

13. Broken People Living in a Broken World

The Serpent succeeded in getting the woman and the man to cut themselves off from God's Word – their true Life Source. He lured them into rebelling against His authority. So they became radically independent just like the Serpent. From that moment on, their humanity and that of their offspring became very incomplete. The Serpent 'decapitated' them. That is, he severed them from God's living Word, their Life-Source. By rejecting their Head and removing themselves from Him, they destroyed their ability to fulfill their God-given purpose and eternal destiny. It was a form of spiritual suicide that made them liable to the eternal doom and frustration that awaits the Head-less Serpent and all those who are like him. For Adam, Eve and the rest of us, that separation caused enormous damage including spiritual orphanhood and impending physical mortality. So now, they and every one of their descendants were in desperate need of God's mercy, grace and salvation.

It's very important to keep this fact in mind: Humanity's fall into Sin did not convert what God had created into something evil and wicked by nature. It was still God's beautiful but wounded Creation, still blessed and destined to be 'very good.' Only now it was very damaged, broken and incomplete. And it will remain that way as long as those destined to be God's image and likeness continue to remain separated from their Creator.

A physical body that is Head-less still exists; but it's dead! It can't do or produce anything that is alive. It can only manifest death. And something similar to that happened to humanity spiritually when Adam and Eve fell into Sin. We all died spiritually because we were cut off from the one whose image and likeness we were made to be. We could no longer do or produce anything that was connected to what God had ordained and created. Now we were the product of the Serpent's Sin-full radical independence from God. And in that sense, we became the Serpent's image and likeness.

Trapped by the Serpent!

Moreover, Adam's alienation from God brought us all into a state of slavery to that malevolent Serpent. The greatest deception of all takes place when humans assume that they are radically independent self-ruling captains of their own lives. They assume that they're 'free' because they're 'Law-less'. But In reality they toil endlessly under the deepest bondage imaginable. Because they are steering free, independent courses of their own choosing does not make them free. They are hypnotized...toiling in a state of total blindness. How can you be free when you're deprived of being your true, God-created self? Is it liberty to have your true identity hidden and your God-intended purpose and destiny stolen? How can you be free if the Serpent has you in his coils and compels you to embody his malevolent anti-God arrogance and rebellion, whether you like it or not?

Adam turned his God-given authority and ability to manage and care for God’s earthly Creation over to the Serpent which enabled that renegade angel to begin to pursue his destructive agendas as a way to lash out against God. The Serpent can’t attack or hurt God personally and directly; so he attacks and maims God’s Creation instead – especially God’s beloved humans whom He made to be His Word’s image and likeness! Satan’s tactics are meant to keep men severed from God’s Word; and as long as he succeeds, they remain deluded, spiritually disconnected from their true Head and trapped in a demonic hypnotic trance.

The following text from Genesis articulates the lethal consequences that Adam’s rebellion unleashed throughout the world. God, through His Word, made these post-rebellion descriptive pronouncements:

Gen. 3:14-19 – *“The LORD God said to the serpent:*

- *‘Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field.*
- *On your belly you will go and dust you will eat all the days of your life.*
- *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.*
- *He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.’*

“To the woman He said:

- *‘I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth.*
- *In pain you will bring forth children.*
- *Yet your desire will be for your husband. And he will rule over you.’*

“Then to Adam He said, ‘because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’:

- *Cursed is the ground because of you.*
- *In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.*
- *Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you.*
- *And you will eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face.*
- *You will eat bread till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’”*

So separation from our Life-Source has done enormous damage to the beautiful human nature God originally created. Moreover, that separation from our Head deprives us from enjoying the fullness of the Original Blessing that God sent His Word to be to us. The Word is our Blessing. And He still preserves and maintains mankind, even the most wicked and evil among us. But in our fallen state we are deprived of the fullness of that Blessing...the incredible joy, peace, abundance and fulfillment we were made to enjoy with God. All of that is contained in and given by His living Word, but as long as we do not obey Him, He is not our true Head and we are not truly His image and likeness, which is His Body. And to this day, the world and its God-less system have no idea of how much they lack, how much of that Blessing they are missing by

remaining apart from the one who loves them and was sent to be their eternal Life and Perfect Protection and Provision:

