under His direction and control. All through the days of the Old Testament, the saved were aware of the promise the Lord had made in the Garden of Eden, that one day He would project himself into a material body like ours (but without an old sin nature) and He would sacrifice that perfect body as a payment for every sin a person would commit during their lifetime if they would just request Him to do so.

"¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:1-5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

"³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. ³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is

the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:35-40 (King James Version)

As we shared in a prior Bible lesson on this Living Water group page on Facebook, God's plan of salvation has always been the same. The only difference has been that the redeemed people who lived **before** the crucifixion looked **forward** in faith. They asked that the payment Christ would give one day in the future be applied to the sin debt they owed God.

"⁶Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

*⁷Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham**: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. " Galatians 3:6-9 (New International Version)*

Salvation is obtained through faith. The people who were saved before the crucifixion did not need to exercise any more faith to believe He would die than we exercise by believing He has died. " ¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his

knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors." *Isaiah 53:1-12 (English Standard Version)*

The redeemed who have lived since the cross have looked **backward** in faith and have asked God to apply the payment Christ gave on the cross to the sin debt they owe. "²¹ This is, in fact, what you were called to do, because Christ also suffered for you and left an example for you to follow in his steps.²² "He never committed a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."²³ When he was insulted, he did not retaliate. When he suffered, he did not threaten but made it his habit to commit the matter to the one who judges fairly.²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to those sins and live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were like sheep that kept going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." *1 Peter 2:21-25 (International Standard Version)*

We are not exercising saving faith in Christ until we admit there is nothing we can do to help to gain eternal life. There was not one saved person mentioned in the Old Testament who was baptized or who belonged to a local church. The thief who was saved on the cross did not receive baptism nor did he become a member of a local church. "³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"⁴¹ "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."⁴² And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"⁴³ And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour,⁴⁵ because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two.⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last." *Luke 23:39-46 (New American Standard Bible)*

Neither are we exercising saving faith in Jesus Christ until we admit that there has **never been anyone else** whose merits will pay for our sin debt, **not even His mother's merits.** "¹² There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the

human race by which we are to be saved." Acts 4:12 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

"¹² Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

Your Bible tells us that **if** we can live our entire life and only commit one sin, the Living God holds us accountable as if we broke all of His laws. "¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." James 2:10 (New International Version)

We shared several times in previous Bible lessons that the Living God created mankind because He wanted a perfect people **to live with Him in a perfect place** who would choose to return loving obedience to Him of their own free will. After He prepared this earth **again** so that it could be inhabited, He created Adam. "² And the earth was **waste** and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1: 2 (Darby)

"¹⁸ For thus saith Jehovah who created the heavens, God himself who formed the earth and made it, he who established it,—**not as waste did he create it: he formed it to be inhabited**:—I [am] Jehovah, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18 (Darby)

To see why this earth became waste after the Lord created it perfect and created it to be inhabited, you can read the explanation in one of the previous Bible lessons. The point we want to share, right now, is that when the Lord created man, He created something He had never created before- He created us in His own image. "²⁶ Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in **His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**" Genesis 1:26-27 (New King James Version)

Does that mean that we have two hands, two feet and a nose because God has two hands, two feet and a nose? NO! That is not the image to which Genesis 1:26 is referring! Mankind was created a triune being, that is to say, we are the only creation of the Living God that is three in one, just as the Living God is three in one. Elohim, the Three Mighty Ones, manifests Himself as (1) material, (God the Son), He manifests Himself as (2) a spirit (God the Holy

Spirit), and as (3) Intellect, (God the Father). Man, on the other hand, has (1) a material body (the earthly outer shell that will go back to the dust because of its old sin nature), (2) a spiritual body (the inward body that will live, somewhere, eternally) and (3) intellect (the ability to think and make decisions on our own).

If you asked a two year old child if they got into the cookie jar (they have cookie crumbs all over their mouth) and they say no, their old sin nature has caused them to lie to you. Are they lost? **Not yet**, because they have not reached the place when the Lord holds them accountable for their sins. " ³⁹ *Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day **had no knowledge between good and evil**, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it."* Deuteronomy 1:39 (King James Version)

¹⁴ *But the Lord will still show you this sign: The young woman is pregnant and will give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat milk curds and honey as he learns to choose good and refuse evil. ¹⁶ But **before he is old enough to make that choice**, the land of the two kings you fear will be empty."* Isaiah 7:14-16 (Easy-To-Read Version)

Some people will never reach that place where the Lord holds them accountable for their sins. Perhaps, because of an accident in their life or because their mind was formed in some way that they are incapable of learning to choose good and refuse evil, they will not be held accountable. Are they saved? NO! You might say, they are on an island of safety. Safe under the blood of Jesus Christ! Do you remember in one of the prior Bible lessons, we shared what the Bible teaches about unknown sins? Until the child reaches the place where they know to choose the good and refuse the evil, that is, before the child is old enough to make that choice, they are under the blood of Jesus Christ. That time or place can vary with each child depending on their training and their maturity. But there is a time and place in every person's life who is born of normal birth, that the Living God says, "All right, from now on, **Robert Tanner** is going to be held accountable for his sins." The very next sin I committed immediately created a barrier between myself and God. If I would have died with that sin barrier separating me from God, I would have been eternally separated from Him in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire, paying my sin debt for eternity. You can fill in your own name in **the blank** above if you have reached that time and place in your life when you also chose, with your own intellect, **to refuse the good** and you also chose with your own intellect, **to execute the evil**, and therefore, the Living God now holds

you accountable for your sin debt also. We call a person who has a sin barrier between themselves and God, a lost person.

