



# The Character of God

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Who is God? What is His nature? Is He as harsh as some say? Is He a being without compassion?

Many people ask themselves this question, however there are so many different denominations who teach the God of the Bible as creator so very differently within each denomination.

This causes so much division among Christians and I have often noticed that each one tries, intentionally or not, to adapt the character of God to his own personality.

There are those who teach that God is so Holy that he cannot withstand it when one of His children sin.

There are those who think that God is so strict and, so stern that He does not accept or make allowances for His children if they do wrong and that it is vital when they do wrong to ask Him for forgiveness so that He does not take into account our mistakes, and that we should avoid suffering the consequences in our daily lives (I was one of them).

But there are also those who believe or teach that God loves us so much that we can do almost anything, and that God will not allow that anyone to suffer the consequences of their actions or their bad choices.

So who really is God?

What kind of God is He?

We will try to answer these questions.

I do not have the pretention to know God as a whole. It will be pure speculation to say that we have to know God as a whole. But by studying the Bible a bit more closely, we can easily obtain some of the elements that will help us to know God better.

If you are already born again, this study will open to you a new perspective on your father. You will no longer see Him as before, you will speak to Him differently, and you will have another relationship with Him.

If you are not born again, this study will introduce you to the one that created you. One that, a little more than 6,000 years ago, launched the process of creation of human beings. It is because of Him and by him that you exist today. He has a destiny that is available for every human who lives on this earth. The attitude of some human's beings can sometimes change the course of the lives of others, like those who are dying of hunger every day in this world. That is a point that is often made to me. Why are there men, women and children who are dying of hunger every day on Earth? What is God doing? We can find the answer to this question precisely by knowing God, knowing who He really is, and how He has established things on Earth. You will have the answer to this question (and others) by reading and understanding this study on the character of God.

We will begin by establishing certain facts that the Bible teaches which will help us to not slip into the wrong ideas or visions.

***Malachi 3: 6*** For I am the Lord, I change not;...

***James 1: 17*** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Unlike us humans, God never changes. He is not one day in a good mood and cranky or angry the next one. God does not change, His character is well established, and nothing can change it.

God is, simple as that.

The circumstances do not affect His person. Of course, during times and periods God had to make decisions because of certain events, but has never changed. God always remains the same, He does not change, and He is who He has always been. James tells us that there is not even a shadow of a variation in God.

The biggest misunderstanding for those who read the Bible is the clear difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In the old covenant we may have the impression that God is ruthless and without mercy and even kills.

In the new covenant, we can see in comparison to the old testament that God demonstrated an extreme level of forgiveness.

Many Christians who have fallen into this trap: see God as a short-tempered, jealous person and that kills some humans.

At other times, as in the book of Job, one might have the impression that Job is only a "pawn" in a game between Satan and God. And if you read even more carefully, you'll see that Satan does not manifest himself, but that it is God who appeals to him talking about Job.

Also when God ordered out Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, many here think that God ordered them out with anger to punish them. There are still a lot of examples where one might think that God is a "heartless, self-centered." All these examples are easy to find, and I think that I have no more need to quote them to you; this is something you can do by yourself because you have surely been asking yourself many questions for a long time on this subject.

We will start from the beginning and go to the Apocalypse. We will try to take only examples that can be problematic to not avoid difficult passages to understand.

As I write in my subject on repentance, since Adam and Eve disobeyed, the only concern of God until this day is to give back to humans the same condition that Adam and Eve had before the fall.

It is this idea that he must always keep present. This is extremely important, because without this thought we will come to a point of adopting ideas completely outside of reality of which Satan is a master in this matter, he is unique in inventing lies that will distort the reality and truth (for more details, see my study on the true colors of Satan). It is a reality, God loves his creature, He loves us more than anything, and it is this thought that it is necessary to hold that you always keep in memory. We will explain it in more detail a further on.

There is this false theory which says that when God created the Earth, millions of years could elapse between verse 1 and verse 2 of Genesis Chapter 1.

***Genesis 1: 1-2*** *in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

I myself have thought it for years! And one day the Holy Spirit came to enlighten me and help me to understand that this theory is false. I had heard it

by mature Christians, and before my lack of teaching I had adopted this idea. God has thus created the Earth and the heavens in verse 1, then verse 2 says that the Earth was formless and empty, or in the Hebrew translation: "informs, solitude, things of naught, desert.

Then, some have thought: "How can God create something formless and empty?" Then they stated that it was quite possible that an indefinite period of several thousands or millions of years could elapse between the time when God created the Earth and the time where we find ourselves before this earth formless and empty. And they have put all the facts and all the periods that they can't explain in the Bible. For example, the period of the dinosaurs, men commonly called prehistoric, which are not prehistoric? All these things were real. Who could deny the fact that enormous dinosaurs existed well, their skeletons are there. Besides the paintings which have been discovered in many caves. I remember when we were newlyweds, while our first son was 4 or 5 years old, he went to a morning at the club for the children of the Church where we were. On the way back to the House, he said: 'Dad, Mum, but then the dinosaurs, it does not exist? This morning we were told that the Bible does not mention and it's a lie to say that there were dinosaurs. »

What a mistake!

I am often saddened to hear such things: teaching the children to such erroneous teachings. But then when these same children will read a bible a little later, chapter 41 in the book of Job, for example, or then the Psalm 74, these teachings have distorted their way of thinking towards God.

All these theories are emerging due to lack of teaching. This is an open door for wackier ideas than some others.

If one day I believed this theory of verse 1 and 2 of Genesis, it is because I had a lack of teaching. Try to rethink the last time that you were taught about these things in your church, I think you can as I count them less than on the fingers of one hand.

So what happened between the verse 1 and verse 2 of Genesis?

Well, nothing!

Why?

One thing always remains when God creates something: Unlike us, He does not need to have a matter any kind to create something.

Man has for many years created wonderful things, and unfortunately also less wonderful things, but it was always from a material: iron, wood, soil, metals or any. On the other hand, when God created the Earth and the heavens, he had nothing, no material. And that is the difference between God and us. God can create matter!

In verse 1 God created matter (Earth), and then in verse 2 the Holy Spirit shapes the earth when He moves over waters.

This is what happened at the beginning. The creation is made as 'two-step'. God created matter, and then He creates according to his own desires. We find this notion in verse 3 of Genesis, when God creates light.

***Genesis 1: 3-5*** *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

He commands the light (matter) to exist. Then He separates it from darkness. Here again, the creation is done in two stages: first the matter is created then it is put in shape or in motion.

Of course, this light has nothing to do with the light of the sun as we know it, since the Sun, the Moon and the stars had not yet been created. It is quite possible that this light is entry in the time of our planetary system... but at this level it's only speculation from my part.

The Hebrew word gives "day, point of the day, morning, clear, serenity, lamp, light, hope.

This light could be a physical light which enlightens, but I do not think so, because in this case why have created the sun and the Moon then. I also do not think it is the same light that will enlighten the New Jerusalem in the book of revelation.

***Revelation 22: 5*** *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Because in this case also, it would be difficult to conceive God separating His glory into the darkness.

So this light corresponds to the great heat to the center of the Earth? I do not have the impression either, because it is clear that this light is as linked to the phenomenon of time in the creation of the days and nights.

It is possible that this light is the declaration of entry in time, as start-up of the first rotations of our solar system. Then the separation of light and darkness could correspond to the first rotation of the Earth, when **Chapter 1 of Genesis tells in verse 5:** *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

There are therefore several possible ideas about this light. And what you should remember it is that God creates things in 'two times': first matter, then He shapes His creation. Paul confirmed this fact when he said:

**Romans 4: 17** ... *even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

The day I discovered this fact, brought me even more closely to God, I admired Him even more. He has total control on the atoms, electrons, and all that can form a matter any. I think that when it comes to apply this fact to a physical phenomenon, it is a step further. Before my spirit knew that God was omnipotent, but today I can also explain it in a physical manner with my soul (for more details on this topic, see my study on spirit, soul and body).

In this creation, all is well, Adam and Eve have looked happy, God turned up to watch every evening, they live a perfect life. They had all at their disposal without any special efforts. The rain did not exist, because this phenomenon began the day of the flood in the time of Noah.

**Genesis 2: 5-6** ...*for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.*

No need to shelter raindrops, not thunderstorms or lightning, plants were irrigated with water from below who were huge masses of water stored underground, called "waters to bottom".

**Genesis 1: 6-7** *And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.*

The waters from under were these huge masses of water stored underground that have nothing to do with the waters of the seas, which are the waters of above. There were therefore the waters of the seas and underground water.

**Genesis 7: 11-12** *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.*

This day of the flood was the first day of rain on the Earth.

"The sources of the great deep" are water from under created in the first days of the creation. This is, for the first time, that the water of the sea is evaporated to go up in the sky and forming rain clouds which then fell into drops of water.

The waters from under which are remounted have pushed up the level of the seas, it is especially this fact which brought up the waters, because it would have been impossible in 40 days of rain to raise the level of the waters of 8000 M. these waters from below, with the pressure which made spring from under the Earth, have created what is known today as the fissures of tectonic plates, and it is through these cracks that the waters of under came out to raise the seas level.

So why talk about all this in a study named the character of God?

When I started to understand more and more of how things have been organized, how God had established all things on Earth, I really saw my faith become enabled more and more. I felt that knowing all this, and especially now, to be able to explain them, gave me an additional intimacy with my Father in heaven.

This is exactly how we see a person that we already know, organizing his life, his work, we learn some additional things on his way of life, and all logically this brings that person closer to us. We appreciated him much more if we can see that everything is even more perfect that we imagine in his life and his work. That is why it is voluntarily that we are talking about in this study of things that often remain hidden without explanation, or with erroneous explanations. Put all these facts in place will make you love, respect, and admire God even more.

This point now being established back at the time of the creation.

I have wondered for years: "but why it is written: God saw that it was good, or God saw that it was a good thing. I felt that God was not really sure to create something good, and that it was only when He saw His creation, that He was reassured as saying: "Ah this is a good thing, I didn't make a mistake, or this time the result is good!" At the same time, I told myself: "but God cannot say

such things, whatever He does should be perfect, then why he said such things? Why there need to say or to see that what He does is a good thing? »

It is in these moments there too that you appreciate to form a good team with the Holy Spirit. He teaches us so perfectly. Jesus said about Him, '*the Holy Spirit will teach you all things*'. And this very simple image appeared one day in my spirit. Of course, God never does a draft or test when He creates. He is obviously never disappointed by the result, because He cannot do otherwise than perfect.

It is very important to have the whole of creation in mind as God had when He began creating the Earth and the heavens. He knew where He wanted to go with its completion. He had all this creation in picture, complete in his spirit. He has not created things sequentially, one after the other, and each from another. No. He saw the finished product; He could visualize it in Him. As an artist who can see his work already finished in a huge block of stone. God had so all this image in Him, and when he saw the steps one after the other taking shape in a physical manner, His feeling was a huge joy saying: "Yes, that's right! This is exactly what I wanted; it is absolutely conforms up to what I've designed in my imagination. It's really a good thing!"

In the same way when God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

Why did God need to rest?

God did not need to rest of course.

We are here as well often face to a too literal translation that does not take into account the spirit and the conditions in which these sentences are written.

**Genesis 2: 3** And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

When God blessed the seventh day, He marked it, He puts like His signature. God just finished completing in a physical manner everything that He had conceived in his Spirit.

The creation is now complete, perfectly completed. The fact that God has blessed this last day shows that God put His signature on His creation.

Everything is now complete; the creation is not only launched, but also completely self-sufficient. This is what I find so perfect in God, He creates, but He makes things He created with an ability to live by themselves, to grow by themselves to reproduce by themselves. God creates life in everything.

I think that the Hebrew word of the end of this verse has been translated by "rest", because it is the word "Sabbath" that is still today very often poorly



interpreted, because we think mainly that it only stands for physical rest. Yet this word goes far beyond a simple rest. This is not our topic today, but could easily study the significance of the word "Sabbath", which would show us that this word also means: "celebrate, impose silence, finishing, terminate, end, etc..."

Then why God appoint the "Sabbath" when he has finished all his creation?

Simply because everything was according to what He had planned, according to what he had designed. God had stopped for a day and He contemplated what He had completed. He was cheerful, happy. He had completed to implement an entire planetary system; He created the time passing, a land with water, fertile land, a system of completely autonomous irrigation, human beings, animals and vegetation

It is important to well realize that when God creates He does not go back to it; He does not do any editing, because everything is perfect. Even today if we take a seed that is put in the soil, just with water and light a plant will grow, simply because God has more than 6000 years ago, put this process in place, and today He doesn't go back to it, it is something which is made and which is autonomous.

I have often, met Christians who thought that God, even today, is still pulling the strings of every circumstance on Earth. But God is not behind every physical act that runs on earth. No, not at all.

He created everything perfectly, and now everything is running according to what He ordered at the time of its creation. It is very important to understand this fact, because it is an important concept if we want to administer every day as a born again person, things that are in the circle of our lives. Too often, I meet born again people who lack teaching, and think that it is God who is responsible for everything. They think that somehow God is sovereign in all things and that we don't have to try to change some circumstances with our spiritual authority. So, these kind of people unfortunately do not see much fruit in their daily lives, they expect God to act. God acts in His love for them, of course, but because God is acting from time to time, they think that it is He who does everything, and who must do everything. They do not hear the Holy Spirit tell them: *"wake up! Don't stay like this, leaving as you are bouncing by the circumstances of your life. You received at your new birth all the authority of Jesus Christ. Do not expect that I always must come at your rescue, you have got everything you need to manage every circumstance of your everyday life ».*

Now back to our point.

This day of the end of the creation was a culmination for God, His work was completed and well finished, and everything was working perfectly. Everything was done to operate in complete autonomy. God just had to come in the cool of the evening to enjoy communing with Adam and Eve, to talk about what the "new managers of the Earth" had done in their day, and many other things. Now you know why God took this day of contemplation.

We will answer a question that many are asking.

"But if the creation was so perfect, why then satan has succeeded in compromising many things?"

God loves not the same way that humans love today.

Human beings have a strong tendency to be possessive when they love. It can be easily seen in a couple, among some parents towards their children, or of humans towards their pet, and we could find many other examples.

God loves just without thinking about Himself, regardless of the sadness that He would have if this love came to be violated by the other party. And that's the problem with us humans, we more think about ourselves rather than the other. We don't want to risk suffering, so sometimes we tend to love in a manner a little restricted, we stifle. This attitude is only the result of being too centered on our self, as we deny the risk of suffering because the other party could not meet our love for it. I also speak for myself, because I have not yet arrived at this stage to say: "I love whatever happens" I'm not there, but I can say in all cases that I go in this direction. I often repeat this phrase to my three children: "regardless of how fast you go, the key is to move forward in a constant progression". And there often even today they tell me even before I have completed my sentence: "Yes dad, I know, regardless of how fast I go, blablabla. They know that sentence by heart!

It is in this context of perfect love that God loved His creature, we are; at the moment were the first man Adam started to breathe.

For years, I often asked myself the question: "Why God has planted two trees in the garden of Eden?" If He never put them there everything would have been much simpler. I had the impression that it was having tempted Adam and Eve for nothing. At that time, I did not understand how God loves me. And now it's easy to understand why God put these two trees in the garden.

Eternity exists, and knowledge also. God therefore had to leave the choice to Adam and Eve. Does it mean that we should offer the good or evil our children for example? Not at all.

God told them: "above all do not eat".

These two trees were there, but there's also a rule of not eating. It is a bit like today when we are raising children, the good and the evil are all around us, then we must lay down rules for our children. Then when they are adults, these rules became their choice and one way or another, they will have to experience the consequences.

As I explained in my study on "the true color of satan", it is because of a lack of knowledge that Eve ended up listening to the serpent. God had said "You shall not eat of the tree", but Eve thought that God had also said "you will not touch it. God never said not to touch the fruit.

***Genesis 2:17*** *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

***Genesis 3: 1-3*** : *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

The snake took advantage of this lack of knowledge in Eve. Once she took the fruit, she says to herself: "I touched the fruit and I am not dead! So God had to be wrong, I can eat of it".

But we will see that in all this process of the fall and its consequences, God never stopped loving humans. The intensity of His love for us has never changed and will never change. Remember what we said at the beginning of this study, God does not change. His love for us remains and will always remain the same.

It has been many years now since I have understood and put into practice this important fact. Whenever I read a passage from the Bible that could show me that God seems to be angry or have hatred against some humans, I remember then that God does not change and that there is always another explanation to the passage that I read. I do not claim to be able to explain all the circumstances that the Bible speaks about, but I must say that whenever I am troubled by a passage, is only a matter of time before I understand the teaching of the Holy Spirit on this subject. But everything doesn't come by itself.

I have to memorize the passage I have read to be able to repeat it to myself regularly in the day, but also in the night if I'm awakened. Not once have I gone without an explanation on His part.

It is often here, in this passage from the fall of Adam and Eve that God is already as "categorized".

He saw that Adam and Eve disobeyed.

He announces to Adam that he will now have to suffer to get his food.

He announces to Eve that she will have to suffer to give birth.

And then on top of that, He expelled them of the Garden of Eden.

What a pity that all this passage is almost never taught in the churches!

Because of this fact, when I was a young Christian, I imagined God yelling on Adam and Eve by telling them: "Out of my garden!", and slamming the door of the garden.

But if we look carefully at the facts one after the other, we see that there is nothing like that.

The purpose of satan was in two stages.

In the first stage he had intended to deceive Eve, and then to push her to make accept this same thing to Adam.

Then, once Adam and Eve were caught in their sins, the purpose of satan was to push them to eat of the fruit of the tree of life, so that they would have had access to eternal life. What a disaster it would have been for the entire human race! No more death, and an end to the opportunity of eternal life in heaven, no more possibility of new birth, because Jesus would have been similar to a man, but immortal, so no sacrifice on the cross for the redemption of our sins. In other words, an eternal life of perpetual disease and suffering.

We understand better now why it was essential that Adam and Eve can no longer have access to the garden of Eden, and why God, in His great love, had to tell them to get out and never come back in the garden. God could not afford to take the risk that Adam or Eve succumbing to the lies of satan and eating of the fruit of the tree of life.

There are a whole series of facts proving that God told them to leave the garden motivated by love.

God had to mark this time by consequences on Adam and Eve and their descendants, so that all humans could have the opportunity to know that there was a time when everything was perfect and without effort or suffering.

