

## UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 7 – JROC – What About People Before the Cross? HOW? WHY?

June 21, 2026

Man's sin is deeply intertwined with God's attributes! HOW?

Intertwined? Things that are so twisted together...so closely connected in a way that makes them impossible to separate.

God's attributes – ALL WHO GOD IS! WHY?

ALL God's attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times – at every moment throughout eternity!

Following man's sin...

- God PURSUED man - Gen. 3:8
- God PROMISED to resolve sin through the Seed of the Woman...Who is Jesus – Gen. 3:15. He would suffer and the enemy would die! Gen. 3:15 is noted as the first Messianic prophecy...the first promise of redemption!
- God PROVIDED – Gen. 3:21 - *for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.* God required blood! Blood had to be shed in the killing of the animal for its skin!
- God PROTECTED – Gen. 3:22-24 - *Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—<sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

But Jesus had not yet died on the cross! Jesus, God the Son, had not come to earth as yet. In Adam's day Jesus' incarnation – God in the flesh – was approx. 4,000 years in the future! Does Scripture reveal, pre-cross, more re: Jesus?

Gen. 4:25-26 - After Adam and Eve's son, Abel, was killed by their other son, Cain, we read, *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, 'For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.'*<sup>26</sup> *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.*

Enosh's name means mortal/frail. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD! Man was faced with dying – faced with their mortality. Man realized their NEED of God

Genesis 5 - This is the book of **the genealogy of Adam**. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and blessed them and **called them Mankind** in the day they were created. <sup>3</sup> And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. <sup>6</sup> Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. <sup>7</sup> After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. <sup>9</sup> Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. <sup>10</sup> After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. <sup>12</sup> Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup> After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons

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and daughters. <sup>14</sup> So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. <sup>15</sup> Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. <sup>16</sup> After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup> So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. <sup>18</sup> Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. <sup>19</sup> After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. <sup>21</sup> Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. <sup>25</sup> Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. <sup>26</sup> After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

<sup>28</sup> Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. <sup>29</sup> **And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed."** <sup>30</sup> After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

<sup>32</sup> **And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth**.

Some have suggested the following message in the names of Adam through Noah:

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed

Hebrew	English
Enosh	Mortal; frail
Kenan	Sorrow
Mahalalel	The Blessed God (“el” – God)
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching [Jude vv. 14-15 – Enoch prophesied judgment)
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	To the low; the despairing;
Noah	Rest; comfort.

Man was appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching and His death shall bring the despairing rest. In the midst of judgment and death, God’s GRACE prevails – looking at REDEMPTION and RESTORATION in Genesis 3 and in Genesis 5!

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*Rom. 3:23-25 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

Most times we read Rom. 3:23 alone. What are we missing by not reading all 3 verses together?

Have you wondered – are you wondering now – re: God passing over sins????

Let’s dig into Rom. 3:23-25:

*...for all have sinned (to miss the mark; to miss the path of uprightness) and fall short (to come late; to be left behind; to fail to reach the glory of God) of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified (being declared righteous) freely (no cost to man; truly free; “dorean” they hated me without a cause [Jn. 15:25] – even as there was nothing in Jesus deserving of man’s hatred, so there is nothing in man deserving of justification/righteousness) by His grace (the cost is on God’s part; grace – getting what we don’t deserve – which cost God everything) through the redemption (purchasing out of the marketplace) that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth (to expose to public view) as a propitiation (hilastērion – satisfying, appeasing God’s wrath; placating [calming]; offering sacrifices or prayers to seek forgiveness...to appease God; hilasterion is used of the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant in the tabernacle and in the temple – in the Holy of Holies – upon which blood was sprinkled once a year on the Day of Atonement; or appease a higher power) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His*

*righteousness, because in His forbearance (ability to hold off) God had passed over the sins that were previously committed (to demonstrate His righteousness),*

How is man's sin deeply intertwined with God's attributes? What are God's attributes? NOTE: this is not an exhaustive list. God's omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, eternity, sovereignty, immutability, self-existence, mercy, grace, love, justice, righteousness, truth, wisdom, patience, longsuffering, forbearance, faithfulness... ALL God's attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times – at every moment throughout eternity

- Propitiation: Jesus' death satisfied God's righteous wrath/justified wrath against sin by taking upon Himself the punishment for our sin...the punishment we deserved. Jesus' death was a substitutionary sacrifice. Through animal sacrifices of the OT, those who looked in faith to the coming Messiah had their sins "covered"/atoned for – by a promissory note, so to speak.

Heb. 10:4 – the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. The temporary covering was redeemed for full payment at the cross.

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- Forbearance and Past Sins: God was demonstrating His righteousness by forgiving OT saints, who believed in the promise of the Messiah, and on the basis of what Jesus would ultimately carry out on the cross. Re: their sins: i.e. (Abraham [for not consulting God and lying....]; Moses [for breaking the stone tablets; for hitting the rock instead of speaking to the rock...]; David [for shedding much blood; for allowing a census to bolster his dependence on military might....]; the Judges [every man did what was right in his own eyes....]; idol worship; not trusting in God; all have sinned but not all have believed in God's promises.

- Forbearance (to hold back) – God holding back on judgment to display His grace and mercy. Rom. 2:4 - *do you despise the riches of His goodness (common grace), forbearance (to hold back), and longsuffering (the duration during which God demonstrates His goodness and forbearance for long periods of time [II Pet. 3:8-9]), not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

- Demonstration of Righteousness: God does not simply ignore or pass over sin. God definitively dealt with sin via chastisement, punishment, carrying Israel away into exile/captivity.
- Received by Faith: Redemption and justification (being declared righteous) must be personally received through faith in God (Habakkuk 2:4 – *the just/the righteous shall live by faith; Hebrews 11* - the "hall of faith" (Hebrews 11:13, 16))

When we realize God's holiness as we read Scripture, we are conscious of our sin!!!! And we become convicted! Rom. 7:7-12 - *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.*

AND, when man sins – God’s omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, eternity, sovereignty, immutability, self-existence, love, justice, mercy, grace, righteousness, patience, longsuffering, forbearance, faithfulness...provide the ULTIMATE REDEMPTION through Jesus since man sinned – in Gen. 3!!!

At the cross, those sins were no longer passed over, they were paid for.

Matt. 27:50-53 - *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, <sup>52</sup> and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; <sup>53</sup> and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

I Cor. 15:20-22 - *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

Heb. 11:13-16 – (Hebrews 11 – the “hall of faith”) *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup> And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*