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ Then God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food’; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:27-31)

The stark reality of our fallen state

So now, it is not ‘very good’. Now we are damaged and broken people, not because we are evil and wicked by our God-given nature, but because of all that the Serpent has disconnected us from that was ours in the beginning. We misfire because we’re so incomplete; we’re missing vital ingredients that are essential for true humanity. And the workings of the world we must live in are also broken and Serpent-dominated and incomplete for the same reason. The Holy Spirit has called Satan, *‘the god of this world.’* (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). The Serpent’s brutal hostility and malevolent, destructive intent manifest themselves in the brokenness and disorder and destructive violence that are evident throughout the world. Thanks to his malice, the world system is like a terribly misaligned machine that is missing vitally important parts. As it operates the remaining parts and systems clash and grind against each other and worsen the damage. The animals and the eco-systems compete against and devour one another. The world system can only work by insanely selfish greed, so each part prospers and thrives at the expense of the misfortunes, miseries, lapses and weaknesses of the others, just like scavenger birds of prey feast on the carcasses of those who did not manage to survive.

Through fallen humanity, the Serpent injected its deadly venom into God’s beautiful Creation. And now, even the heavenly places are contaminated by the Sin of the powers of Darkness. Clearly, as long as created beings remain separated from God’s Word, God’s beautiful Creation will remain grossly incomplete and prone to continual frustration, shortfalls, destruction and grief.

As already noted, when Adam and Eve rejected God’s Word, they rejected the Original Blessing God pronounced over them and all their descendants. Therefore major parts of that Blessing are missing from our lives. God maintains even the most wicked among us, in existence. And as a race, we toil, sweat and squeak by, but mere existence is not what God’s Blessing is about. It contains much more than that...thriving, abundance and fullness and total contentment. But as long as we remain disconnected from Him, we remain bankrupt at best. So the Word of God has come after us, to reconnect with us:

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and

have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 9-11 Emphasis added. See also Ezekiel 34.)

The world desperately needs to reunite with God’s Word so that He can become everything we need once more. The world system that operates apart from Him is like a ship that has been torpedoed and is sinking. And the Headless humans who remain aboard keep putting their faith and hope in it; thus they are doomed to ultimate disappointment, frustration and destruction. Life in the Head-less world is a constant hopeless struggle. Melancholy and bittersweet sadness permeate everything. People live in dread, knowing that ultimately nothing in their incomplete world can succeed or prosper for long. Success and fulfillment are fleeting at best. Even amid our triumphs, when things seem to be working beautifully, we know it won’t last. Sooner or later, something is going to change, break, die, or one way or another, misfire. Even our most joyous, ecstatic and triumphant moments are short-lived at best. So Sin’s pall of death hangs over all flesh. It is a far cry from the way it was before, when Adam and Eve were one with God’s Word and served as His image and likeness:

“God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good... Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” (Genesis 1:31; 2-1-3 Emphasis added.)

Before the fall, everything was complete and in wonderful working order. God was very pleased with the work of His hands. But after Sin separated us from God’s Word and Blessing, Darkness and Death appeared and overwhelmed the now damaged and incomplete Earth. Nothing has been right ever since:

“...I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness. I said to myself, ‘God will judge both the righteous (attached) man and the wicked (Head-less) man,’ for a time for every matter and for every deed is there. I said to myself concerning the sons of men, ‘God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts.’ For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.” (Ecclesiastes 3:16-20 Amplification added.)