Man must now redouble efforts to draw nourishment from the soil. Such is the application today to earn enough to buy food and providing a roof.

The woman is the only one who must suffer to give birth, we don't find so much suffering in animals because God told her in:

**Genesis 3: 14-16** *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee*

The error committed by many is to separate these three verses. We believed that on the one hand God cursed the serpent and that on the other hand He punishes Eve.

The Snake is cursed for what he did, and the judgment of God is upon him. But in regards to Eve, there is no punishment in the fact that she must, her and all the other women until the end of time, give birth now in pain.

Let's go back to this passage from verse 15.

It is here that we have an undeniable proof that God, because of the fall of Adam and Eve, has immediately implemented His plan of salvation which will consist of sending His son to redeem all human errors, and then give them back the condition that Adam and Eve had lost. But for this, a full process is needed, several times arising one after the other. All these periods make the books of the Bible.

- (1) after the fall, God shows to humans that they have sinned
- (2) God must find humans to reveal himself to them
- (3) God found a human in order to establish a people (Abraham)
- (4) God shows to humans the absolute good and evil by the law (Moses)
- (5) incarnation of Jesus Christ on Earth
- (6) A new life on a new earth where evil no longer exists

These ages are linked and have only a single purpose, as in the passages above.

God announces to Eve that she will crush the head of satan, but that he will hurt her heel. This sentence shall be fulfilled when Jesus will come as a man on the Earth: by Mary, the mother of Jesus, satan will be crushed, and by Jesus

Christ, all those who are born again will see satan flee before them, he will be crushed.

But satan will hurt the heel of Eve, that is that, Eve will have to suffer, because her son will be executed on the cross, and it is in this sense that satan will hurt her heel (for more details on this topic, see my study named *the person of Jesus Christ*).

For what interests us today, is that why God told Eve that she must now bear children in pain, as we said above, only humans give birth in pain.

I remember a few years ago when a cat arrived at the premises of the company where I use to work. After some time, this cat was ready to give birth to kittens. The next time I saw he, she was in a carton with rags that colleagues had prepared to make it comfortable. I arrived at the moment where two small kittens came to be born and where others had still to come. I stayed there to watch this spectacle of life and I told myself in the same time: "she really didn't seem to suffer". Everything took place without severe pains. That was this day where I noticed a big difference of pain between the animals and humans when they gave life. I had not found out why immediately, but after a few years the Holy Spirit revealed it to me.

God has placed a mark on every woman who will put a child in the world until the end of time. This mark is in the fact that she will give life to her children in pain. This mark is the same way in the fact that there is today a rainbow to show that God will no longer send a flood as in Noah's time. All these signs and all these marks are here so that humans have to think about and see that God is there, that the Bible is true.

***Romans 1: 20*** *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

In this verse Paul speaks amongst other things of these signs that are in the creation.

This sign of childbirth in pain is directly related to the birth of Jesus Christ. He came on Earth to save humanity, but for this he had to go through a lot of pains. It is also with great pain that God had to give up His son to sin when He was on the cross.

It is a major event in the history of humanity. The coming of Jesus Christ is almost the culmination of the process that God raised after the fall of Adam and Eve. It is to mark this important time that each woman suffers to give life even today.

These marks are not punishments. I understand that for a layman they might seem like a punishment. But there is none. God has not punished Adam and Eve. All these marks are there to help the humans to find God in their daily lives.

But in the past and also today, anyone has the possibility to ask himself the question: "but why should I as a man provide so much effort to live, why so much suffering?", or "why should women suffer as much to give birth? " And then God will let Himself be found by those who seek answers to these questions.

How God could give up Adam and Eve, punish them, and then immediately replaced their not very practical grape leaves by clothes from skin of animals? It is clear that God does not change, He still keeps His love for humans intact. God did not cut at all the relations with Adam and Eve after their departure from the garden. One sees even that neither Adam nor Eve have resentment against God, because they continue to have their relationship. Yes they suffer the consequences of their actions, but God organizes the things the best way for them.

Eve says in **Genesis 4: 1** *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.*

Did God 'assist' Eve in her first baby delivery? The Bible does not say. I think in any case that God had to give her some instructions on how to conduct the things so that everything happens for the best. The Hebrew word translated by 'help' also means 'against, with, near to'. There is here a true notion of physical assistance or (and) verbal.

Had God made all this if He had driven them out of the garden with anger (Adam and Eve?)

Absolutely not.

And God continues His relationship throughout the generations.

**Genesis 4: 2-3** *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.*

How could Cain and Abel offer an offering to God if He had not spoken them? Or in any case at least Adam and Eve who themselves have talked to their children. Which proves once again that God has no anger or resentment, and has kept His relationship as before with human beings.

We arrive here at a step that is also often poorly perceived.

**Genesis 4: 3-5** *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

Who has not asked himself the following question: "but why God has chosen not be favorable to Cain? Is He really be without compassion or have preferences". Yet once again, by thinking this way has put God at the human level, believing that He reacts like us, that He has some transgression as us. We say again to ourselves: "but how can He react in this way? This is really not fair!"

Let's look a little closer this situation.

What was the difference between Cain and Abel?

They have both chosen to give an offering to God, that is, they wanted to show their commitment, their love for their creator by giving the product of their work, from their efforts.

It seems clear that God had conversations about the offerings with Adam and his family. They therefore knew all that they could offer these things to God, not to necessarily receive in return, but to regularly reaffirm their commitment and love for their creator. By these offerings God did not take account of their sins. There was no law at this time, and without law there's no sin. Paul tells us in **Romans 3: 20** that it is through the law that comes knowledge of sin. Not that, before the law, they had no knowledge of sin, but without the law God does not take account of sin. Then, you can tell me, God does not take account of the sins of the man until the law has been given to Moses?

Yes that is correct.

We often mix God who condemns sin by the law, and the consequences of the proper sin of man on himself. These are two different and distinct things, but often Christians, by lack of knowledge, believe that the consequences of sin, which does impute the one who committed it, are in fact just judgments of God on that same sin. What a mistake!

A verse which helped me to understand this scene of offering between Cain and Abel.



**Hebrews 11: 4** *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

They were not obliged to make these offerings. This was to be a spontaneous thing, without any pressure, this should be the result of a sense of attachment and love toward God. However Paul gives us the difference between the attitude of Cain and Abel. Abel was motivated by his faith, but not Cain.

Try to imagine the scene.

Abel had animals in herds. These animals were breeding, because animals had also become mortal as humans. Sin having appeared on Earth by Satan, God had to curse the creation by making it subject to death like humans. The beasts of Abel had to reproduce to ensure the survival of the herd. Today one could say that Abel should ensure his safeguarded in keeping the first born and offer the following to God in an offering. It's what Cain did it. He has not given its first fruit. He has guarded by security the first fruits of his crops, but in this case God was no longer the source.

Faith is a key area for Christians, without faith it is impossible to please God. Not because God is an egocentric who wants us to admire Him without stopping, but just because He wants to love us so that we can enjoy and experience His love and its magnitude.

Cain had refused to receive the consequences of God's love for him. He preferred acting in a rational manner without using his faith. Not using the faith that we have received makes it totally inactive what God has given us. We possess these things potentially, but without the use of the faith that we have already received, nothing will come out. And it is not that God blocks things voluntarily no.

Understand that as a born again person, you have already received all, and it is your faith that will bring all these things in our physical world. All this is valid for our well-being, our health, our ability to understand the Scriptures, our mental balance, our financial situation, etc.

This is why God could not be favorable to Cain's offering, simply because he had already made his choice. We will see that as always, God remains the same, He does not change.

We see it in:

**Genesis 4: 6-7** *And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

If we are still in this false image of God thinking that everything is just regulatory relations with punishments, we will quickly see this image between God and Cain as a reprimand. But this discussion has another reality. It is an encouragement that God gives here to Cain. "Cain, why do you get angry? There is no reason for this. You have chosen not to use your faith, but do not remain on this attitude, I'm not mad at you; on the contrary I love you. Do not close your face. You have the ability to re-examine yourself, go and be courageous; I'm there at your side. So make the right choice, because you have the opportunity to react well to this and you will be able to overcome those thoughts that push you to sin. And even if you sin, that you give up to some of these thoughts, you have the power to dominate on them, so I want to encourage you Cain".

Of course this dialogue is just speculation on my part, but I think that it's actually in this way and in this spirit that the things have happened.

We all know that Cain has not followed the encouragement of God, he allows his thoughts dominate him and make him react to kill his brother.

Let's see again how the exchange goes between God and Cain.

Cain was the first murderer. God is facing a situation to be set so that things do not turn more to the advantage of satan. Keep in mind that, since the fall, a battle is committed between satan and God. The challenge of this battle is the human race. God wants to keep it for Him, because it is His creation and he loves humans; satan, is so jealous of humans beings that he hates them at the highest point and wants to possess them to exterminate them. This battle lasts even today; it took different forms depending on the times, of course. The major event that has changed the most of this battle is the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Since the fall and this until the end of time the battle is and will remain active. We will see the different aspects in order to understand even more facets of the character of God.

God, therefore, must bring forth a solution for sin to be spread as little as possible. Cain is, arguably, already well contaminated at this point. This is why God has no other choice to separate him from the other human beings asking

him to leave. It is clear that Cain is still strongly attached to God when he told him in:

**Genesis 4: 14** *Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*

Just like if Cain would say: "Yes I've committed a serious error, but what will I do alone far from you, we can no more talk together as before ... »

But God always puts His protection and His love towards Cain. He puts a sign on him to protect him from anyone who thought to kill him.

Imagine God who protects a murderer!

How could God do such a thing with the savage? Impossible without, on the contrary, love!

We are about 1400 years after the completion of the creation. Some humans have joined Cain, he took a woman to form a people.

There is now approximately 1400 years after which satan tries to infect humans with sin, persuading them that life is much better by practicing evil. Seeing that human beings began to multiply in number enough, Satan said to himself: "I'll send my demons so they will take human form, they form couples with human women. From this deception we will create another race which will be much easier to dominate and produce evil and disobedience toward God".

It worked for a few individuals.

**Genesis 6: 1-2** *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

The issue was such, that if satan came up in one way or another to convert all present human on Earth to his cause, he would have had the right, in the assembly before God, to say: "they are all rallied to my cause, they all belong to me now." And God could have done nothing about it, because the choice belongs to humans. God doesn't force anyone; He respects the choice of each one, even if this choice is completely stupid.

We can see it today in our world; so many people choose a life without God's help. By choice or ignorance, they live sometimes situations more than difficult, but God does not force them, the Bible is here to inform them. A provision of

Preachers, Christians and much information is available to them, but in all this, they have their choice.

Often, when most Christians come to study this passage, they think that the motives of the demons to take human women were only pure perversion. Such an idea is simply impossible. Simply because a demon, even if at that time he could take human form, was a spirit above all. A spirit is not physical, and therefore cannot experience any physical impulses whatever they may be. It is only by hatred and will to corrupt the human race that these demons have taken the form of men to ally themselves with women on Earth.

It was thus more important that satan could not achieve those goals by rallying around him the entire human race. It would almost have worked for satan if God had not intervened.

***Genesis 6: 3*** *And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

Humans lived at that time between 500 and 900 years approximately. They had therefore unfortunately allowed their thoughts to become degenerate always toward evil. This is why God could not do otherwise than to act for the good of man. He will reduce the days of man's life. Therefore, from this moment, the days of man will be about 120 years.

This isn't a punishment at all towards humans, but it is the opposite. God took this action to avoid humans spending too much time on this earth. It is by love He has reduced our time here on Earth, because it is certain that humans, if they lived still several hundred years today, would be fallen into more corruption

It is as if God was returning humans to zero, His purpose being to not let humans degenerate too long toward evil.

This idea is hardly acceptable if we consider life stopping at our human death. But though there is nothing, life does not stop there, regardless of our journey, born again or not, everyone without exception will live after his physical death. It is in this context that God has voluntarily reduced the duration of the life of human beings humans to a sufficient time so they can meet Him and go through the new birth: to give a maximum to people the opportunity to live for eternity with Him.

But God does not stop there, because despite their shorter lives, humans no longer had any thoughts turned towards good.

**Genesis 6: 5** *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Things had reached such a critical point that no one, apart from Noah and his family was capable of thinking or designing a good thing.

God has just reduce the life expectancy of humans to not let Satan too long for pervert, but despite this, satan had done his job well, because humans were left contaminated to the point of no longer being capable of producing a thought for good.

How to make the way?

God was facing a problem.

Only two options were possible.

The first was to let Noah and his family live on Earth surrounded by an entire population constantly facing satanic thoughts.

I open a parenthesis here: satanic thoughts are not necessarily terrible, bloody or horrific things. A satanic thought is just a thought that will drive me away from God or from the goal He has set for me.

Often when I explain something by saying: "this is a Satanic thought," people often have the same reaction by saying that it has nothing huge in that thought and that it is not satanic.

Think again!

Most often a satanic thought goes unnoticed; we have to use our spirit to discover it.

It was only a matter of time that Noah and his family would have been prevented from continuing their lives in God. Of two things, either they would have been murdered, or at their best no longer follow the plan of God.

Understand that since the fall, God has the entire image until the end of the grace in Jesus Christ. He knows exactly where He wants to get. He knows that He must prepare all things in order to send His son to provide humanity with eternal life, forgiveness of all sins, disease-free body and a life on Earth where no one is in need of anything.

Yes, God pursues this aim since the fall, He wants us to get back what we have lost in the fall of Adam and Eve.

There were very few chances, in the context of life in the time of Noah, to be able to find a virgin girl approximately 2500 years later, so that she could

receive Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit on the one hand, and on the other hand find from this same girl an attachment to God. The choice was very painful for God, but it was the only thing to do.

God repented of having created man.

**Genesis 6: 6** *And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

Yes God had to repent, that His feel of huge badness toward a sad situation, and change direction (for more detail on this topic, see my study on *repentance*). It was necessary to eliminate all the people who were no longer able to have a single thought turned to the good.

The Hebrew word translated in this verse by “*distressed*” means “*be in suffering, being hurt, saddened*”.

God did not send this great deluge by gaiety of heart. On the contrary, He would have preferred that people resist evil and cannot be handle as pawns by satan and his demons.

Here again, as we said above, the confrontation between God and satan was still there, and satan would have not failed at a meeting in heaven and may say: “*Noah and his family were killed. Now, nobody on Earth no longer wishes to follow you, God. They are all in my cause, they belong to me and you have no other choice of leaving them to me*” satan would have won the human race to make suffer and destroy it. We see this kind of Assembly in the book of Job. Unfortunately these passages from the book of Job are poorly understood by the vast majority of Christians, but we'll talk about it a little later.

The flood was thus inevitable in order to not to abandon the human race to a satanic destruction.

**Genesis 6: 13** *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

This decision was painful for God.

Too many Christians think that God has pronounced this sentence from Genesis 6:13 as a judgment without any compassion. These same people see God in the following manner: as a being that only punishes, revengeful and kills etc... God is not like that, and the fact of thinking that God is a creator sometimes without love who kills without thinking, who sends diseases to teach or judge people, is a satanic thought.

Always remember: whatever you do, whatever you say, wherever you go, God loves you neither more nor less, because He loves you to infinity. You will suffer the consequences of your bad choices, but it will never change the intensity of the love of God for you. It is more than essential to assimilate this concept and absolutely put it into practice.

This reality will give you the strength to no longer sin. It will also push you into the arms of God when you notice that you have said or done something which you are not proud of, instead of like before where you no longer read your Bible or don't pray with the same fervor.

**Genesis 6: 14 (AMP):** *Make yourself an ark of gopher or cypress wood; make in it rooms (stalls, pens, coops, nests, cages, and compartments) and cover it inside and out with pitch (bitumen).*

Noah begins to build the boat that will hold him and his family apart from the effects of the flood. God sends to him a couple of terrestrial animals of each species. It is clear that God did not "randomly" take these animals to enter the Ark. We know that the animals may also be headed, and even be possessed of demons (**Matt 8: 31**). Each animal in the Ark was thus free of satanic influence.

I remember one day where one of our kids came back from the Sunday school and told us: "today we learned Noah's Ark". This is a subject actually often chosen for children, because of the animals and the boat. That day he told us that the teacher had explained to them that 40 days of rain were enough to cover the Earth with water.

Do not feel offended if you are a Sunday school teacher. Here are two examples that I give in this study to reflect a lack of seriousness of two teachers, which does not mean that all take their work a little lightly. I love you like all my brothers and sisters and I thank you for this great job that you do among children. I try to put myself in the place of one of these little ones who heard this error, to understand that 20 years later what had been explained to him/her is simply not possible. If he or she does not have a strong spiritual life, they may doubt on other real things that it has been taught to them.

Look a little more closely what happened during the flood.

**Genesis 7: 11:** *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened..*

Of course, 40 days and 40 nights of rain could never be enough to cover all the mountains of more than 8000 meters! Let us remember when God created the Earth; there were the waters from above and waters from below. The waters from above were not, as many think, the water contained in the clouds of the sky, because it was not raining at this time. The phenomenon of evaporation from the seas to form rain clouds appeared at the flood for the first time.

Before that it has never rain on Earth.

Waters to bottom were contained under the Earth, and they were released at the beginning of the flood as enormous powerful fountains.

It was these groundwater reserves which have sprung up first, creating cracks in the tectonic plates that we know today. It is through these sources of the great deep mainly that the level of the seas could get high. Of course rain also fell considerably and took their share in the rising waters. Since then, the phenomenon of rain remained in the terrestrial weather.

***Genesis 8: 1-2 (CEV)*** *God did not forget about Noah and the animals with him in the boat. So God made a wind blow, and the water started going down. God stopped up the places where the water had been gushing out from under the earth. He also closed up the sky, and the rain stopped.*

This "Contemporary English Version" of the Bible version in my opinion, respects more the thought of God, who said that He "*had not forgotten them*". Most other versions say: "*and God remembered Noah's...*" Just like if God was been able to forget that He came, 6 months previously, to launch the largest flood appeared on Earth! It is clear that this is not what happened.

Then God made a great wind blow, some of waters from the bottom went back in groundwater sources, and the phenomenon of evaporation of the seas has continued until today.

Once the ark was stranded on Earth, Noah went down with his family. The landscape around them would have been a spectacle of desolation. And now a major event had changed on Earth...