All lost people will fit in one of three groups. Members of the **first group** are **good people**. A member of that group is aware that one day they will stand before the Living God. But the good person believes that if they can live a life that is filled with more good deeds than bad deeds, the Living God will be so pleased that He will allow them to slip into Heaven. But let's see what the Lord thinks about our good works. ⁶ *We are all dirty with sin. Even our good works are not pure. They are like bloodstained rags. We are all like dead leaves. Our sins have carried us away like wind.* *Isaiah 64:6 (Easy-To-Read Version)*

May we ask you something? Let's suppose you owed a \$ 10,000 debt to your bank and one day you walked into your bank with a box of dirty rags and told them you wanted to pay your debt with the box of dirty rags. Do you think the bank would accept the box of dirty rags as a payment for your debt? We don't think so either. Yet most people **hope** that when they face the Living God, they will be able to tell Him to look at all of the good things they did in their lifetime and accept those good deeds as a payment for their sin debt. The first problem is that those good deeds, when compared to the perfect, sinless life of Jesus Christ, look to the Living God like filthy rags. He will not accept those good deeds and consequently that person will have to pay their sin debt, themselves, in eternal torments. Our only council to those good people who plan to reject the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, is to sin as little as possible because each sin makes their sin debt larger and every sin must be paid.

Members of the **second group** are **religious people**. Members of that second group believe if they apply the salve of religion over the cancer of sin it will hide their sins from the judgmental oversight of God. They believe if they use the sacred names of the Living God, that the Lord will see they are really trying to please Him and they are really trying to meet His demands. They believe if they pray sincerely and often, the Lord will be pleased with their efforts. They believe if they get baptized somewhere, at some time, and if they attend once a day or once a week or perhaps once a year, everything will be all right. They believe if they read their Bible (although they understand very little of what they read), the Living God will be impressed. But Jesus Christ "cut to the chase" when He said " ⁷ *Hypocrites, well hath Isaias prophesied of you, saying: ⁸ This people honoureth me with **their lips**: but their heart is far from*

me. ⁹ *And in vain do they worship me, teaching doctrines and commandments of men."*
Matthew 15:7-9 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

Members of the **third group** are **the bad people**. Actually there two classes of the bad people, class (A) and class (B). We find that class (A) are those who look at people who are trying to escape eternal condemnation by being a good person or perhaps they observe a religious person trying to make it into the Family of God by being religious. Those who are members of class (A) know it is a waste of time and effort. They think to themselves, "I know doing good works, in order to escape torments, is a waste of time, I know trying to be religious is not going to please the Creator and I know we are all going to end up in Hell. **But at least I'm going to have a good time until I get there!!!** So they "kick up their heels" and have a good time until one day that brittle thread of life breaks and they end up in a place of torments, paying for their sin debt for eternity. Often, it's not that they want to end up in a place of torments. Why Do They End Up There? BECAUSE NO ONE EVER TOOK TIME TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND EXPLAIN TO THEM HOW THEY COULD AVOID GOING THERE!!! So simple and yet so tragic.

Class (B) of the bad people are a curious class. At one time in their life they might have been a good person, trying to make it to Heaven with their good works or they might have been trying to make it to Heaven by being religious. However, the Holy Spirit of God kept trying to convince them that neither of those two ways were going to earn them eternal life. The Holy Spirit kept convicting them of their sins and kept wooing and calling them to come to Him in prayer, repent of their sin and request that the sacrifice He provided on the cross pay for their sin debt. But they kept saying "Not now. I'll do it some other day. I have plenty of time."

Finally the Lord reaches the place where He says, "ALL RIGHT! IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE LAKE OF FIRE THAT BAD, YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO GO"!! He withdraws His Spirit and no longer convicts that person of sin. He never again calls that person to salvation. You have probably seen some of those people. They are some of the dirtiest, most lowdown people in the world and it does not bother them at all. Just as a side note, that would also explain the actions of some of our politicians. " ¹⁶ *I am proud of the good news! It is God's powerful way of saving all people who have faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.* ¹⁷ *The good news tells how God accepts everyone who has faith, but only those who have faith. It is just as the Scriptures say, "The people God accepts because of their faith will live."* ¹⁸ *From heaven*

God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth. ¹⁹ They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. ²⁰ God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made. That's why those people don't have any excuse. ²¹ They know about God, but they don't honor him or even thank him. Their thoughts are useless, and their stupid minds are in the dark. ²² They claim to be wise, but they are fools. ²³ They don't worship the glorious and eternal God. Instead, they worship idols that are made to look like humans who cannot live forever, and like birds, animals, and reptiles. ²⁴ **So God let these people go their own way.** They did what they wanted to do, and their filthy thoughts made them do shameful things with their bodies. ²⁵ They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshiped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised forever. Amen. ²⁶ God let them follow their own evil desires. Women no longer wanted to have sex in a natural way, and they did things with each other that were not natural. ²⁷ Men behaved in the same way. They stopped wanting to have sex with women and had strong desires for sex with other men. They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds. ²⁸ Since these people refused even to think about God, he let their useless minds rule over them. That's why they do all sorts of indecent things. ²⁹ They are evil, wicked, and greedy, as well as mean in every possible way. They want what others have, and they murder, argue, cheat, and are hard to get along with. They gossip, ³⁰ say cruel things about others, and hate God. They are proud, conceited, and boastful, always thinking up new ways to do evil. These people don't respect their parents. ³¹ They are stupid, unreliable, and don't have any love or pity for others. ³² They know God has said that anyone who acts this way deserves to die. But they keep on doing evil things, and they even encourage others to do them." Romans 1:16-32 (Contemporary English Version)

ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SIN BARRIER?

You are welcome to correspond with us.

Robert Tanner. The Living Water group on Face Book