A World in Which Living Death Is ‘Normal’

Only our perfect God can create and impart life. Fallen men are spiritually incomplete and unable to function in ways that meet God’s perfect standards. And only God can supply what we are missing. So only He can reconcile and re-connect us to Himself. Even when Head-less people try to be hyper-religious, their disconnected flesh produces nothing but more death. That’s why when Cain refused to repent of his radical independence from God’s Word and continued to act as the Serpent’s image and likeness, an enormous gulf developed between him and his brother Abel. Abel repented and allowed God to re-attach him to his Head. But Cain chose to remain Head-less. Even his religious attempts to establish diplomatic relations with God

were dead. They came from a source that had nothing to do with God's Life-giving Word. So God accepted Abel's offering but He rejected Cain's. This caused a violent state of conflict to emerge between the two brothers. Through Cain, the Serpent's murderous intent struck out at Abel and killed him. And since then, a violent civil war and deadly hostility have raged between the two groups of humans. The race that springs from the Headless followers of Cain cannot stand to be around the race that is re-connected to God's Word and who follow the way of Abel.

Satan and his powers of Darkness are determined to try to dethrone God by overpowering, canceling and destroying His Word. The war they wage is relentless. So humans must choose which kingdom they will serve. Their choices will take them into two separate camps and pit them against each other. Then the Serpent will unleash his own against those who choose to obey God's Word. In this war there can be no 'neutrals' or 'civilians.' Everyone serves on one side or the other. No lulls in the fighting or truces or fraternizing are permitted. God's Light and Righteousness and Satan's Darkness and Sin can never co-exist in the same place at the same time. It is a war to the finish; one side must ultimately defeat the other by destroying its ability to fight any longer.

"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder. He who is not with Me (the living Word of God) is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters." (Luke 11:21-23 Emphasis added.)

The Serpent-headed Sons of Adam

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve in His own Word's image and likeness. But after they fell into Sin, they and their offspring changed radically. Now their natural instinctive tendencies changed polarity. A love for Sin drove them to flow in opposition to God's energy flow. Now they moved toward radical independence or, separation from their Head, the Word of God. So no longer could they be His image and likeness:

"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own (fallen, Sin-corrupted) likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth." (Genesis 5:1-3 Emphasis added.)

In our state of damage and living death (Head-lessness), it is no longer natural for us to be led and empowered by God's Word and Holy Spirit. God and His ways feel alien and oppressive to us. We are geared to resent God's Word as an unwanted intrusion and to resist His rule over us. By default our polarity is now reversed. Now our energy is driven by our fallen urges, appetites,

sensations and bodily perceptions. Our minds and wills follow our own very limited subjective thoughts, imaginations, hunches, urges and acquired patterns. Head-lessness and living death are now natural, instinctive and ‘normal’ to all of us from birth.

It didn’t take long after the fall for the fallen humans to multiply and spread across the earth; and it didn’t take long for the Sin-damage and its moral corruption to gain an unbreakable ‘stranglehold’ over them all. The world suffered greatly because all flesh selfishly, greedily, strove to be as God. They competed for survival, supremacy and control. God’s Creation on Earth soon became so corrupt, degenerate and set in its wicked ways that it was no longer recognizable, even to God! It was now hopelessly beyond repentance and salvation.

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” (Genesis 6:5-8)

The tragic text above describes the vast gulf and the destructive conflict that raged across the Earth between Light and Darkness, Righteousness and Sin and Life and Death. It describes the tragic and profound rapid degeneration of mankind and its unrepentant state in which spiritual decapitation is considered to be ‘normal,’ utterly ‘human,’ acceptable and even desirable.

Our Perfect God is not overcome by the imperfection of Evil

In the days of Noah God revealed more of His Perfection by the way He reacted to our Sin. His reaction to the gross evil that had infested His beautiful universe is to come to the defense of His beloved. He comes to confront and overcome the evil with His Good. He didn’t despair or give up when His Earth became corrupt and its unrepentant human population was beyond saving. In His perfection He had anticipated this and made full provision by which to deal with it. And so because God is perfect and never changes, He is never deterred. His original plan and purpose can never be thwarted or stopped by the powers of Darkness.