It was going to rain regularly!

Why?

God wanted to keep men in the idea of this flood?

No.

Previously, the waters from the bottom regularly went up to irrigate the plants. But now the flood passed, the level of bottom water was insufficient to irrigate.



The rain is part of the curse that God had to focus on the creation. This may seem hard to believe today, as in the North of Australia for example, the country where I am now, the rain is essential. A summer without rain would be catastrophic. However, initially, the rain was not part of God's creation. People did not need shelter, everything was perfect.

But Noah did not look disoriented. Here he well proved his affiliation to God and his trust in him. The first thing he does is to build an altar to give offerings to God. He has not sought his own comfort in any, and I'm sure that everything happened subsequently in a perfect way. I personally get a good lesson from it, and I think that you also.

**Genesis 8: 21** *The smell of the burning offering pleased God, and he said: Never again will I punish the earth for the sinful things its people do. All of them have evil thoughts from the time they are young, but I will never destroy everything that breathes, as I did this time.*

This passage could give rise to false thoughts. In this way one would think that God regrets what He has done, that He thinks He has almost made a mistake, and that He vows to never do it again.

But there is nothing.

The original thought is often difficult to translate. This is why it is essential, if one wishes to study the Scriptures in an effective way, to use the original texts (for more details on this topic see my study *How to understand the Bible*).

If we take the word translated as “never” of verse 21, it also means in Hebrew “*continue, add, more*”. This concept is very important, because it shows that God has not regretted anything nor had the impression of having done any error, but He literally promises not to continue, not to go further in this curse that He had to reach on the creation.

It is the opposite of what we might perceive at first.

In fact, God puts a stop on the cursing of the Earth, He announces that things will not go beyond. What always shows in what thought God is regarding to the man. Despite the fact that He has a comprehensive plan to run, despite the fact that satan is engaged in a battle with Him, the love of His creature is always placed first.

This plan is of course as we said a little more early to give men their first condition back, by revealing in them in a deep way (Abraham), and then showing them the reality of good and evil (the law given to Moses), sending His son as a man to be sacrificed in order to redeem the sins of the world (Jesus on the cross), and removing forever satan and his demons (rushed into the Lake of fire), while still giving a chance to the humans who will live after the second

coming of Jesus Christ (because they have not been part of the first rapture) to access to eternity always by Jesus Christ.

This plan is the purpose of God.

Everything that He does, and all the decisions He takes in all the Bible since the fall until the end of the terrestrial time will be driven by this plan and nothing else in order to save His creature and give him back what it has lost.

We are approximately 2100 BC. 200 years about have elapsed since that Noah and his family came out of the Ark. The Earth could repopulate with several hundreds of humans. We will see that satan does not confess his defeated; he increases his efforts to attract the human race to him. satan often uses natural actions of everyday life and tries to simply change the thinking of humans to push them into his traps (for more details on this subject see my study named *the true colors of satan*).

The men left to find a nice place to live. They found a plain in the land of Shinar surely very pleasant to settle there. They stop there, and by mutual agreement they begin to build houses for shelter, because rain falls now in a regular manner on Earth.

Until then there were no problems.

***Genesis 11: 2-3*** *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.*

It was only human beings who wanted to build houses and live quietly.

Then appears Nimrod, a man who was respected, he was a powerful Hunter.

We learn later that Nimrod was the leader and Coordinator in the construction of the Tower of Babel. In this satan was able to find in Nimrod the fault he was looking for. Nimrod was all devoted to evil, and it is by him and surely others of his ilk got the idea to build the Tower of Babel.

The Bible does not say how he had setup thinks, but we can easily understand that Nimrod had to use a force of persuasion to convince. And this belief was fear.

***Genesis 11: 4 (NIV):*** *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."*

The French translation and many others clearly reflect a notion of fear “*from fear that we will be scattered*”. We could easily imagine Nimrod come to begin to sow a big lie - I don't necessarily say that he knew that it was a lie, since it is quite possible that satan caused him to err also, – and resume the fact that of the foreign gods which were in the stars were going to disperse humans on Earth, and that if men were not building a monument to achieve these gods and worship them, they would be all scattered on Earth in places they had never before explored.

What a fear!

Imagine these humans, who just came to discover this Valley of Shinear, falling into a deception that only increases their fear to be dispersed over the entire surface of the Earth. It is easy to make someone believe something that he does not know. This fear has gripped everyone, because of Nimrod. This deception is still in force today, because we see so many people rely on predictions horoscopes, etc. These practices date back to the base at the Tower of Babel. If this is then your case, do not allow yourself to be operated as a pawn but concentrate instead on the Bible which is real and powerful. Once deeply rooted fear, panic almost here, the task was easy for satan. It is also a process that he still uses today (for more details on this topic, see my study named *the great deception*). It is just panic and fear that these men have used and started to build their monument to achieve these were false gods of the stars which do not exist. Certainly most of them had already set aside God their creator either and had forgotten Him, and fallen into a big trap.

A very interesting point is located in verse 6.

***Genesis 11: 6-8 (amp):*** *And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confound (mix up, confuse) their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from that place upon the face of the whole earth, and they gave up building the city.*

***"... now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible for them".***

Therefore, there is a power in the solidarity of the men.

If God had let them alone, nothing could have prevented their projects to come to pass. The men would have invested in stupid religious rites which would

have never brought them anything, or maybe the fact to turn away from their creator and Savior that God had planned to send to Earth. This is why God needs to intervene. This is not from gaiety of heart that He separates humans by diversifying their languages. God has no choice, because if too many humans unite to bring about their project that would be led by satan without their knowledge, they would eventually get their way, nothing would prevent them from doing what they have planned. Such a thing could seriously compromise the plan of redemption of God for men.

It is clear that this fear introduced by satan in this people was only a broad farce, and nothing more.

God eventually disperse them in verse 8, and we see that this was absolutely not harmful for them. Instead, the majority of them have probably discovered new lands, new places, perhaps much nicer than Shinar Valley to live. All this was not so terrible that Nimrod had been able to make them believe.

It was thus not by punishment or pride that God confused the language of men, but still by love for them so that they do not lose in a way which would have them away from Him and the salvation that He planned to offer them through Jesus Christ.

A little more than 100 years later comes the story of Job.

I think that this book of Job, especially the first part of the book is the most misunderstood Bible passage, which still today gives cause for erroneous explanations. The vast majority of Christians, because of this passage from Job, think that God sends the suffering or disease on humans. Who has never heard someone saying: "God allowed that I am in the hospital, or I had this disease and God made me grow up"?

People do not say "God sent me such and such suffering", but they say "God allowed it...". »

What a mistake!

I say this for me first, because I was taught this kind of thought, and I believed it for years.

One day, I sprained my ankle, I must have been about 30 years old. Naturally, I had to stay on my bed lying down for several weeks. At this time I still found it hard to read the Bible every day, because I had not yet solidified my teamwork with the Holy Spirit. Of course, by staying long days lying, I read my Bible much more than when I had to work 8 hours per day. Naturally my soul has been renewed, and I felt it in my spirit. I also spent more time to pray. So, naturally, I felt the presence of God in a much more intense, much more present in me.

Then, with the teaching that I had, I told myself: "it is God who allowed me to have a sprain because He saw I had trouble reading the Bible and spending time to pray." And in my prayers I said: "thank you Lord for my sprain!" Just because I had heard it so many times in the Church where we were going to Christine, my wife, and me.

Today, I know that this kind of gratitude that I was addressing to God was really stupid. I try to put myself in His place, if I hear my child say: "Dad thanks for allowing that I break my arm, I couldn't discipline myself to do my homework, so thank you again, because now with this suffering I am doing well my homework!"

What father on earth would accept this kind of words?

No one who would love his child, of course!

Imagine all those Christians who believe that God sends them (or allows) a disease to grow. If this kind of action worked, I think that all those who suffer from hunger, cancer, AIDS would be on a very high spiritual level. But well forced to see that this is not the case.

I just want to say that the one who suffers in his illness does not always happen at higher spiritual levels. Of course, when you are sick, we will re-center to most critical priorities, such as our relationship with God, for example. It is just this fact which leads to the conclusion that it is necessary to suffer to learn.

This is a totally false theory.

Which is often bizarre as it is that those who advocate such ideas and passing by the disease say: "it is God allowing this cancer, this broken leg, in my body, this flu or any other illness. But at the same time, these same people are doing everything they can to heal as quickly as possible by taking medical treatment, or to be hospitalized if the case is more serious.

But then, if it is really the will of God for them to have this or that disease, why do they not follow the will of God by accepting this disease, and until such time that God have it make it pass once they would have learned that so-called God wants them to understand!

God loves us, He is not a kind of egocentric creator, without love.

If you have adopted this theory, well, reject it now, because you know the truth.

It is in these next lines that we will now study what happened between God and satan at the beginning of the book of Job.

One evening we were in our room, my wife and I. We were each reading a book. I have the habit of asking regularly what she has read and if she learned something interesting. That evening she was reading a book on the life of Job written by Henry Morris. After the reading I've asked her: "*So did you learn something beautiful tonight about Job?*" She was exactly at this passage from **Job 1: 6**. Then she replied to me: "*I wonder how God can allow being in the same place as satan, and especially to talk to him as if there were no problems between them*".

We had already talked about this whole passage a few years previously. I had explained it to her, but I understood this day that she needed a validation from the Holy Spirit in her spirit.

I therefore entered into the explanation, and I told her this: "We know that since the fall, satan had "marked an important point" by bringing sin in men. satan has continued since to wait for the moment where all of the human race would be won over to him completely giving up God. It is in the context of one of these assemblies that we arrive in:

**Job 1: 6**: *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.*

**Job 1: 6 (amp)**: *Now there was a day when the sons (the angels) of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (the adversary and accuser) also came among them.*

It is true that we can ask ourselves the question "how can satan have stood in the presence and in a meeting with God and His angels?" Nobody with an air of complaining. We could even maybe say that all this is almost normal. For us humans it would be a totally unthinkable thing to end up with his opponent in an Assembly. Some may have struggled to keep their calm, others refuse to come, and we would still see a lot of other human reactions. We often get a wrong result from the moment where we attempt to understand God at our proper level.

It is important to remember that God is perfect.

He is not resentful.

He does not sneakily plot against his enemies.

He is quite able to keep calm in all situations.

He doesn't act under the scope of emotion.

We could easily extend this list.

Yes, satan is gone to war against God; he wants to eliminate the human race that God has created, because he is jealous to the point that he feels an immense hatred towards us.

But God does not change. He is love first and foremost, and well balanced in all His reactions, God is not emotional.

In this fight against satan, things must remain fair and correct, as God is thus itself. This is why satan has the right to come to the Assembly.

The angels came to give their report to God.

What kind of report could they do?

Well, precisely they came to explain how things were with human beings?. Of course, God knew the progress of the situation, but the angels came precisely and regularly in Assembly before God to certified things in front of satan, so that he could not tell heaps of lies. It's only speculation, but we might assume that this Assembly was not the first where satan would come to claim humans for him, saying something like: "I am now the master, all humans have rallied to me, they no longer want you to be their creator, so this time, God, you have lost, there is no more human being on Earth who believes in you".

And in this context we arrive in:

***Job 1: 7-8***: *And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

It is not even satan attempting to hide in the crowd of angels, it is God who detained satan by saying: "where were you? "

This is here the proof that satan is accepted in this assembly, he came not in hiding. satan replied that he comes from a walk on Earth.

Can we think that satan went to walk on the Earth just to spend a good time and admire the creation?

Of course not, he said this to make God understanding that he went to observe and report what state man was in. Did they all abandoned God? Did they all rally to Sin? It is in this context that satan said to God that he went to walk on Earth. satan is a fallen angel. It cannot, as God is able to be in several places at once. So he went to check the status of the situation.

**Job 1: 8:** *And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

We understand now why God has a big interest to say this. In other words, He could have said: "no satan, they are not all yours, you are a liar in your usual manner. Look at Job, he is not yours, he is impeccable, right, true, and he stands far from evil".

That is why God had to detain satan. There is no question of a "game" between God and Satan where one and the other would compare their authority using humans as pawns.

I was saying to Christine, "*unfortunately how many Christians think of these passages from Job this way*".

Very few churches teach on this subject but so important. As with passages not explained like this, we have lot of trouble to see God as our father.

But Satan does not confess his defeated so easily.

**Job 1: 9-11:** *Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*

Satan refuses to be put out.

We are still in this assembly where satan is constantly looking for deceptive arguments to win his case. He does not hesitate to accuse God to make favoritism in this battle by saying: "of course, it is normal that Job acted like this towards you, you don't stop to not bless him, this is not just. "me satan, I say that if you acted no more favorably toward him, he would join to my cause and would reject you.

God is righteous, He is perfectly right and just, He does not do any effort to be so, it is in His nature. What could He do else before this remark of satan? He had no choice. Job would have to live for a time, without receiving the benevolence of God.

**Job 1: 12:** *And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.*



This is with a broken heart that God had to say this sentence. As satan, at that time enjoyed all his powers; he was not limited, unless by the limitations that God set to him. It is clear that if God did not set limits by saying "do not put hand on him", satan would not hesitate to kill him, in order to eliminate one of the last upright before God on Earth.

... Do you understand better now what state of spirit was God when He had this conversation with satan?"

Then she replied to me: "yes I understand, but I need now to have a certainty". I then continued my explanation with the rest of the text...

We know by reading the verses 13-21 what happened to Job and his family subsequently.

***Job 1: 22***: *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

There was another assembly in large part because of this verse. Job is remained perfect in his reactions to these various situations.

What a man! The day where I get to heaven and that I will see my brother Job, I think I would say to him: "Big Respect to you, Job!"

The big difference between God and satan is that satan use of lies, of bad saying. But God is perfect and just, and He stays perfect and just whatever happens. That is why God stays always calm and continues the assemblies. He knows that soon satan will be cast out of Heaven by Jesus Christ, that he lost all his powers and that he will be under the feet of those who will pass through the new birth. This day will come, because God has planned it in his plan of salvation. But in the meantime, should treat these false statements that satan was moving in the assembly before them all.

We arrive exactly in a context similar to the previous Assembly, except that satan has lost the first round. I think that God is proud of Job, proud and pleased that he had steadfast before so many misfortunes. God has learned nothing about the personality of Job, because He already knew the love and loyalty of Job toward Him.

It is in this context that God accosted satan by saying: "*Have you noticed my servant Job?*".

***Job 2: 1-3***: *Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest*

*thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.*

This time there is information that is often taken to substantiate this false theory which would make one believe that God almost took fun to send satan to hurt Job. "...although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause".

Some French translation even says: "... And you excited me to lose him without cause."

Here is a translation problem. God was not excited or has not been moved to destroy Job.

The CEB said: "...you incited me to ruin him for no reason".

The ERV said: "...even though you asked me to let you destroy, without reason, everything he has".

The GW said: "... You're trying to provoke me into ruining him for no reason".

Many other versions are also in this sense, more than 70% of the French or English versions.

God was so not excited nor moved to destroy!

But it is in pain that He had to accept the request of satan. There are laws and rights in the Kingdom of God, and God himself meets them.

This time satan plays his last card with God, saying:

**Job 2: 4-5 (CEV):** "Satan answered, "There's no pain like your own. People will do anything to stay alive. <sup>5</sup> Try striking Job's own body with pain, and he will curse you to your face".

satan degenerates humans as we see well in this remark that he considers the men as "negligible." In other words, he says that the man is a selfish and that he thinks only of his own person. This is why he told God "touch on his own person and he will curse you," or "let me put suffering in his body and you will see."

Still today, many people, Christian or not, think that satan always today has the power to physically touch a person. It is absolutely false, it is shown in my study on *The true color of satan* .

A large part of the book of Job deals with moral and physical attacks that satan send to Job. But we know well that, until the end, it is written that Job sinned not.

God had won this battle once more. Certainly Job suffered because of it, but what a man! We could almost say that he would have saved and preserved his race. He is a type of Jesus Christ.

As I finished my explanation, Christine told me: "that's it! That's it, I understood! ", and myself proud to say "I'm glad that my explanations have helped you to validate everything.

Then she reply to me: "no not at all, you don't get it, it's just the Holy Ghost had just confirmed with me all this while you spoke to me; now I am sure, I understood this passage "; and she finished by saying: "Oh, thank you Holy Spirit.

This is how things are going between us very often. Christine would never accept what I say to her if the Holy Spirit had not confirmed it!

The book of Job is in my opinion the book of the Bible which is the deeper to reveal the creation. Often the vast majority of Christians match this book with the theme of suffering. While suffering is really in the second background in this book. We have just to see that it is not question to assign one of any proof of suffering on the part of God on Job. In addition, today, the case of Job could not stand for reelection for several reasons.

First reason: satan was cast out of Heaven by the power of Jesus Christ.

Second reason: satan has lost all of his powers.

Thirdly: satan cannot force us to do anything whatsoever. He needs our consent to act in our lives, to believe in one of his lies, or make us accept not to use the power of the word of Jesus which is in us, to deal with another person who would might be led by satan or one of his demons.

Here are three reasons that make that today it is impossible for the Job history to happened again, and since grace is in force on Earth.

I hear so often Christians complain by saying: "The devil is attacking me and he does not let me go, I can't go on any more" or "satan sent me this or that disease".

These comments are stupid, and they only show the huge lack of knowledge and teaching in the majority of Christians. And as if this were not enough, many churches take up these kind of remarks in the teachings they provide. Saying that since Jesus died on the cross, satan has the power to send us such or such disease or, the power to create such or such situation in our lives are precisely some satanic thoughts.

The Apostle Peter did not hesitate, to say what he thought of some teachings in some of the churches of his time. He called them "of assemblies of satan".

Don't get me wrong, I'm not against the churches. But I am so sad to hear that some of the teachings that are given sometimes. In a General manner, in what I have seen in different countries, most of the time the result of these false teachings whatever they may be, pushes Christians to a dependency towards the pastors, or towards their brothers and sisters.

It's totally unbiblical.

When I go through the new birth, growing up in the true knowledge leads me to what I call the spiritual autonomy. But I note that it is for most of the time just the opposite. As soon as there is a serious problem in a family, the first instinct is to take our phone to form what they call a pray chain, this is ridiculous. I am not against asking brothers and sisters to help me if I'm going through a difficult time where I can't renew my soul enough to take authority over such a situation with my family or myself. I don't speak a case such as that I have just described, but Christians who have barely finished praying for a situation, take their phone to ask another person to pray also.

This reaction is stupid.

Let's take a moment to analyze it...

If I just pray with authority for a situation, I have used the faith that is in me, I have ordered with the word, which is also in me.

But when then I take my phone to call a Christian and tell him: "you know it happens this and that, it's really terrible, oh what a trial, please inform most people as possible so that the maximum of people can pray for this", this kind of telephone conversation just cancels the faith which I have shown a few minutes earlier while praying at my home.

If I feel the need to call several others to the rescue, it is that I'm not sure of me or of my spiritual authority; and if I'm not sure about me when I pray, do not I expect to receive anything from God.

Without faith nothing happens.

I do not want to dwell on too much, because this is not our topic today (for more details, see my named study *manage all my being with my spirit*).

The book of Job tells us a lot about the creation:

- The weather phenomena
- The so-called prehistoric men (who are not so)
- Dinosaurs

And many other things that can be read in this book.

I will take two examples without us to depart from our subject who is the character of God, and that, in my opinion, raise questions that still remain unanswered today.

The answer to these questions will make it possible to see that the Bible is true, that it is not at odds with the truth, but will also allow us to see that God is perfect, even more than what we could imagine.

***Job: 30: 3-8 :** (NKJV) They are gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste, Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots for their food. They were driven out from among men, They shouted at them as at a thief. They had to live in the clefts of the valleys, In caves of the earth and the rocks. Among the bushes they brayed, Under the nettles they nestled. They were sons of fools, Yes, sons of vile men; They were scourged from the land*

Following the event that happened at the Tower of Babel, where God divided the languages, some of the human beings were really possessed of demons because of their life choices. People had more or less followed the advice of Nimrod, but also those of satan, who had spared no efforts to introduce pernicious thoughts in the mind of the people at this time.

There is a very important fact: before the coming of Jesus on Earth, it was impossible to get rid of a demons if one was demon possessed. One who was possessed by demons remained, most of the time. satan had at that time all his powers and humans did not have the authority of the word of God. No escape was therefore possible.

When God dispersed the men, some humans were really associated with satan, probably in part through the influence of Nimrod. They continued to live according to what the demons that were attached to them influenced to do. This is important information on the intentions of satan in our regard. These families formed a tribe, then several tribes. The demonic spirits led them to live in dark caves. Quickly these tribes fell into a mode of animal life, losing all intelligence and any language.

This is what satan wants: to lose all their human dignity and bring people to an animal State, to be even no more aware of the existence of God.

Unable to find a good food, they ate roots. They were fierce and defenseless. Living in natural caves, their thoughts were reduced to a simple instinctive expression, without feelings.

God has therefore planned to inform us about these tribes known today as prehistoric, but which are not prehistoric. These peoples lived well in the time of Job.

It is very important to be able to answer the questions that we ask ourselves, especially those relating to God our father. This gives us additional insurance, a balance when we are going to speak on the subject of the Bible. We cannot know all about the character of God, but we can make great moves forward, because He has put at our disposal a large number of information contained in His word.

- The more I know God, the more I'll understand His love for me
- The more I know God, the more I will be able to recognize a demonic lie
- The more I know God, the more I will love him
- The more I know God, the less I will sin
- The more I know God, the more I will want to know Him more
- The more I know God, the more I will exercise the authority of his word in me

**Job 40: 15-24 :** *(amp) Behold now the behemoth (the hippopotamus), which I created as I did you; he eats grass like an ox. See now, his strength is in his loins, and his power is in the sinews of his belly. He moves his tail like a cedar tree; the tendons of his thighs are twisted together [like a rope]. His bones are like tubes of bronze; his limbs [or ribs] are like bars of iron. [The hippopotamus] is the first [in magnitude and power] of the works of God [in animal life]; [only] He Who made him provides him with his [swordlike tusks, or only God Who made him can bring near His sword to master him]. Surely the mountains bring him food, where all the wild animals play. He lies under the lotus trees, in the covert of the reeds in the marsh. The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows of the brook compass him about. Behold, if a river is violent and overflows, he does not tremble; he is confident, though the Jordan [River] swells and rushes against his mouth. Can any take him when he is on the watch, or pierce through his nose with a snare?*

This passage of Job is in my opinion one of the passages that shows how it is important to read several translations when we are studying the Bible.

I have often heard of the hippopotamus in Job, but most of the time it was the same comment: *“you know at this time hippopotamus weres much larger than those that exist today!”*.

What a mistake!

The most faithful translation for this word *hippopotamus* is the French "Parole de Vie" which translated by *“The large water animal”*.

Other translations translated by the word "*Behemoth*".

Just look at with a Strong concordance the word *“hippopotamus”*.

**Strong 0930 (be-hay-moth):** *1) perhaps an extinct dinosaur*

*1a) A Diplodocus or Brachiosaurus, exact meaning unknown*

*(2) A translation by hippopotamus seems not correct...(French strong)*

One thing is for sure, it wasn't one of our hippos of the 2000s. When looking at the description made by God himself, we learn very interesting details. God said that it was he who created it; the animal is herbivorous, but with an enormous power.

In verse 19, God himself said that it is his masterpiece.

This animal represents all the power and force in the pure state. It is certain that he was several tens of meters. He was finding his food in the heights of the mountains. God said that He was the only one to be able to tame it, no man on Earth was capable of that. The water flow could be very strong, he did not move. Even if the Jordan River was rushing into his mouth he would absolutely not waver or move.

What is the animal that could afford such power if not one of the huge dinosaurs?

Let us remember that it is God himself who makes the description, there was therefore no exaggeration, and everything is pure truth.

**Job 41: 1-34:** *(AMP) Can you draw out the leviathan (the crocodile) with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope into his nose? Or pierce his jaw through with a hook or a spike? Will he make many supplications to you [begging to be spared]? Will he speak soft words to you [to coax you to treat him kindly]? Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? Will you play with [the crocodile] as with a bird? Or will you put him on a leash for your maidens? Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? Can you fill his skin with harpoons?*

*Or his head with fishing spears? Lay your hand upon him! Remember your battle with him; you will not do [such an ill-advised thing] again! Behold, the hope of [his assailant] is disappointed; one is cast down even at the sight of him! No one is so fierce [and foolhardy] that he dares to stir up [the crocodile]; who then is he who can stand before Me [the beast's Creator, or dares to contend with Me]? Who has first given to Me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heavens is Mine. [Therefore, who can have a claim against God, God Who made the unmastered crocodile?] I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, nor his mighty strength, nor his goodly frame. Who can strip off [the crocodile's] outer garment? [Who can penetrate his double coat of mail?] Who shall come within his jaws? Who can open the doors of his [lipless] mouth? His [extended jaws and bare] teeth are terrible round about. His scales are [the crocodile's] pride, [for his back is made of rows of shields] shut up together [as with] a tight seal; One is so near to another that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another; they stick together so that they cannot be separated. His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the [reddish] eyelids of the dawn. Out of his mouth go burning torches, [and] sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goes forth smoke, as out of a seething pot over a fire of rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes forth from his mouth. In [the crocodile's] neck abides strength, and terror dances before him. The folds of his flesh cleave together; they are firm upon him, and they cannot shake [when he moves]. His heart is as firm as a stone, indeed, as solid as a nether millstone. When [the crocodile] raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of terror and the crashing they are beside themselves. Even if one strikes at him with the sword, it cannot get any hold, nor does the spear, the dart, or the javelin. He counts iron as straw and bronze as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make [the crocodile] flee; slingstones are treated by him as stubble. Clubs [also] are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rushing and the rattling of the javelin. His underparts are like sharp pieces of broken pottery; he spreads [grooves like] a threshing sledge upon the mire. He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a [foaming] pot of ointment. [His swift darting] makes a shining track behind him; one would think the deep to be hoary [with foam]. Upon earth there is not [the crocodile's] equal, a creature made without fear and he behaves fearlessly. He looks all mighty [beasts of prey] in the face [without terror]; he is monarch over all the sons of pride. [And now, Job, who are you who dares not arouse the unmastered crocodile, yet who dares resist Me, the beast's Creator, to My face? Everything under the heavens is Mine; therefore, who can have a claim against God?]*



Same conclusion here also as regards the translation of the Hebrew word with the word "*crocodile*". This translation is not suitable at all. It is still the word of life translation which is the most faithful to the original text in this verse.

If one takes the Strong reference, it gives this:

***French Strong 03882 (Liv-yaw-thawn)***

*Leviathan = "wound in a spiral.*

*(1) Leviathan, marine Monster, dragon*

*1A) large aquatic animal*

*1 b) perhaps plesiosaurus (dinosaur); exact meaning unknown*

We realize that this *crocodile* has nothing to do at all with the greatest and the biggest crocodiles that can be found on Earth. Here in Australia, but also in the Philippines, there are the one that Australians call the "salties". They are called by this name, because they live in salt water most of the time, sometimes even found up to 50 km from the coast. They can be up to 6 m and weigh more than a ton.

But even this crocodile has nothing to do with the Leviathan of the book of Job. It was an animal known from all, because we see Job talking in the 3rd chapter verse 8 when he says some men who wanted to arouse this great dragon, Leviathan.

As for the behemoth, its description is gigantic. It shows a huge animal. God says that if one tries to attack him, they will not try once more. God is described it as a beautiful animal and powerful no one cannot open his mouth. It has large scales that form as a huge shield on his body. It is comparable to a dragon that can be imagined. What is certain, is that it is an aquatic animal. Flames come out of his mouth and smoke from its nostrils. It is capable of Relighting with charcoal to boil water from the river or the sea. He feared nobody.

Here is a proof of what we could be called dragons.

These huge animals that launch fire well existed.

They were not like the ones we can see in the movies, but this animal is a creature of God that has existed in the form described in this chapter of the book of Job.

There are some teachings that say that God simply wanted to give pictures of these animals, but they have never existed.

These theories are completely absurd, they just diminish the person of God.

There is no question of metaphors in descriptions that God made to Job of these animals. God give even examples of everyday life at this time, several examples even when he talks about men who are trying to defy the Leviathan, and also the Behemoth that goes on the mountains take his food and lie down in the reeds, and many other examples.

All this is real, and are not just symbols.

Symbols and images are used in the bible most of the time when it comes to prophecies or poems, such as the Psalms, the Song of Songs.

But the descriptions of God in the book of Job are not poetic. Because in this case we would also have to say that the wounds which Job had were also poetic.

These taught theories are just thoughts developed by satan or one of his demons, so that men doubt the truth of the Bible. People who fall into that kind of trap have a great lack of knowledge unfortunately and would do well to meditate with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This kind of thinking is very subtle, because we could say: "after all, this is not very serious.

Rightly put it is very serious.

This is the trap of this kind of false thought: it is believed that they are not so bad after all.

Which is entirely untrue.

If I think that certain passages in the Bible are not real, then it will prevent to me to be assured that the power of the word of God is in me and that I can use it whenever I wish.

This will prevent me from thinking that God loves me no matter what I do, no matter what I say, and that His love does not change for me.

We could easily further extend this list.

There are so many thoughts of this kind taught voluntarily or not... but the fact is that they are taught.

That is why my fight will always be to spread and teach the true Gospel, and nothing else, push Christians to study, understand and move forward in knowledge.

I remember one morning, while we were in Australia for a little less than a year, we went into a small church that our younger son particularly appreciated because of its Sunday school.

This day the assistant Pastor taught on acts 6: 1-5. In this passage we find a church with mainly two types of people. One side of the Jews of Jerusalem and on the other side the Hellenists, who were Jews who had adopted the language, because they were born in a Greek speaking countries. From time to time there were unfortunately some friction between these two types of people. One day the Hellenists come to complain by saying that their widows received much less food than other widows. In other words, they complained that there was favoritism and that the distributions were not fair at all. Until then the teaching was good.

But the assistant Pastor began to develop a theory.

He said that it was a proven fact: the Apostles had well demonstrated favoritism towards certain widows of this community. Then he said that he did not know if they did it intentionally or not, but in any case, it was sure, the Apostles had demonstrated favouritism.

I was struggling to remain calm on my chair. I told myself: "how can he say such a thing?"

Then he continued by saying that even the pastors today make errors of judgment, and in any case, at the end of this passage in the book of acts, we see that the number of Christians increased and occurs miracles (V7-8). He concluded by saying that after all it was not a bad thing that if pastors make mistakes and that anyway it always ends up by the positive, because God always blesses.

What madness!

On returning home that day there, I said to my wife: "have you noticed anything weird in the teaching this morning, when he spoke of the Apostles who were showing favoritism? "

She told me: "Yes, I found it really bizarre".

I would say that bizarre was not really the word, but it was simply wrong.

Then we spoke about it and I told her that unfortunately he did not notice of the scope of this grossness. It is true that pastors are erring voluntary or not, but in this case in acts 6, it was a lie. This is not because the Hellenists said that that it was true and proven. On the contrary, there was friction between these two "clans", and when some came to see the Apostles to report to them with this lie, what was the reaction of the Apostles?

Did they come in saying: « *forgive us my brothers and sisters; yes it's true we have shown favouritism.* " *But now we will stop to serve at the tables in this way we will have no more the opportunity to so it again. However choose to replace*

*us brothers of good reputation here where we have failed, and we, we'll focus on the word of God in order to properly teach you ».*

Can you imagine such dialogue?

It is of course totally irrational.

In fact everything was lies and the Apostles knew it very well, because it was themselves who served at the tables.

*But before this remark, they are surely said: "This attitude is not in phase with born again Christians, it is necessary that the friction stopped, because now they are lies against each other. This is what we will do now, asked the brothers to choose for us seven men of good reputation filled with the Holy Spirit, so that they will replacing us to serve at the tables. This will make free time for us to pray more and study the word so we can teach them more deeply in order for this to happen no more ».*

This is a clear example that will greatly decrease the influence of the Apostles in the spirit of people. First some will be able to tell themselves "Oh if the Apostles were showing some favoritism then and the Church has grown, then I can do it too from time to time

Today many churches stagnate, year after year they almost always have the same number of Christians. Fortunately others are progressing at great speed. But those who find themselves in a church that doesn't grow for several years are going to say "I can do the same, because the Church will grow anyway".

But more than anything, it is the vision on the Apostles that could change in the thinking of the people who heard this teaching.

How are they going to take the writings of the books of Matthew, Mark, John, Luke, Peter, when they will read them if they know that these people have at one time demonstrated favoritism.

Do you see how these kind of mistakes can almost go unnoticed, but it can generate some thoughts that are going to prevent me from having a confident attitude and place seeds of doubt when I read the writings of the Apostles?

All these thoughts added one to the other helps facilitate satan's plans in moving forward in his plan of destruction. Even if we know that he will not win this battle against God, he will win however many people to him.

In regard to born again Christians we know that they cannot lose their salvation in Jesus Christ, but one thing is certain, it is that their walk in the everyday life is going to be very slow. This is not what God wants for us.

I would like to take this moment to provide some reasoning.

I often speak of teachings which are false, as well as some Christians who have lack of knowledge and the negatives consequences of it, and also churches that don't move forward more or less. I have nothing against these people, I'm just very sad to see all this. Of course I love them despite this kind of behaviour. If I say these things, it is to warn through genuine concern for to show the lack of knowledge of the word of God is harmful. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ, this is for them and others that I write these studies. So, if you feel yourself as though you are being a "target" of one of my studies, please know that I love you, because God loves you and that I have nothing against you. How could I afford not to love you, if God, loves you whatever happens...

Let's continue our journey through the Bible to explain certain passages which may be difficult to understand, and that above all will enable us to better know God in His real character.

A character has marked his time and even our time today, known as the father of faith. He is the one who opened this intimate passage toward God, because he has not hesitated to believe without doubt.

You've recognized him, it is Abraham of course.

We will see that Abraham did not always follow the recommendations of God. Yet Abraham has never ceased to be blessed by God in his daily life.

We are in a time where God's law has not yet been given to men. Therefore, there is no repression or punishment of sin. Men know of course that the evil exist, but they have not totally grasped the deep vision of good and evil. At that time, humans were acting and repented mainly according to their consciences (for more details about repentance, see my study named *repentance*).

God continues His plan of salvation for men.

Despite many attempts by satan to erase this perfect plan, satan remains in check.

God is seeking a man to reveal himself deeply to him and start a relationship as a father with His child. God seeks a man who will not have trouble to testify Him his trust, a man who express his faith.

Everyone knows that Abraham was called Abram at first. God has called him Abraham about 20 years after he revealed Himself to him.

During these twenty years, many interesting things have happened.

One day God spoke to Abram. He was married to Sarai his wife for about 40 years.

**Genesis 12: 1-3** *Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

God asks him to leave the country where he lives, but also his parents, and thus, leave the sphere of authority of his father. That is no longer to be under the influence of his fleshly father. This is not something new, because God had already foreseen the things as well for all humans in:

**Genesis 2: 24** : *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

Things start poorly, as Abram left his country certainly, but not really in the form where God asks him.

Let's look at this passage where Abram is leaving.

**Genesis 11: 31** *And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.*

It is a bit disturbing, because in this verse is in the bible, before the one where God calls Abram. The Bible reveals to us in advance the departure of Abram and his family. It is easy to see that it is Terah, the father of Abram, who took things in hand. Abram is therefore not left alone as requested by God. Is it that his father had too much influence on him? Or maybe Abram feared to go alone with his wife? The Bible does not say.

Try to keep this fact in memory, as we will discuss it again a little later. Another passage shows us that the family of Abram was rich and prosperous when they lived in Chaldea.

**Genesis 12: 4-5** : *So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.*

We learn now that in addition to his parents, there was with Abram, his nephew Lot, and of course all his servants and his cattle with him. Abram apparently did not have the right tactics. But did God reprimand him? Quite the contrary. Abram now came to the land of Canaan in a place called Shechem. Let's look at what happens upon his arrival.

**Genesis 12: 7** *And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.*

Is that God told him: "*Abram, you have not listened to me! You are not left alone with your wife as I told you. I won't be able to do much with you*".

No not at all!

God does not blame him, no admonition and not imposes no sanction. However Abram did not really follow the instructions exactly as God said.

Always keep these important facts in memory.

Let's move forward in the journey of Abram.