God’s perfect living Word will not change either (Hebrews 13:7-9). Once God speaks, His Word stands forever. So, yes, God’s Creation was severely damaged and rendered incomplete, but it was not totally destroyed or nullified. Nothing created will ever be able to stop our uncreated God from fulfilling His perfect promises and long range plan. And nothing will stop Him from sending His beloved Word to seek out the faithful, obedient humans who will allow Him to restore them. God’s perfect Word will restore His perfect Blessing in all of its Fullness to anyone who will hear, believe and obey Him. They will be re-attached to His Headship and He will reconcile them to their Heavenly Father. And God will have it His way – to Perfection.

Noah was a man whose heart remained open to God. So the Lord lovingly preserved and supplied him and his household with everything necessary for salvation and survival. God separated them from all the rest and protected and saw them safely through the flood’s destruction. Then, through Noah and his son Shem, God continued to unfold and reveal the path

that His Rescue Mission would take throughout future generations, on behalf of the wounded, incomplete human race.

So why did God separate Noah and his family from the rest of the human race? God was dealing with Sin, which is like cancer. He must deliver those He saves from its contamination. Cancer is parasitic in nature. It lives, thrives, spreads and takes over everything. It lives at the expense of the body that serves as its host so if the cancer is allowed to thrive, the body dies. Even one cancer cell, if left to develop, will grow into many others. So is it with Sin. It is a cancer and the human race is one of its hosts. If Sin is allowed to thrive in humans, the humans will die spiritually and physically. So because Noah and his household were reattached to God's Word as their Head, He had to protect them from that Sin-contamination and its eternal spiritual death. So He separated and set them apart from those who remained Head-less. When the flood came, it destroyed everyone hopelessly ruined by the Sin cancer. And Noah and his family were spared. This is the pattern God will follow with anyone who will be saved.

Life vs. Death

There can be no peace or accommodation between Life and Death. Either every cancer cell dies, or the body that hosts it must die. The same is true with Sin and humanity. If radical independence or 'Head-lessness' thrive, the humans that allow it to continue, remain dead. So to be saved, we must allow God to restore us back to Life and cleanse us from every speck of Sin. Then we can be reconnected to God's living Word who is our Source of Life. And we must be kept free of recontamination, in order to remain healthy and continue to thrive in perfect health and human wholeness.

When it comes to being God's image and likeness, everything we are, have or do must first come to us from God's Word. If there is anything in us that does not come from our Head, the Word of God, it is cancerous. God will not accept it nor will He allow it to grow and thrive within us. It must be killed or else it will spread. Sin cuts us off from our Head who is the Source of Life, and that's why God must cut away every speck of Sin from us in order to protect us. If God succeeds in re-connecting us, and we maintain our vital connection with our Head, His nature, Life, character and disposition will thrive and work in us and through us. His Life will attack every speck of Sin residue that remains in us and kill it. No quarter can be given, no unholy mixture of Darkness and Light or of Death or Life can be allowed in us. Total separation must always take place. The flood account in Genesis 6-8 reveals this to the world and we will see throughout all of Scripture that this same separation process will continue to take place.

Before, during and after the flood that destroyed unrepentant human flesh and its Sin-corrupted system, God's Word was on hand to protect, maintain and provide for Noah and his household. He was everything they needed. God included Noah and his family in His eternal Covenant and restored the Original Blessing to them. And as long as they remained connected to and under the authority of His Word, the Word served as their 'Ark' and God's plan of salvation was able to progress on their behalf. God chose Noah and his son Shem, to be the human generational line through which God's salvation plan would proceed, develop and continue to make its way to the ultimate fulfillment and restoration of God's beautiful Creation.

In Genesis 11, after the Sin-corrupted descendants of Noah repopulated the globe, the corrupt world system of Adam's fallen flesh of course, reappeared and was firmly re-established. Then it began to flaunt and glorify its radical independence from God's Word once again. So God established limits and boundaries upon all fallen flesh so it would not become as powerful and wickedly lethal as it had been before the flood. He was not about to allow the Serpent to use fallen men to derail the Rescue Mission of His Word!

So God limited fallen mankind by creating even more confusion and strife among them. He used the strategic tactic of *'divide and conquer'* with the offspring of the Serpent which prevents the Serpent from succeeding in fulfilling his wicked plans through fallen, disconnected human beings. In this way, God prevented them from remaining united in their rebellion and by scattering them He insured the continuation of His plan of salvation, regeneration and restoration. God had the first Word. And He gets the last Word as well.