A little later, they start running out of food, a famine settled in Canaan. Abram took the decision to go to Egypt to find food. Abram's wife obviously was very pretty. A thought came to Abram: "*my wife is very beautiful, she is so beautiful when we will enter in Egypt, I may get killed by an Egyptian. Or if one of the relatives of the Pharaoh came to desire my wife, he could kill me to have her for him*".

So this thought grew and developed into the head of Abram to generate a lie.

**Genesis 12: 13**: *Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.*

Then, the next part of verse 13 shows us that Sarai is taken to Pharaoh. Pharaoh gave lavish presents to Abram, sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants, maids, the donkeys, camels, gold and money.

Now let's take the approach of Abram when God spoke to him for the first time.

He does not leave him alone, but with his parents who will die of old age shortly afterwards, but also with his nephew Lot and his family, his flocks and his servants.

Then Abram arrived in Egypt to find some food. He prefers to take the risk to offer his wife to anyone, in order to be sure that nobody does take his life because his wife was very attractive.

Did God put any blame or criticism upon him?

No.

So, does that mean that I can do anything and that God will always agree with what I choose to do?

Not at all.

God told Abram, I will bless you. God does not repent from His blessings. God does not change. Not only did Abram received no sanction for his choices, but he came out from Egypt with some food to eat, enough to live richly, enough to be free from any needs for all his life. He was now at the head of huge herds, of slaves, of gold and silver.

On the other hand, there were consequences following the choices he has made. God had been obliged to intervene.

Try to think about what would have happened if God had not sent the sores on the Egypt land?

Abram would have probably lost his wife, because she would have remained in Pharaoh's house, even left alone in Canaan.

And the plan of salvation of God, what would it become?

So what is the lesson of this story that we could apply today in the grace period?

When God speaks to me and asks me something, if I choose to not do exactly what He said, there will be necessarily collateral damage and loss of time. God does not change His love for me will not change despite my errors, but if I make bad choices following the instructions He gives me, I will suffer or I will hurt other people. Do you think that Sarai did not suffer? Do you think that the Egyptians have not suffered by receiving the wounds of God?

God had no choice, so He sent sores on the Egypt to arrest Pharaoh. The magicians of Egypt had to be called to ask them: « *but what happens here?* " I think that God has revealed Himself in one way or another to make them understand that Sarai was the problem, she was in fact already Abram's wife.



I think that Pharaoh would not have been bothered at all to take the wife of someone else, as long as she is to his liking. But God had to make him understand that wounds would not cease until Sarai would not return to her husband Abram. This is so for fear that Pharaoh gave still more presents to Abram when he returned home.

Understand that this is not like this that God had planned things. He had to change what He had planned. But in no way, God has made reproaches to Abram.

Why?

Well because it was the responsibility of Abram, it was his choice and it was he who suffered (with others) the consequences of it.

Understand that often, God leaves us free of our choices, but this does not mean that He approves of them. It is for this reason that we must be vigilant in our lives, be careful before taking such or such choice, think about it, ask the Holy Spirit to guide us.

God is sometimes even forced to change "the deal" because of us. This is what He did for Abram. It is obvious that God had not intended to send sores on the Egypt land, and did not do it from pleasure of His heart. It was either the wound for a short time, or the plan of salvation will not come to pass.

We could imagine other consequences and to ask ourselves questions for the follow-up.

Is the fact that Abram has contributed significantly to what his wife end up in the arms of Pharaoh would not have affected the decision of Sarai to ask her husband to have a child with her maid Hagar? (**Genesis 16: 1**) I do not say that there was in Sarai a form of grudge or anger towards her husband, not at all. But it is possible that in the same way that it appeared normal Abram to let go his wife with any Egyptian to save his life (which has not be proven to be in danger elsewhere), in this same way, Sarai found so normal that her husband could go with her maid. We know that this error of Sarai and Abram has generated the greatest conflict of all time and still lasts nowadays, between Jews and Muslims.

Here again, God did not criticise them, even if this is not what He had planned. Even when Abram became Abraham, he continued to act, making the same bad choices, and Sarah also.

**Genesis 20: 1-6** : *And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And*

*Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.*

This time, it was very clear that Abraham and Sarah had agreed on this way of acting, as she also said: "Yes it is my brother." This kind of thinking has had the effect that a child was born of the relationship between Hagar and Abraham, with all the consequences that we know. Abraham and Sarah have behaved badly, but God did not change toward them.

***Genesis 13: 2*** : *And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

Stop for a moment and think about what would be your attitude towards God if, in the past few weeks, you had:

- Sent your wife in the arms of another because you feel yourself in danger.
- Lied about your marriage by saying "this is not my wife".

How would you feel before God?

Will you still have the same intimacy with Him?

Would you still want to pray as before?

Would you still speak to Him without any restraint?

What do you think that Abram did when he arrived at his home?

***Genesis 13: 3-4*** : *And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: **and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.***

He went to pray, just as if nothing had happened.

Did Abram say he became aware of his actions? The Bible does not, but what is sure is that it is written nowhere that God changed His attitude to Abram.

What can we say from that?

Today when I sin, God does not agree, but if I sin it is ridiculous to change my way to speak to God. These thoughts are inspired by demonic spirits who wish that you may lose your relationship with your father in heaven.

You see, God is not like us, He does not react as a human being. He is perfect, He does not change. Even if He does not agree with our choice, He loves us no matter what happens.

Most of the time when a person changes its type of relationship with God due to an error, it is only because he does not forgive himself and he thinks that God acts similarly.

If there is one thing that you must not forget from this study, is that God loves you, even if He does not approve your choices, He will let you know it through the Holy Spirit, but always with the same love.

In this regard, I often heard some spiritual gifts in churches that were totally false.

Most of the time people who give them are very "influenced" in their everyday lives by the law given to Moses, and they think that everything is still like that today. "If you don't do this, I'm going to do this, or if you will not repent, I will send this or that thing in your life".

This kind of words has nothing to do under the grace.

If God had to insert judgments in our lives every time we did not ask for forgiveness, our lives would be impossible (for more details on this topic, see my study named *the new birth*).

Lot has lost more than half of his family because of his bad choice when he went with Abram, and when he decided to go and live in Sodom (**Gen. 13: 12**). When he made his choice to go to the Green Plains of the Jordan, we can see clearly that the attitude of Lot was carnal. He opted for what his physical eyes saw. He could stay home and live a happy life until the end of his days.

Watch the love of God:

**Genesis 19: 1** : *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;*

God could have said "*after all, Lot has made his choice, he listens to nothing I tell him. I'll leave him to fend for himself*".

No, God does not react like this.

On the contrary, He sends two angels to save Lot and his family.

Do you think that God had approved that some of the daughters of Lot choose to marry men of Sodom?

What kind of life do you think that the daughters and sons-in-law of Lot had?

Surely not very balanced. But God has always loved Lot.

**Genesis 19: 16** : *And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.*

Lot did not want to leave.

What foolishness from Lot!

It has that some angels had to grab him by the hand and forced him to get out of Sodom.

Even if Lot was stupid at the point of wanting to stay and be destroyed in Sodom, God showed him His love and to his family. It has to absolutely eliminate everything that could, in the long term, contaminate the soul of the people.

Indeed, more evil and perversion abounded, less there was chance that Jesus could be born from a virgin girl. All this in a world that would soon receive the law of God by Moses to give life to sin, and then receive the Messiah born of a virgin girl. This perspective would have been almost impossible to achieve.

Other collateral damage due to the attitude of Lot was the birth of his sons by incest with each of his two daughters. This shows us the level of perverted vision of life they had, surely because of years lived in Sodom.

Two boys were born, Moab and Ben-Ammi. Moab is the father of the Moabites who have for long time been the enemies and at war with Israel, and same thing for Ben-Ammi who was the father of the Ammonites.

So many dead, battles and suffering just because of a bad choice on the part of Lot.

Often people are struggling to evaluate their choices in the long term. Yet, it is essential.

I still learn yet very regularly. I do not have the pretention to say that I understand all of the character of God. I am far from arriving at all, of having integrated all into my everyday life, but in any case I am on the way. Often I try before taking an important decision, to evaluate the scope of my choice in a year, 10 years, or thirty years' time.

The Holy Spirit is a precious help for this. Ask Him regularly to help you see further more. We do not have all the same results on this point, but one thing is sure, with the team that each one of born again person do with the Holy Spirit, we are all able to get there.

We will take a final event of the life of Abraham.

**Genesis 22: 1-2 :** (NKJV) *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

We will not go into the details of the text, but simply focus on: "why God asks this to Abraham?"

We know that Abraham went to the end of what God asked to him, and that God has prevented it at the last moment.

But then what was it used for?

It is obvious that God knew that Abraham would go to the end. It is also obvious that God knew the faith that Abraham had. But Abraham did not know it. He did not know what the faith which was in him could push him to do, how far this faith would go. God knew that Abraham would need to know this. It was now a known thing, Abraham had a clear vision on his capabilities. He now also knew that God is almighty and that He is love, not a creator who wishes death by sacrifice of his creatures.

We will now take a step for several hundreds of years forward to arrive in Egypt about 1600 years BC.

Let's remember the context.

Joseph arrived to Egypt several years ago. His family joined him, they were very successful. Then Joseph died.

God's plan wasn't that Joseph and his brothers remain in Egypt.

The word given to Abraham was still in effect for today. God had planned to give to Abraham and all his descendants the land of Canaan, and not the Egypt. But the descendants of Joseph and his brothers remained there and the years passing, life has become increasingly hard for them. They have gone from a prosperous State in a slave State.

This was not what God had planned for them, there were other much better things waiting for them.

It's always the same goal that God pursues: bring a solution of salvation for all human beings on Earth.

There was the need to get this people out of Egypt.

***Exodus 1: 13-14*** : *And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.*

Life was hard and things were well away from what God promised to Abraham. But God leaves the choice to these men as long as possible. They could very well get out and flee from Egypt before total slavery arrived, while they still had the freedom to do it.

Some were entered into a routine of life, have assets that they did not want to leave, etc. It came to the point that God had to intervene.

And satan did not stay inactive: the people who should receive God's law had been reduced to slavery.

It was just enough for satan to make sure they can never get out of Egypt, because he had put in Pharaoh's mind to kill all the Hebrew males.

As often for him, the party was almost won! He just had to wait. It was only a matter of a few decades and it was soon finished out for the Hebrews. This is why God had to act quickly. If the Hebrews would have remained in their passivity, that will be soon the end for this people.

Very often the tactics of the devil are to move so very slowly and with subtlety in his schemes of destruction, that without the help of the Holy Spirit, it is virtually impossible to notice it.

The Hebrews had not realized anything, they were not aware of what was happening to them in the background.

I cannot emphasise enough that it is the knowledge of God and His word which allows us to not be taken and used as pawns by satan and his demons.

***Exodus 2: 5 :*** *And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.*

Moses was born. The one who would set the Hebrew people free was there. Most people know the story of his childhood so we are not going to go on too much on it.

Moses had to learn, because when God called him, but he was not ready at all. The murder of the Egyptian soldier proves it. So, God arranged that Moses lived away from the Egypt and have a job that will give him all the necessary time to meditate and focus on God.

***Exodus 3: 1 :*** *Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*

It was not as punishment for killing an Egyptian that Moses had to go and live in the land of Midian.

Not at all.

Moses needed to learn, to change his priorities, to change his way of thinking. It took time, but the essential personal developments were filled, because Moses the leader who would bring the Hebrews out of Egypt was training by the Holy Spirit.

***Exodus 3: 2 :*** *And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

And what training!

God is good, He continues His plan of love with Moses, and that still allows us today to access to eternal life with Him. For how much longer? No one on Earth knows it.

But Pharaoh didn't want to lose low cost labor from them leaving his country all Hebrews.

***Exodus 6: 1 :*** *Then the Lord said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.*

It took that God had to send ten plagues on the Egypt for Pharaoh to agree to let them go. This passage often contrasts with the one where we see that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he goes to pursuit the Hebrews.

I've long wondered: "but why is God acting that way? "

We can have the impression that God got had what he wanted, Pharaoh agreed to let them go. So, why add more it? It is one of the aspects, with the time of the law, where often Christians have a false view of the character of God. We see God as someone hard that adds a bit more fear and suffering to the Hebrews by sending Pharaoh on their heels.

But this is unfounded.

***Exodus 14: 3-6** : For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord. And they did so. And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:*

It is the opposite, it is still to help the Hebrews!

After 430 years in Egypt made of freedom and then slavery, it is to get them into the promise made to Abraham that God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

They were gone for several days now. The progress must be very slow because of the six hundred thousand men, plus women and children, but also of the herds that were with them.

The purpose of God speaking through his representative was twofold by sending Pharaoh on the heels of the Hebrews. There was a need to resolve two problems that would have happened sooner or later.

- It was quite possible (and this is what happened) that the Hebrews had no more the desire to move forward after a while, while they were only at two or three days walk from the Egypt. The temptation for some of them was great to make a U turn. **Exodus 14: 12** : *Is this not there what say you in Egypt: let us serve the Egyptians, because we like better serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness?*
- God's people needed to see the power and the glory of God. Moses, knew God, he knew He was all powerful. But the Hebrews did not know



it. They needed to experience it in order to increase their faith. They needed to see the glory of God... and God would show it to them.

**Exodus 14: 21** : *And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.*

Often wrongly we believe that Moses raised his hand over the sea, and that it cracked into two parts immediately. This is not quite what happened.

Let's look more carefully.

It took a full night for the sea split into two parts. This night must have been nerve-wracking for the Hebrews who had no faith in God. Towards the end of the day, they realize that the Egyptians were on their heels. This is total panic for the most of them cried "Moses, we want to go back, we are all going to die..." Then Moses extends his hand over the sea, a strong wind rises, and nothing.

Still nothing!

The wind blew all night and the next morning only the sea was split in two parts.

Everything is not instant when God's Word is pronounced. Sometimes things run immediately, but other times it is a process that is switched on and that must run in its entirety before you see the fruit.

It is very important information to assimilate.

I remember when I was a young Christian, how many times I said to myself: *"nothing is happening, it didn't work this time!* With this kind of words, I canceled the little faith that I had activated in me, and of course I saw nothing happen.

When Jesus healed people, sometimes the healing happened immediately, but other times it is written "and in the selfsame hour he was healed". I did not fully understand this phenomenon, and I therefore could not yet explain it without risking to say something stupid.

There are many parameters involved sometimes.

I think about a 3-year-old boy who was covered with eczema, when his father heard the Holy Spirit say: *"it is necessary that you pray so that his heart and his blood circulatory system work properly"*. The process of healing begun immediately, but it took about a week for all the eczema to disappear.

We are now entering in the most controversial part of the expression of love of God for human beings. This is the period of the law given to Moses. So far, and since the fall of Adam and Eve, Sin had not really come to live life or been revealed.

The Apostle Paul says in:

**Romans 3:20:** *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Without the law there's no sin.

Why the law is then coming?

It is Paul who gives to us once more the answer.

**Romans 4: 15 :** *Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.*

In the past years, God was revealed to men starting with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. From Jacob are outputs the twelve tribes of Israel. Now that this people were formed, the plan of salvation of God continued to move forward despite the satanic attempts to make it fail.

There was the need now to show people what was really good and evil. Their conception was totally distorted. God had to show them that they were not always doing well.

We had often thought that the law was only about the Ten Commandments. It is true it is what God gave to Moses, and they summarize all the attitudes that one need to adopt in the standard of the holiness of God.

The entire book of Leviticus shows the details of the law applied to the way of life of the Hebrews at this time. There was therefore a whole list of things to do or not to do as the case may be.

As also said Paul to us, the Ten Commandments are summarised up into one.

**Romans 13: 9 :** *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

That therefore means this verse?

Simply that all orders, all the “*you will do, or you'll not do*”, are summarized in one thing: “*love your neighbor as yourself*”. God did just that detail things by giving all these precepts in the law.

It is in this period that everything often gets complicated.

We can have the impression that we pass from a God so loving and patient, to someone hard, attached to a set of regulations without any feeling. Who has never thought this way?

I think that we can all find ourselves at one time or another in our lives with such thoughts.

There are several reactions to this.

Some will not seek to understand and will avoid thinking about it, even to talk about it. This is what I would call “head in the sand” Christians or Ostrich Christians.

Others will try to mix this inapplicable “regulation” for a human, to the period of grace in which they live. This gives a ridiculous mixture that will prevent them from knowing God's love for them, and therefore prevent them from living an everyday Christian life peaceful, cheerful and powerful; because to them everything is done most of the time without any feeling, but rather only because it is written. Their motivation is “it is written, thus so we have to do it. And one is likely to see when talking with that kind of Christians that nothing much is happening spiritual life.

Oh yes, they will occasionally have a prayer answered and they will think it is because of their determination, their persistence in begging God.

But this is unfounded.

You see, God is our father, and because He loves us more than anything, more than Himself, from time to time when He sees that one of His children does not make it, well He comes to his rescue by acting. But these actions are exceptional. They must remain this way, on pain of seeing His children not growing, otherwise seeing His children remain in this state of baby dependency to their father. It is unfortunately mostly the case in the body of Christ. They think that because they have two or three prayers answered a year, they are in the right approach, and often they make their mediocrity of life going under the guise of the sovereignty of God coming to help them from time to time. This kind of thoughts is instructed by demonic spirits in the heart (here, the system of thought) of those who believe it.

Always remember that God loves you more than Himself.

We will find it in a few examples, even in this period of the old covenant.

We will not be able to take all of the examples, because it would be far too long. But I'll try to choose passages that may include more so that we understand the motivation of God, the character of God.

We have seen that the sacrifices and offerings was a practice already very known and widespread since Cain and Abel. This time, everything is written so that no one can change or misinterpret this law. Even though this law was impossible to apply in its entirety, each transgression had its solution by repentance (by change his way of thinking and acting) and sacrifices. God had planned everything, He had to give men the knowledge of this law to show them the true sense of good, and on the other hand, knowing that men did never reach it, He also provided the way to live in this law by the sacrifices. Let's look at what He says to Joshua when he takes his duties as leader of the people.

***Joshua 1: 5-8:*** *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Each time that the Hebrews were deported, caught in a blockading or lost a battle against those who wanted them trouble, it was because they were turning away from the advice that God had given them. But unfortunately, it is often that this people of Israel left away from the right way of thinking. Most of the time because of the same things: because they followed the style of life of their neighbors', by greed, by love for another person, through fear. These are only the main reasons. We can still find it today in the attitude of some people who miss or refuse what God offers them in His grace.

Let's look at some examples.

**2 Chronicles 7: 14** : *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**Zechariah 1: 4** : *Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.*

It is a fact, this people had found it very difficult to understand that God wanted their happiness. They were struggling to meet their faithfulness to God.

There are at least two important parameters in the period of the law. The first is the fact that the law given to Moses was a reflection of what was then happening in the sky.

On Earth there was:

- God who had put in place a plan of redemption for the humans and satan that took advantage of any opportunities to stop this plan.
- Humans beings with on one hand, the people that God had set apart to welcome the grace, and on the other hand, humans who did not want to follow God neither receive His love.

Anyone, during the period of the law, could if he wished be part of the people of Israel.

God is not racist, everyone had the opportunity to join this people and be part of them for lifetime with his family, and to take advantage of all that God offered his people. God also told them: "... then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Many times God had said to them: *...or a stranger that sojourneth among you: (Lev. 16: 29), ...Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him... (ex. 22: 21).*

Everyone should demonstrate goodness, fairness, honesty with each others, but also to foreigners. This is what God asked.

In a Word, love your neighbour as it is happening in the Heaven. Angels love each and the others, and all have a relationship of love towards God and God to them.

Likewise there was a temple there in the period of the law, the book of revelation shows us that there is also a temple in heaven (**Apo 11: 19** ).

On Earth in this period of the law, there were also those who had chosen to follow God and those who did not want to. However some Hebrews had chosen not to obey the law and eventually die, as fallen angels will eventually be destroyed. This is the case of Achan.

***Joshua 7: 21 :*** *When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.*

Achan had chosen the greed, the profit, rather than relying on the provision of God.

Under the law, such persons could no longer be part of the people of God. This seems extremely hard, as much as Achan, and all his family, wife and children, his cattle, his donkeys, his sheep were all stoned.

This period of the law would have absolutely take place to give life to sin, in order to accommodate the one who would remove the sin.

God absolutely had to keep a people that would trust Him, which would have the certitude that their creator loves them and would bless whatever happens.

The law however does not express any feelings, it just applies rules quite simply. And in the case of Achan and his family, of course that God took no pleasure in seeing apply this law which was in effect. The law not respected, God could no longer, according to this law, Act to bless, and protect the people so that they continued to keep their land. It is a difficult thing for us today, but to accept a similar consequence on Achan and his family, because we are not accustomed to, especially in the West, to some executions, apart from some States of America. We will see that Joshua will enlighten us on this point.

***Joshua 7: 2-5:*** *And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

Thirty-six men died for nothing. Because of one, it is all the people who suffered from the disobedience of Achan. Joshua wasted no time. As soon as he heard the news, he consulted God, because he understood that something was wrong.

***Joshua 7: 10-12 :*** *And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.*

Joshua had just spend a good part of the day to pray that God reveals to him why the people's soldiers had been killed in a battle that should have been so easily, won in advance. This is not what happened. This battle to win the land should really have been without pitfalls. But because Achan had not chosen to follow the law, keeping God as "his source of material provision", the blessing of God was removed from the people. It is the way of thinking of Achan as a whole that should be include in his gesture, because to get there, it is clear that this man did not consider God as his God.

One of the first effects of it has been a crushing defeat.

If Joshua had not reacted immediately, long term consequences would have been terrible. The Hebrew people would purely and simply have disappeared. Look what said Joshua in verses 8 and 9 of the same chapter.

***Joshua 7: 8-9 :*** *O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?*

The news would spread like wildfire: "the Hebrews are no more invincible, their God is no longer with them!" As Joshua here says to God, all the inhabitants of the surrounding areas would gather against and overwhelm the Hebrews and would have exterminated them. Elimination of the grace that was to follow the arrival of Jesus Christ. Achan, his descendants, and all that could have been thinking again about him had to be eliminated.

I do not think that God was pleased to have given the law to His people. On one hand, it was a good thing, because the people knew that it was an unavoidable step of His plan of salvation, but on the other hand, he knew that many would bear the brunt of it and that they would lose their lives. The fact that Achan had messed up, impacted all of the Hebrew people, because the law was so. For the misconduct of one member of the people, it is all the people who were nearly affected. They all lost the favor of God. By giving the law, God wanted things that way, because it was one of the facets of this law which absolutely had to be "active". It is as if all the people were just one, bearing a common responsibility before this law. This, perhaps, is the side that it would be the hardest to accept. But likewise, still under this law, when Jesus Christ was crucified by the action of one individual (Jesus), it is the entire mankind that could, and who can still enjoy life today without sin because of Jesus Christ. By the action of Jesus and His willing sacrifice on the cross, for more than two thousand years now, everyone on Earth has the opportunity to access a life blessed by God. A life where God became my father, with projects of happiness for my life here on Earth, a life where I lack nothing, where I am in good health, and where I will live for eternity with Him after my physical death. The counterpart is more than beneficial, even if the period of the law has been hard sometimes. But as I often say, God doesn't know how to do other than "perfect", if things are so it is because nothing could be better.

I thought and thought again to all this for years, trying to get back the problem in every way in my condition of a small human being. Of course, I did not claim to find another solution and say to God: "*you shouldn't have done like that, it was not the right way to do*". Then I adopted this principle that if God had chosen such a plan (which featured to reveal Himself, then give the law, then sin to take life and then offer a solution of free redemption), it is that there's was nothing better.

I'll give you a very valuable technique".

Whenever I do not understand a word or a divine attitude in the Bible, I assume always that God loves me unconditionally and that whatever thoughts that come to me, it is this parameter that must always be respected without any exception.

But as I am not always able to "capture" the good thoughts coming from the Holy Spirit to teach me, I must say that this trick evades me often still today to build up totally wacky theories.



Achan was part of the people of God, but he preferred not to trust in God. Likewise, others who were not part of the people of God have been integrated to it, because they have made the request. Anyone who wanted to be part of the people of God and accepted the law was welcomed into the family of God.

This was the case of Ruth.

Ruth was widowed, her mother-in-law Naomi was also. Naomi wanted to return to her country, she told Ruth to return to her country of origin, the country of Moab.

***Ruth 1: 16***: *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

It is clear in the writings of the Bible that Ruth had decided that the Lord would be her God, that God's people would also be her people. She wanted to adopt it, be part of it. God has never refused such a thing.

You can re-read the book of Ruth and see what she has become, how God has blessed her despite the fact that she was not part of the people of God originally, but the people of the Moabites, who were still at war with the people of God.

So, it is a well-established fact. God was always the same, any human being who wanted to be part of His chosen people could do it without any restriction and receive also subsequently, the grace through Jesus Christ, descendant of this chosen people. It was only enough to desire it, by adopting the law of God.

Here is an example of what God had planned to do in all cases, when other people were going to stand up against the Israelites.

We find this example in the book of Joshua when they had to take the city of Jericho.

It is important to note that here too, any inhabitant of Jericho could have a saved life as was the case with Rahab and her family.

***Joshua 2: 8-10***: *And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the*

*two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.*

The battle was to take place, but the part was already won in advance. The opposing camp was already in terror, because they had heard of what God had already done.

It is in this way that God has always planned things. Unfortunately the Israelites did not always follow the precepts that God gave to them. They have suffered large losses because of it, but also major deportations and even some years of slavery.

As we said earlier, this is like a mirror of what happens in the sky.

Also here, we find satan the tempter.

The same way that he was acting in the period in heaven to counteract God's plan, we also seen in the history of God's people all kinds of temptations and traps in which the Israelites have fallen because they let their fears and their thoughts lead them where satan wanted to take them.

Of course, it is also very easy to draw a parallel between this period of the law and the Christian life that we live today. Many commentators who did, had done well before me.

However, even if it is true that this parallel can be done, I think however that too often it was pushed into situations where it had absolutely no place to be. The time of slavery in Egypt can be compared to those who are not born again, but can also be comparable to some who are born again, but who remained slaves of their passions, their way of thinking, or their own character flaws. This is true for some Christians, but not necessarily for others, that are rarer.

Jesus took this celebration of the output of Egypt to establish the Lord's Supper (for more details on this subject see my study named *the Lord's Supper*).

Can we say that all those who are not born again are slaves of something?  
No I think not.

Can we also say that all who are born again are slaves to something?  
I do not think so either.

This is not because the parallel is possible, that it must apply generally to everyone. We must be careful with this kind of thoughts.

We also often see this period of 40 years in the desert. I don't count anymore the times where I have heard Christians say: "This is my crossing of the desert" or "God makes me go through the desert".

These are senseless words. I let me say this, because there was a time where I did say it also!

God does not anyone let go through the desert. There no need to do such a thing. The suffering does not build you up or make you stronger.

In these times we often focus back on the essentials, but it is not for as much as one can say that suffering is necessary to build up, as many teach it.

God sent and left with us on Earth, His Holy Spirit. He is here to teach us, encourage us when necessary.

Those who consider being in a desert are there, most of the time, because they think that it is an almost inevitable step of the Christian life, or because they has put themselves alone in this situation, due to their lack of knowledge of the word of God.

(For that nobody will mistake on my thought? I would say that there is a whole series of parallels that can be done coinciding in this period of the law, with a "born again" life today. Including those who speak of the temple with all utensils, basins, but also with the different rules that God had established, as the Sabbath, cities for refuges, Jubilee, and still many other things.

You can do a lot of Parallels between biblical passages and our current lives today, but this does not mean that these parallels are always true and mandatory.

Maybe I'll write something that will shock many.

I do not think that passage through slavery in the Egypt was compulsory.

Certainly this period has been taken as an example, but this does not mean that God had foreseen the things that way. I do not believe that God has deliberately sent His people to be humiliated, beaten and suffering for 430 years.

What would have been the purpose?

None.

When the Hebrews began to be prosperous in Egypt (before being slaves) they had "fallen asleep" on their comfort. Perhaps some people have said: "God spoke to Abraham for many years, telling him to go to Canaan, because this country would be for us." But all remained in this Egyptian comfort without over worrying about what God had promised them. They stopped on their way somehow. Over the years, their status has changed and they became slaves, where they were before formerly very prosperous.

Is it that God punished them?

Absolutely not.

They have just suffered the consequences of their choices. God had another much better plan for them.

Satan had operated well, once more, but once more without success.

Watch as a small thing that might seem insignificant had actually changed the course of history. It is often that the devil acts in this way, by a multitude of little things that seem insignificant.

It was enough for him to persuade Joseph brother's to get rid of their brother.

Then, after a jump forward in history, found Joseph with his family in Egypt.

Until then it was not a bad thing, as Abraham had done the same. But

Abraham, continued his way. Certainly Pharaoh well helped him from chasing him from Egypt (Gen. 12.20), but Abraham could very well have stopped his path just out of the Egypt and set up their tents.

God had not forgotten His plan of salvation for men. It was necessary that now the law was given so that sin takes life.

In the same way that for the time of slavery in Egypt, the period through 40 years of desert was not planned by God. He had developed an exit of Egypt much more pleasant for His people, much more pleasant than the situation that actually took place.

We could consider things this way:

God had, when speaking to Abraham, like "set aside" the Promised Land for His people. But satan made it so that the people didn't reach that goal until hundreds of years later in the Promised Land.

In doing so, things have been very different.

The Promised Land was perhaps without inhabitants when God had foreseen that His people would be there. But throughout this delay accumulated by the Hebrews, satan had a lot of time to push some foreign people to invest the Promised Land before the Hebrews. Which could explain that the Hebrews had to expel entire peoples to be able to take possession of their land? All that was followed by wars, massacres, defeats, moments where the Hebrew people, by not following God's instructions, had suffered for nothing.

If we keep these thoughts only towards our physical world without taking account of the spiritual world, we cannot understand why these battles and these judgments have been so harsh. Understand that satan is at war with God

and we are the issue. That is why that without this concept, any attempt of an explanation of the period of the law will be automatically distorted.

Very often we think that, because we read something in the Bible, it is necessarily a good thing or that it is a buy product.

This is not always the case.

Most Christians who fall into this kind of error, often not understand the major difference between a life under the law and under the grace. They try to apply in their lives certain passages of the law that have no place to be today since we are under the grace.

Others apply a careless grace and obscure passages of the law in their entirety. I'm not saying that there are no similarities between the two, but I say that there is a quantity of things that were in effect under the law and that are in force under the grace. But also that grace is not a license to sin.

Let's take a few examples that will help us to better know God on this point.

***Psalm 51: 8-11*** : *Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

I remember that these verses of Psalm 51 had been used to make a song in the Church where we were with my wife at the beginning of our Christian life. We used to regularly sing this song. But today I realize how these words of David have no more place to be today. Including the type of lyrics in the period of the grace that we live in is a huge mistake.

Everything David asks God has been provided through Jesus Christ. I do not need to ask God hide His face from my sins, because all His eyes are on the cross where Jesus was made "sin" for me...

***Ephesians 1: 7***: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

I do not need nor to ask God to blow out all my iniquities (here my faults)...

***Hebrews 10: 17***: *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

Today, I do not need nor to ask God to renew a right spirit in me...

**Marc 14: 38:** *Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.*

I do not need to ask God not to withdraw His Holy Spirit from me...

**John 14: 16:** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

**John 14:26:** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

This passage from Psalm 51 cited above is just one example among many others.

It is important to know God in order to know that His plan of salvation includes times or periods, of different stages to reach His goal.

Some parts of these stages are well distinct from each other and must not be mixed. Psalm 51 is an example of it, because if I choose to apply myself these verses, my life will be a yoyo. In this case, it will be impossible to evolve, impossible to move forward in the spiritual authority.

These battles lasted throughout all the period of the law. Many victories were acquired, but many defeats have also suffered because the people refused to follow what God told him.

Some battles still last today in Israel, but they are useless in the context of the Hebrew people of the 2000s. I want to say without doing politics that it is loss of effort to try to resume such part of territory when we are not in the full power of God through the Gospel by refusing the teaching of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately history shows it. I'm not saying that God has abandoned His plan of Promised Land for His people, not at all. This promise to Abraham is still active today, because God made it. But as long as the Hebrew people refuse to enter the next step which is the grace and all the power that is delivered, it is only vain to try to fulfill God's promise to Abraham.

So no one thought I could be hard towards Israel, I believe very sincerely that any other people besides the Hebrews would also often have failed in its choice too.

We can see it moreover today in the Christian world. I see more churches where there's no healing rather than the opposite. I see more churches that stagnate in number rather than fast-growing churches. I hear also more false teachings rather than the things faithful with the period of grace in which we

live in. I will say that in all of this each one is reaping a result on the basis of his system of thought, which itself determines our actions.

Is God angry because of all this?

No.

He is surely saddened sometimes, but God is not a man, He is always ready to encourage.

***Judges 2: 16-19:*** *Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not so. And when the Lord raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the Lord because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.*

It is several times that God has to face this kind of situations: His people did not listen to Him, did not keep their resolutions, and were seduced by demonic thoughts. Repeatedly God had to intervene (even if He leaves the choice of their fate to humans), sometimes in a radical way, because nothing should compromise the implementation of the plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. Often, because of bad attitudes on the part of the people during the period of the law, God had two choices:

1. Let the people degenerate in its actions influenced by evil thoughts under cover of false gods, and lose humanity.
2. Or eliminate those who had chosen to disobey Him (and which ultimately incited by their actions all the people to do the same), and to continue the implementation of the plan of salvation for all human beings.

The choice was quickly made. But not as far as God was pleased to it.

An important parameter is to be taken into account:

At this time, most of the men and women of the people of God knew their creator only by His actions during the period of the law. Most of the time they

had an "intermediator" between God and them. It was the role of the priest or the prophets. Most of the people in the people had a fairly "ruled" relationship with God.

However, some men like David, Isaiah, Elijah, etc., had been able to know God more intimately. This is why we find descriptions of God that illustrate what the author lived in his relationship and the vision of its creator at this time. Often this description is not in phase with the God of grace that we know today. This is not because I read phrases where God is furious, angry, jealous, and vengeful... that all this is what God is. These are only words given by God to His prophets, and transcribed by them according to the time in which they lived, and influenced by the relationship they had with God at this time.

God loved His people certainly, but at any price He would have left the bad attitudes of the Hebrews and gave a certain advantage to satan to derail this plan of redemption.

Precisely because God loves, His will is that none of them perish.

Unfortunately it is not in this context that the things were often, but even today it is always God's will that no one perish.

Another example in the second book of Kings, shows very well the attempts of satan so that the Hebrews forget their creator, and thus, that they forget that a Messiah would come.

God had given to Joshua some indications from the book of the law.

***Joshua 1: 8:*** *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

There were about 700 years that God had spoken to Joshua to explain how to deal with this book of the law. But since a long time, all the people, including the King at that time, had forgotten about this book and what it contained.

None theless to say that things could get much better for the Hebrews.

Gradually, satan had made sure this law was forgotten. The people had fallen asleep.

***2 Kings 22: 8-13:*** *And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and*



*brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the Lord. And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.*

Josiah was eight years old when he became King. The fact of having been crowned King so young had not changed him as one might think. He was not swollen with pride; the Bible says that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

**2 Kings 23: 25 :** *And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.*

It is in his youth that Josiah decided to renovate the temple.

Who would have thought that the people would forget what God commanded of which their lives would be blessed so that they can take possession of the land that He had reserved for them?

Things had not be done in one go, it took several hundred years. What appears is one thing, that satan was not in a hurry and that very long-term plans do not deter him.

At this time we were almost halfway through this period of the law which lasted altogether about 1400 years.

Today, with hindsight that we have, it is now possible to see that the period of the law was the shortest of all the various stages of the plan of salvation of God.

God did not take any fun in anything to apply the consequences for those who did not respect this law. He had not changed, God was always the same. Today,

this concept is a little difficult for us who have known only the period of grace where sometimes one has the impression that God "would not hurt a fly". One of the keys to be able to understand and accept the words and attitudes of God during this period is in the fact that God is not a man. And because He is not a man, just logically, He cannot react as a man. God is in a dimension of perfection, evil does not exist in His being, and He doesn't have a limited life, because He is eternal. So it's quite impossible for Him to manifest of vengeance, malice, or any other form of evil. Often, it is difficult to put human words, which are made only for situations or human attitudes, on someone as perfect as God.