The War Has Already Been Won

Although the fighting is not over and the casualties continue to increase, the war's final outcome is already eternally determined. The Word of God made flesh has triumphed completely! He is the one and only Lord of all Creation! The Word became flesh, one of us. He represents us in God's eternal Covenant and as 'The Son of Man,' He has conquered the Serpent and broke the death grip Sin had on the human race. In His earthly life, He did not operate as God. He operated solely as a man, like us. In that capacity He lived the perfectly obedient, image and likeness of God life and thereby completely routing and defeating all of the powers of Darkness...in our name. God's eternal Covenant which was in effect even before Creation took place insured His ultimate victory. So actually, the Serpent was already defeated even before God created him.

As the story of God's dealings with men progresses through the Bible, God continues to reveal how He made sure that the Satanic evil cannot and will not prevail. God, in His perfection, has spoken. And nothing can derail the fulfillment of His plan and purpose. His eternal triumph and victory began to appear through the life of Noah and his family. And God continues to progressively reveal how His Word has already fulfilled His purposes and promises and has already done everything needed to restore Creation to full and perfect fruition. It is done even as you read this.

God saved Noah and his family from the destruction of the flood. And he started the revelation process that announces God's total triumph and eternal glory and vindication, as well as the eternal salvation of man. So now we can know that God's Word is here to save and restore each one of us too. All of Creation will witness the perfect fulfillment of God's original plan and purpose. Light has destroyed the power of Darkness; Righteousness, through the atoning death of God's Son, has killed Sin and Death. And God's eternal Love has overcome every bit of satanic malice.

So throughout each age and generation, even today, God sends His living Word and Holy Spirit to Earth to announce the good news and to show men how God's plan is working itself out. The Word is sent to seek out every child of Adam in order to proclaim His truth. He then summons them to be re-attached to His Headship so that He can once more be their Head and Life and

restore the fullness of God's Perfect Blessing to them. He brings those who heed His call back from the dead. He becomes their eternal Life and sets them free from the coils of the Serpent and his Sin. God's written Word tells us what His living Word is sent to do among us through these words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." (Isaiah 61:1-3)

God's living Word is here to save, restore and bless anyone whose heart is open and hungry for eternal Life, Light, Sustenance and Freedom. No one will be rejected or forsaken whose heart is open to hear and receive and obey what the Word of God has been sent to be to us:

"Thus says the LORD, 'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,' declares the LORD. 'But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.'" (Isaiah 66:1-2)

This is God's revelation to every man and woman born of Adam. He sent His Word, to whom He has given all authority across the Heavens and throughout the Earth, to give this summons to all of mankind: *"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"* (Matthew 4:17)

God validates, endorses and vindicates His beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased. He sent Him to overcome all evil with His invincible Good and proclaims that the living Word which proceeds out of His heart and mouth was commissioned to complete what was missing in us and to reveal, demonstrate and share His Father's Fullness with anyone who is willing to admit the Truth and repent of that rebellious, Head-less, grossly incomplete state of being. And He has done all of the necessary work perfectly and completely:

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn

bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the LORD, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.” (Isaiah 55:6-13)

Beloved, even before any Scriptures containing God’s written Word were put to parchment, God’s living Word was on Earth from the very beginning. And starting with Adam, He has continually been interacting with men and women who have ears to hear and hearts to obey what His Spirit is revealing to them about their Creator. The Word of God is living and creative and He is actively working in you and all around you. He is the one who has summoned us to follow Him. He is the one with whom we must interact and live and from whom we must receive whatever it is that we lack and need.

Will you do it?

Will you be alert and watch and wait and open your heart to what God has sent His Word to tell you and show you His truth? Will you trust Him to impart His very Life to you, in you, and through you? If you will do that, then you too will be made complete and perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect! It will not be because of what is in you; it will be because of the eternal Perfection that is in our Head and only in Him!

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1:15-20)