It is important to always well check the translations that we are used. All are good in one passage or another. All are useful in my opinion. Do not hesitate to use a Strong concordance or an Interlinear Bible. They will help you to better understand some words. It is clear that everyone is not called to study the Bible in its depths, but I think that everyone can very easily move forward on a verse that he was unable to explain, by passing a little time. Today, with all electronic devices that we have and with a small investment, it is easier to understand some passages that one could not understand 20 years ago. Electronic concordances, bibles software, online, etc. If you wish to move forward in the knowledge of the character of God, do not deprive yourself of such tools. It is not uncommon that we remain on a false notion of God that will keep us to not love him, and especially to let ourselves loved by Him because of a translation not suitable in a biblical passage.

Let's take an example.

**2 Kings 2: 23-24 :** *And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.*

It is not usually the perfect example that you would take if you wanted to understand the character of God who is love above all. But this passage is part of the Bible and it must also be explain. It would have been much easier to choose the richness of Salomon or victory in any other battle. But in this case, this study would totally lose its interest.

The first time I reread this passage in preparing this study, I told myself that I would need a good explanation on the part of the Holy Spirit. I will explain in detail how I did there, so that those wishing will have a method of analysis.

I put down my computer keyboard and I went on the couch which is in my office to pray. Then I asked the Holy Spirit to teach me on this passage. After a while, several thoughts came:

- Were the children spoken of in the passage really children?
- I have to keep in mind that whatever the explanation of this passage, it should "stick" with the fact that God loves His children.
- Why did they say to Elisha "go up"? It reminds me in the book of revelation, when a voice says to John "go up" (**Rev 4: 1**).
- Why did they say to Elisha "bald head"? There must be an explanation.

Then I thanked the Holy Spirit for these thoughts and I returned to my computer with the intention to compare all versions of this passage at my disposal in French and in English, about 20 in all.

The first thing I discovered was the word "children" or 'small boys' depending the translations. It does not necessarily mean children. The first time I reread this passage, I imagined (like many others, I think) of poor small toddlers defenseless to whom God would have removed life just because they were mocked... and soon one other thought was telling me: "Impossible, God doesn't this kind of things". There must be another explanation.

The concordance Strong (05288) showed me that the Hebrew word is actually applicable to a young child, but also for a young adult.

It is found in **Genesis 41: 12** : Joseph is referred to as the same word "young". A quick calculation with a chronological Bible showed me that Joseph had at least 30 years old when he has been called by this word 'young man '.

I have concluded that these children could well have been young men of 30 years at least.

The consultation of a Biblical Commentary showed me also the same word has also been used in **2 Kings 4: 12**, when Elisha called his servant Gehazi.

Then, when John has heard "go up" in the book of revelation, it was to go to heaven and see. A commentary of Andrew Womack reminded me that, shortly before that time, Elijah was carried up into heaven.

This fact had not obviously been unnoticed, because these young people were aware of it. It is in this sense that they said to him "go up, go up" or in other

words "so you cannot ascend to heaven as Elijah your master did?" Or "actually are you really a prophet of God? "

A Bible Dictionary informed me on the fact that being bald head or have strong baldness at this time could be considered:

- Having leprosy, or
- Lose an adorning, or
- Shave his head to please an idol.

I also remembered that Elijah - the master and the trainer of Elisha -, in his time, was also, quite "radical" in his actions. When he commanded the fire from heaven that consumed fifty soldiers in **1 Kings 1: 10**.

What can we say now with all these elements?

Dozens of young men of about thirty years old, in full awareness of their actions, went outside the city to meet Elisha, which he came to the city to get into it.

One can easily assume that these young boys were well planned to go to meet Elisha. They had probably planned to turn Elisha in mockery.

Obviously, they had no respect, no thought turned toward God and they surely did not respect the law at this time. These boys, or to not say these men had not chosen to follow God, but more than that, they were mocked what God was doing. They were let convince by their own sin nature, and surely also by demonic spirits. Were they demon-possessed? The Bible does not say, it is quite possible, but this is only speculation on my behalf.

Their words clearly shows that they were mocking.

Saying "go up" they were referring of course to Elijah who was caught up to the sky some time ago. We can think that these people did not believe that Elijah was caught up to Heaven by God Himself, and they said to Elisha: "*and you, you are not caught up also as your master?*" or either "*but what is your God doing? You cannot go up to Heaven you also?*"

Treat Elisha as "bald head" also showed that they had no respect for the prophets of God. We can consider this word as a serious insult to Elisha on the behalf of these young men.

Elijah had seen God do down fire from the heaven and consumer sacrifices before the prophets of Baal in **1 Kings 18: 38**, and had then ordered himself that this same fire came down from heaven to consumer fifty soldiers.

Elisha knew all this, he had for years taken model on Elijah. I think that Elisha has reproduced in his own way the same thing Elijah did in his time.

We can ask our self the following question.

What is God saying in all of this, is it Him or Elisha who cursed these young men?

I can't be categorical on this point, but we can show an example where the power of God has been manifested without the knowledge of Jesus.

**Mark 5: 27-32:** *When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.*

There are therefore at least one example where the power of God has been like taken by this woman. Because of her faith, the power of God has been activated without the knowledge of Jesus. He does it realized when this power came out of him.

Can we say that God had agreed when Elijah was sent down by twice the fire from heaven on these soldiers?

Not necessarily. Personally, I do not think so.

In the same way in the passage that interests us, it is not written that God sent a bear to kill these men, but that Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord.

The King James translation says: *...and cursed them in the name of the Lord...*

The Message translation says: *...and cursed them in the name of God...*

It is thus Elisha who command this, it is not God who sent it.

Although Elisha used the power of God in him, but we cannot say that it is God who command it. It was only of the responsibility of Elisha, as well as for Elijah. At that time, manners were quite different. People lost their life frequently for not much, an attack on a path, a ferocious beast, illness, etc.

Even if it wasn't a good thing, they wished death to someone very easily.

The Apostles James and John, even at the time of Jesus, also had this way of thinking when they said to Jesus:

**Luke 9: 54:** *And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?*

It was in reference to what Elijah had done twice. They simply say that because they had arrived in a village of the Samaritans where nobody wanted to give them hospitality for the night. This remark was totally inappropriate and disproportionate compared to the situation.

Let's look at what Jesus replied to them:

**Luke 9: 55-56:** *But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.*

We have the confirmation now that it was absolutely not a good thing to do. I think in the same way, that there was another solution to apply for Elijah toward the fifty soldiers, as well as for Elisha facing the forty-two men.

We might ask why God did not intervene.

There may be several answers:

- God leaves us free in our choices, and in this period of the law, He let the Prophet free to administer His power, according to the law.
- According to the law in force in this period, who spoke or insulted God had to be put to death. This is what Elijah and Elisha have done.  
**Leviticus 24: 15-16:** *And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin. And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.*

It is not for nothing that the period of the law has been the shortest one. It was a compulsory statement to establish the existence of sin in human beings.

It was unfortunately inevitable that this period generates suffering, death sometimes for those who refused to comply. But this period also generated great blessings to all people when he was willing to follow it. Miraculous victories over their enemies, the manna in the wilderness, peace and security for the people, and being free from needs...and many other countless things that God took pleasure in giving to His people.

I also decided that I would chose difficult passages in this study.

Now, I hope that you will have another vision of certain passages of the law. Everything has an explanation, bearing in mind that God loves us and only wants our joy. This is something I always do because it is the truth.

Yet there were many other passages to pick up, but it would have taken a full book for that, which was not my goal here.

This is why I gave the first elements of a method to be able to understand a biblical passage (for more details on this topic, see my study *How to study the Bible*).

The grace period is much less difficult to bring out the character of God in His true nature. But we will later see that it contains also some passages that might seem a bit confusing. It is nothing?

The period of the law comes to an end.

Jesus came to Earth incarnated in a human being through Mary.

Again satan has failed to derail the plan of God, despite millions of attempts during the 1400 years.

God's Plan moves forward.

God in man, Jesus Christ, is born and He is now on Earth.

Yet satan does not confess being defeated so easily. Even though he knows he will not win, he continued in the same determination: to prevent at all costs the Gospel being revealed to humans.

Even today, at the time where we live, he continues his attempts. With progress, they become more and more devious (for more details on this topic, see my study on *the great deception*).

It is often, I admit, that I review the repeated attacks of satan against God and His creature. It is in fact one of the essential elements to be able to understand the character of God. Why is He acting in this or that way in any particular

case? Without this important factor, all understanding will be distorted or partial.

**Matthew 2: 12-13** : *And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*

How could a King be afraid, or to fear from a newborn?

It is obvious that satan had implanted in Herod, the thought to destroy Jesus from His birth.

A little later it is satan himself who is going to work on it, when Jesus comes to be baptized. There, the Holy Spirit pushes Jesus in the desert so He could fast for forty days and surely receive everything needed for His mission, but also to be tempted by the devil.

But once more satan is defeated, because Jesus had given in to none of the devious propositions.

Now that sin was more than recognised in the life of human beings, it is the next phase of the plan of God that breaks in.

This is not because the people of the law knew that a Savior, a Messiah had to be sent to Earth, that they have accepted Jesus as the son of God.

Finally, we have proof that all humans are identical in this regard. There are those that are "tuned" and those who are not. They are part of the chosen people or not, the finding is the same.

History shows us that some Jews were able to take advantage of this grace period, in which we live today, but that other Jews have not been able to seize this grace offered to them during their life on Earth.

This observation is similar among non-Jews, some were 'tuned', but others have refused the grace that was proposed.

The people that God chose to deliver His law will remain forever the people who received the law. But I would like to make a clarification here.

I have often heard that Jews today, especially those who are born again, of having an "additional privilege" towards God.

This theory is totally false. If I myself were Jewish, my comments would be exactly the same.



Paul tells us:

***Galatians 3:28:*** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

It is now an established matter, certainly the people of the law will remain forever the people of the law, but today this period is complete.

It is one people together through Jesus Christ, and we are, those who are born again in Jesus Christ, all brothers and sisters.

Now, this point being cleared up, let's look at what is this new phase that God offers to humans.

Here again satan and his demons managed to sow great confusion.

Often, they had the task well facilitated by the nature of man. What is seen today, more than two thousand years later, despite the teaching that Jesus taught, is that there are hundreds of denominations who call themselves "Christian"... , but all do not teach what Jesus has taught! (For more details on this topic, see my study on *The new birth*).

It is always the same God who acts since the creation of the world.

Remember: God does not change.

Isaiah had prophesied that moment more than 700 years before.

***Isaiah 9: 6:*** *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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

This is now done, we come to the time where the Gospel is preached on Earth.

We find what Isaiah announced.

At our new birth, and through Jesus, domination is not over us anymore.

Jesus proves as admirable in our eyes and our spirit.

His Holy Spirit is the most perfect adviser.

God is powerful in our lives, He has become our father, and He provides peace in our lives. Jesus said I give you my peace.

All this is offered by God to all human beings.

The vast majority of Christians don't always have a good vision of what God brought to Earth for us with Jesus Christ. Of course, everything is written in the Gospels and other books of the New Testament. But unfortunately, everyone does not understand it in the same way.

So, to avoid this, there are details that have been made by the Apostles in teaching letters they have written. Most of them were written by the Apostle Paul. Despite all this, there still is today different opinions, although different interpretations, and thus, many different actions from the part of Christians.

Without going too deep into details off topic, we'll try to see a little more clearly.

I would like to start with a key verse which is a word of Jesus.

***Matthew 7: 18:*** *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

I heard so many things to put into practice regarding the Gospel, from the more rational and the true, to the wackiest. I claim not having heard everything of course, but enough in any case we have to be aware and see that there is great confusion with Christians, which often keeps them in a very mediocre everyday life.

During the period of the law, it was necessary to do various offers of sacrifices to take away the sins. The law given by God to Moses is still active today, but God wanted to make Himself one sacrifice that would erase all sin. It is this on fact that all the grace is based. There are only a few Christians who have a clear and balanced view of this important fact.

Find the balance in grace, this is the goal that must be reached.

We know of course that because Jesus is God and He has been sacrificed unfairly, but willingly on the cross, He was the ultimate and definitive sacrifice that God offers to all men, today no more need of sacrifices whatever they may be.

***Hebrews 9:12:*** *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

This sacrifice was and will take place only once.

Why?

Because it is more than enough.

Jesus said just before giving up His spirit, on the cross:

***John 19: 30:*** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

God in his character, and because He is perfect, does not make things by halves. It is a fact. But if more than that, God said: "all is accomplished", in this case we can be sure that nothing, absolutely nothing can be, or should be added to what Jesus has done.

Therefore, there is nothing we can do to "enhance, edit, or add" to our life with God.

God loves us as we are. Does it that mean we don't have to evolve?

Not at all.

But whatever we do, whatever we say, wherever we go, it does not change the love of God toward us. Some will perhaps be shocked by this fact.

Even though it's the truth.

Jesus said at the beginning of His Ministry:

***Matthew 3: 2:*** *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Which means: "change your way of thinking, because God comes up with very good news, news almost too beautiful to be true, but that is true".

***Luke 8: 1:*** *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,*

I see or I rarely hear this good news of the Kingdom be announced in its full truth.

That is why our Ministry is called "The Real Good News". This does not mean that it is the unique Ministry that announces the true good news, but the fact is that there are unfortunately more ministries that announce a good news that does not change much in the life of the days for those who hear it, rather than the true good news that Jesus has announced.

But, thank you Dear Holy Spirit, there are still people who are at your disposal, who want to form a good team with you and announce the true good news with power.

**1 Corinthians 4:20:** *For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*

The Apostle Paul had to answer this sentence to the Corinthians, because some of them, swollen with pride, wanted to take the place of Paul, or in any case to teach the Church in its place without having received the gift of it. Paul responds that when he will go to Corinth, the difference will be easy to find between these people swollen of pride and his teaching, because the Kingdom always get into action by power.

But then, what is this power?

So what is this real good news that Jesus came to bring?

A lot of Christians think they know it.

It is very easily verifiable if we have well understood and incorporated what God offers in this good news (The Gospel).

Do you manifest a power in your everyday life?

Power does not necessarily mean miracles in your everyday life.

Has your life changed since the Gospel is introduced in? But more important, does it still change today?

Do you see your body be healed following a prayer of authority?

Have you changed priorities in your life?

Did you acquire a way of thinking that brings positive changes?

Do you still feel to learn more about God, because you feel that it is what your being needs?

There would still be many other facts that we could formulate into question.

But if you answered 'yes' to at least one of these questions, so it means that you experience the power of the Gospel in your everyday life.

Congratulations! What will follow will still help you to progress?

If you have not answered 'yes' to at least one of these questions, so be very careful to what will follow, you especially need it.

Let's look together at what God has planned in the rest of the plan.

It is very important to understand what we will describe here, as we are, still today in this period, so these words affect us directly.

The grace period is the first phase of the goal that God pursued for more than six thousand years: to give back to humans what they lost in the fall of Adam and Eve.

Today it is done, and to get there we need several steps, that we will detail now.

This is the sin that separated the man from God.

The law was been given by God precisely to establish this fact.

It therefore had to find a way (now that sin was found in the creature of God that we are) to delete this sin.

God has not done things 'halfway' if I can speak that way, because He has not found a solution that would slow Him down too much, or that wouldn't mind Him too much.

This solution was already thought out and ready to be applied since the plan of salvation had started, which means, immediately after the fall.

There was the need to find an ultimate sacrifice as we already said a little earlier.

This sacrifice is the one of Jesus on the cross of course.

What does this mean for the human race?

Well, this implies that any person, any human being, man, woman or child, because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will see all the sins he had committed erased.

This is the version that we hear most of the time, but it is very incomplete. The sacrifice which Jesus has agreed to do for us, not only cancels all sins committed, but also all the sins that are being committed, and those who will be committed in the future.

All this applies to anyone, man, woman or child.

Does need to do something for this?

No.

It is a fact, a deal already done, and no one can go back to it.

If you're born again, all of this applies to you.

But if you are not born again yet, well here's the real good news: all of this applies to you also.

You will say: *“but then Franck, if everyone sees his past, present and future sins forgiven without having done anything for this, then why in this case, everyone not going to paradise? .”*

This is a question that is often asking to me.

Yes it is a fact, everyone on Earth, Christian or not, good or not, nasty or not, has all of his sins forgiven. The People who are dying every day and that will end up in hell because they are not born again will go to hell with all their sins forgiven.

It is a fact that nobody, absolutely no one can change.

God has chosen to cancel the debt to every human being, and this without any distinction of race, or anything else, without that this human has to do anything to acquire it, but only to accept it in order to validate it.

***Romans 5: 8:*** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Do you remember that God loves us so much that He never does anything forcing us? Well, to experience a life with all his sins past, present and future forgiven, people just have to accept it, to validate it by telling it to God. There is nothing simpler, God has made things so beautiful, simple and powerful. Just say something like: *“Oh God, I just learned that all my sins, all my failures past, present and future, you have forgiven them because Jesus sacrificed himself voluntarily for me dying on the cross. I just learned that I can live forever because of this. I understand what happened to me and I want to tell you that I agree with it. Not only I agree, but I thank you from the depths of my heart. I understand that I have nothing to do in return for this to be validated in my life, I realized that I have to accept it by telling you. I understand also that I cannot even ask for forgiveness, it is useless, because you already did everything, I am already forgiven. Now, I follow the teaching that Jesus gave in my everyday life”.*

These few sentences are not models, they are only here as an example that everyone will develop according to his personality. These are actually sentences of repentance. Often the majority of people believe that "repentance = asking for forgiveness."

This is entirely untrue.

To repent means that we are aware of a harmful situation, this statement of fact leads us to change our way of thinking. If I change my way of thinking, I would also see the evidence of it, because my actions and my words will also change (for more details on this topic, see my study on *The Repentance*).

And this is it?

Yes that's it, there is nothing more to add to validate the cancellation of his sins and his entry into eternal life.

Today the one who dies, and which unfortunately will go to hell without eternal life, will not go to hell because of his sins committed, but because of one single Sin: having had knowledge of the sacrifice of Jesus and not having accepted or "validated" it.

This is in itself will be the sin which will accuse them and send them to hell for eternity.

It is only for this single sin that people will end up in hell, and because of no other.

This sin must be a "voluntary sin", which means committed in a full knowledge. A child for example cannot be attributed to this Sin before an age of reason. God desires that all will come at this stage, this knowledge.

**1 Timothy 2: 3-4:** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

The problem is that satan still comes sowing confusion in all this.

For instance, if you do not believe what we have just said, it is that he has sown confusion in your thoughts. It is a fact.

If this is your case, ask sincerely and honestly to the Holy Spirit to teach you on this subject. It will happen not very long before you discover this truth, and that you can apply it in your everyday life.

All this is already awesome in itself.

I think that if the real good news was most often preached as we have just briefly described, many more people would go through the new birth.

This is not by teaching a false Gospel or the incomplete Gospel that we will have results on the basis of what God has planned.

I don't count anymore the times where, even today, I hear worshippers saying that we need to ask forgiveness for all past sins or to humble themselves before God to gain access to eternal life.

These are serious errors, generated by satan himself.

Be just Born again should be a moment of immense joy. Of course, there may be tears, but tears of joy, of recognition and non-humiliation. There's nothing to do to access to a life without sin with God, but only have to say "yes".

Everything we add comes from the evil one. This is what Jesus himself said when he announced the good news for the first time.

**Matthew 5: 37** : *But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

Jesus said this about oaths that people could make at this time. What we should take out of it, it is important to be firm in our good decisions. It is not necessarily required to argue. And in the case that interests us, there is only a 'yes' to say.

"Yes and thank you!"

And when this decision has been taken, nothing or no one can cancel it. Never let anyone lead you to think otherwise.

Of course, I will unfortunately continue to Sin after my new birth, but this will absolutely change nothing towards God. His love, His attitude towards me will not change.

**1 John 5: 16** : *If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*

This kind of sin which is not unto death is precisely the fact of sin after my new birth.

Sin that leads to death is the sin against the Holy Spirit (for more details on this topic, see my study on *The new birth*).

Is it not something really awesome?

Who on earth can offer a similar thing?

The phase which follows the new birth is the baptism.

Why to be baptized?

Does the baptism save? No.



The thief crucified with Jesus was not baptized, yet Jesus told him:

**Luke 23: 43:** *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

Baptism is a symbol of public engagement. And, often, we take only one part of it.

There are two actions.

The first is to be immersed in water.

The second is to be out of the water after having been immersed.

We will stop on the first action.

The fact of being immersed symbolizes the fact of dying from his old nature. And this is a step that very few Christians are aware of and apply. Always for the same reasons, it is only too little, or even not at all taught in most churches. But this kind of churches reaps the fruit especially a pitiable outcome of such things.

Fortunately, there are also good teachings on this subject, but they are rare.

**Romans 6: 3-4:** *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

**Romans 6: 7:** *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

When I'm immersed in water in baptism, my nature, everything I am, what makes my personality, died with Jesus Christ on the cross.

Most Christians believe that this step is purely symbolic. It is true, it is in baptism, but there is nevertheless a true death which occurs.

By entering under water, I'm literally dying of my nature. It is not utopian, but a reality and it is often where many Christians deadlocked. There are those who think that their nature is dead, but after a while, they realize that some of the signs of this ancient nature are still there. Then, they say: 'I'm not dead in my old nature, since I still see some effects. Even some pastors made this same finding, so they conclude that our old nature does not really die in baptism. They think that this old nature must be changed by the Holy Spirit, that it is a process. And as such I'm not really a new creature, but an old sinner redeemed

by the grace of God, which will gently change to get to the stature of Jesus Christ which Paul speaks about.

This is totally wrong.

Paul said well in Roman 6: 3 that we are buried. Which means to put underground, thus well died, there is no ambiguity on this point. There is no question about here resorting to a modification of who I am, but to burial, the turned under Earth of what I am.

Who can survive once buried under the ground?

Nobody.

Understand that God does not do something new with something old, if I may say so. God does not modify our old nature to give it an appearance and consistent actions with the new nature that He offers us.

As I often say, God does not know how to do otherwise than perfectly.

While some will be able to tell me: "But Franck, why after my new birth, I still see some of my bad habits coming back regularly?"

As I say in my study of the new birth, when I have just been baptized, if I was angry man (woman), well there is a very good chance that the next morning I will be still angry man (woman) when I wake up. Likewise, if I was shy, the next morning, there is also a very good chance that I will always been shy.

But then, I'm not dead?

Yes you are well dead. And even buried underground.

One morning I was taking our youngest son of 12 years old to school in Brisbane. We were in the car and had about a 30-minute drive to go. We may, from time to time, take advantage of this time to talk about things that he has not understood when he reads the Bible in the morning. That day, I had planned to talk to him about this death which occurs in the baptism. Yet he was baptized for several years and spoke in tongues, but I wasn't sure that this point was quite clear to him.

I told him: *"you know, in hospitals there are places where we put people who died while waiting to be able to put in a coffin.*

*They remain a few hours or a few days, this allows among others things to be sure that they are well dead.*

*But sometimes it happens that there are little bizarre situations. It may happen that the dead person move sometimes, and there is the doctor runs out to save his life".*

He had a good laugh.

*"When a person is alive, you know how the muscles contract?  
No dad, I don't know", he said.*

*In fact the brain sends an electric field through the nerves and the muscle contracts. This is how our muscles contract.*

*But when someone is dead, as I told you, it happens that the person who died is moving as if he was alive. The brain is dead, but not all cells are in the body, and it happens that calcium is released and contracts a muscle, but it's just a reflex. The person is still dead.*

*One might think that this person is alive, but he is well dead. I'm sure that more than one person has run to save his life when this has happened ».*

It again made him laugh much.

*I kept telling him: "you see, when you have been baptized, your old nature died with Jesus on the cross, just as a person who is dead. And when it happens that you still see things of your old nature happen, these are just reflexes. Because your old nature is well dead and buried".*

Since then, he remembers that his old nature is no longer there, but it happens that certain reflexes came up from time to time.

This is another perspective of things. Because if I consider that my old nature is still alive, rebel and that I have to try to kill it, this is a fight that will quickly become discouraging and frustrating. While when I understood what is happening actually, that each negative point which may emerge from time to time from my old nature is only a reflex, and just a reflex of my intelligence, simply because I practiced it for years.

***2 Corinthians 5: 17-19:*** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

We are new creatures, not an old ones who are modifying from time to time.

Now, the perception of things is really different. I no longer have to try to kill my old nature, because it is already dead. This not the same thing at all, the work is already done.

We are not all on the same level about reflexes that persist for a time. It will be longer or shorter depending on the past of their personalities. But one thing is certain, is that the grace of God is more than enough to eradicate all these residual reflexes.

This is only one more deceptive trap that satan puts on many in believing that we must strive to kill this old nature.

If I was alcoholic, I'm not a former alcoholic saved, but a new creature that has nothing to do with alcohol anymore.

If I was a shy and not a confident person, I'm not a former shy that has hard time saying what he thinks in public, but a new creature in which there is no more an ounce of shyness or lack of insurance.

And we could extend the list to infinity.

These reflexes are as purely instinctive.

I often heard in the Church where we spent more than twenty years, some brothers and sisters saying: *“Oh! I struggled to kill the old man”* or *“my old nature is constantly back, it is the old man who comes back”*.

***Romans 6: 6*** : *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

If we look at this verse, it is obvious that the “old man” which Paul speaks about suffered exactly the same as my old nature. This old man is dead, because he was crucified. When one is crucified, it's finished, he doesn't come back to life.

But then what can we do with this verse of Ephesians?

***Ephesians 4: 22*** : *...That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

Means sometimes Christians say: *“I have trouble ridding me of the old man ...”*  
What a mistake!

The poor understanding of this verse is clearer when we isolate it from its context. The verse 21 is the beginning of the sentence of Paul.

Here is the complete sentence:

**Ephesians 4: 20-24** : *But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Paul is talking to the Ephesians, because they have failed to kill their reflexes. Then, he said in other words: "I taught you that your old nature is dead, buried, crucified. It is finished. It is a done deal. Do not act as if it was still alive. But now, do not neglect these reflexes that are there, you must put them down like an old coat.

He goes on to say:

**Eph. 4: 23-24 (CEB)**: *Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit and clothe yourself with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness.*

It is clear that this new person is already created, and to see it come to pass we should be aware of it, believe it. Otherwise, not much will happen. Everything is obtained by faith. We need to first understand and accept this fact, so that my thought system will change, and then I will see it come to pass in my everyday life.

How to kill these reflexes?

Paul gives us the answer in verse 23. *Understand things in a new way*, the one that we just see together. Or according to other Bible versions: *be renewed in the spirit of your mind*.

We can see here that a team with the Holy Spirit is essential. It is Him who will confirm all what you have just read.

A good understanding of the death of his old nature is important.

Once I have well understood this fact, I just have to work on these reflexes, these are just instinctive reactions that are the result of having done so for years. As if we had recorded words, gestures, reactions, attitudes, desires in our system of thought. And seeing that all these things are only automation systems to be as deprogram in ourselves.

The Own of an automatism, it is that it does not think, he has no will, it is just programmed for this and it just runs. I do not have to fight against anything, but simply to change my way of thinking.

How to do this?

Paul says it: by renewing our minds. Which means "saturating" my mind by the word of God.

But also by ordering the removal of these reflexes.

It happens to me today again to order the death of a reflex which is still programmed in me. So I do it, simply by the power of the word of Jesus Christ which is in me, only once. Then I just need to renew my system of thought. Firstly by considering as safe and acquired that this reflex is dead. But also by acting as such. And it works perfectly.

Above all, do not focus on the outside, which means on your gestures, your words or your attitudes.

This would only a waste of energy.

All our actions, our words, and our attitudes are just the fruit of our thoughts. I remember when I used to work in the computer area, we had programs that we called "under tasks". Kind of like software, but their characteristic was that no one ran them and nobody would stop them. They were like as driven by another software, which depending on the circumstances, launched the execution or stopped this program into subtasks. And from the operating system, no one could start or stop a program into subtasks, nobody could have the access. It was only the first program that was driving it, which would act on this program into subtasks.

It is exactly the same thing for us human beings.

A Word, a gesture, an attitude will always be the result of a thought. And this is just a waste of time than trying to modify his gestures, his attitudes, his words, with a system of thoughts which have not been renewed.

In the same way that these computer programs, it is impossible to change its gestures, speech or attitudes with a system of thought that has not been renewed.

On the other hand, when my thoughts system begins to change because the reflexes become fewer, I'll realize that:

- My gestures,
- My attitudes,
- My words

Change.

I'll start talking differently, to act differently, to no longer have the same attitudes and all this without any effort. Although often without even noticing. When I happen to see a reflex of my old dead nature showing up, today there is an automatic thought from my spirit that says to my soul: " This *“Franck this is dead and well dead, he no longer exists, this reflex is therefore only like wind. It has no life in itself”*”.

I'm not trying to persuade myself, not at all, because it is a fact that is real. And it is because I understand this process, that I was able to integrate it into my daily life and that I see the result successfully.

Often I hear people telling me: “God humbles me to change my old nature”. This is entirely untrue.

God does not humiliate anyone in the grace period. This was a practice during the period of the law, as this law applied somewhat like a settlement without distinction. But today, we are no longer in that period. As we said above, there's quantity of things that have no place in the period of grace compared to the law one.

Is it because that the law is no longer here?  
Not at all.

But because the grace of God toward us has done plenty of things coming from the law. **James 4: 10** or **1 Peter 5: 6** speaks about humbling himself in the course of just erasing those reflexes without life of our old nature which is dead.

So few Christians have the true perception, the real vision that God loves them with an unconditional love.

From the moment I enter a condition whatsoever it is, to the love of God for me, even if it becomes a thought inspired my flesh and not by my spirit. God has given us everything we need to allow ourselves to be loved by Him. And it is well here the purpose of all things, you have to let you be loved by God unconditionally. God does not need that you love Him, He is sufficient unto Himself.

Does this mean that He is insensitive to our love?  
Not at all.

I just want to say that God is perfect, that He has no needs, no waiting. He is fully, completely autonomous. The Images made who say that God created

man only to receive his love are ridiculous. God loves us, and nothing will change that. Of course I'll love Him also when I will understand and feel His love for me! But let me tell you that you'll never love God in the real way as long as you have not experienced and integrated His unconditional love in your everyday life. You'll fear, perhaps respect, but nothing that could be called love. I think about this verse from **1 John 4:18**: *fear is not in love, but perfect love casts out fear; because fear involves punishment, and he who fears is not perfect in love.*

It summarizes alone perfectly what we have just said. When I have understood and integrated the unconditional love of God for me, I have no more fear, no more inherent nature, and no more apprehension. Everything is perfectly natural. And even when I "mess up" that I sin, absolutely nothing changes. Personally, when this happens to me, I am just angry against myself. Immediately, this anger is overflowing by the love of God for me, and this generates a desire to continue and to do better the next time. Exactly like a runner that fall during his race. He will have the choice between:

- Sit and whine about himself;
- Not mull over, and have one thing in mind get up and go for it.

In this period of grace, God does not remember our sins, then what is your right to keep them you in mind?

And it is the approach to take this new nature I inherited. It is the only method, there is no other. And it is the only one that works perfectly, as Jesus taught it.

This verse of 2 Corinthians sums up perfectly what we have just put in detail. **2 Corinthians 4: 16** : *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

This verse 16 is an encouragement, because it is a statement. Our outer man is destroyed bit by bit that these reflexes die one after the other, it is a fact and Paul stated it. Likewise, our inner man is being renewed, it is also a fact. This is absolutely not something that one would like to see stopping to happen. On the contrary it is a fact that no one can stop after his new birth.

We must remember it.

Your outer being gets destroyed, and your inner being is renewed, it is a process that started in death, at your baptism.



This is a part of the plan of salvation of God manifested through Jesus Christ. Isn't this perfect?

The more I can understand this and the more I say to God: " *A thousand times thank you dady'.* ' *It is so much more perfect than I could ever thought. And I know that I do not know everything. It is much better than what I could imagine today. You have really thought about everything*".

And we are only halfway through this plan of salvation.

Now let's look at what opens to us in this death of ourselves, when we get out of this immersion baptism.

We rise and are this new creature. And it does not stop there. Satan who spent his time to influence and possess some members of God's people during the period of the law, will see his situation changed completely. He was cast out from heaven, so he can no more meet in the Assembly with God as in the time of Job. A demonic spirit thus cannot enter a person who went through the new birth (for more details on this topic, see my study on *the true colors of satan*).

**Mark 16: 17-18:** *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Part 4.

The demons are now subject to the authority of those who are born again. It is a fact.

The disease has no more power either. It is also a fact.

All this is part of the plan that God has designed since the fall. It is the salvation in Jesus Christ.

Just like the first part of this salvation, the second one is also poorly applied in the life of a majority of Christians.

Let's go back to the base of this salvation.

**Matthew 1: 21:** *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

The Greek word translated here as "Save" is the word "Sozo (**strong 4982**)". It gives in English the word "saved" which means "be out of a danger". But the Greek word does not stop there, it still includes other elements. Salvation in Jesus Christ is also a certainty to be saved from danger.

Sozo includes not only being saved from sin and receiving eternal life, but also:

- Saved from a destruction
- Saved from a suffering
- Saved from a disease
- Bring the healing of a disease
- Restore health
- Be safe

This is what contains the salvation in Jesus Christ. God has much planned to save you, to heal you of any disease and remove any suffering from you, but also that your body and soul are in perfect health, that you're safe. It is impossible to separate these things, because they are an integral part of the salvation in Jesus Christ, of the new birth.

Look at the different verses where one finds the word "Sozo".

**Mark 5: 22-23** : *And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be **healed (sozo)**; and she shall live.*

**Mark 5: 27-28** : *When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be **whole. healed (sozo)**.*

**Mark 5: 34** : *And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be **whole (sozo)** of thy plague.*

**Mark 16: 16** : *He that believeth and is baptized shall be **saved (sozo)** ; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

And even when Jesus was on the cross, people were telling him:

**Mark 15: 30-31 :** *saved (sozo)* Save thyself, and come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He **saved (sozo)** others; himself he cannot **save (sozo)**.

They were telling him mockery saying: “get you out of this danger, put yourself safely”.

It is also what included in the word *sozo*.

It happens that some Christians believe that they should not necessarily be healed of a disease. They think that God is sovereign, that He decides things somewhat depending upon the person. What then would result would be that God would decide or not that such or such will be healed of a disease.

The details of the salvation in Jesus Christ shows us the contrary. Whatever the circumstances, the will of God is always that we are in good health.

Pastors who have taught or still teach such things, do it to compensate for their lack of result in terms of healings. Then we teach that God chooses to heal or not heal.

If you suffer from any disease, be persuaded that God wants much more than you, for you to be healed. But you also have received everything you need to cast this disease forever and regain a perfect health (for more details on this topic, see my study *Manage all my being with my spirit*).

This plan of salvation isn't it great, immense and so perfect? Personally, I will never get used to it.

Here is the character of God, here are his intentions, and here is His will.

There are passages in the grace period which can lead to confusion concerning the character of God. Let's see some of them in detail.

**Acts 5: 1-4 :** *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

We are in the presence of the first church. The Apostles met every day with the Christians. This church already had several thousand of people. All were agreed

together. There were neither rich nor poor in this Church, because if a person had a material need, others gave him to meet this need by their support. All of them did not sell all their assets. It would have been ridiculous that everyone would sell his land and his house. Simply, each voluntarily could help his brother, his sister by giving him enough to live. And some were selling properties they had in addition to their own home to help their brothers and sisters. It was in no way as a community where people lived all in the same place, all in the same housing.

Unfortunately, these actions of generosity are not found in all churches today (for more details on this topic, see my study *be a good administrator*).

There are many versions, all different from each other about Ananias and Sapphira.

Some teachings say that Ananias and Sapphira were a business man and a woman not born again, and that they had accessed the Church to get even more money by taking advantage of others, and that God had judged them removing their life because they had wanted to take advantage of the Church and of Christians.

It is again a teaching that does not match or agree at all with the true good news of grace.

If Ananias and Sapphira had money and wanted more, it was not logical to give a portion of the sale of their land, because they would be ended up with less money. In this system of "put in common", the one who lacked received and saw his standard of living rising. But one that was rich gave, and agreed to see a decrease in his standard of living and cessation of the superfluous. It was therefore not a setting at all for scammers to give.

Furthermore, if God had punished or judged Ananias and Sapphira in taking them their lives, just because they wanted to take advantage dishonestly of the Church, then I can tell you that today, there should be hundreds, or even thousands of sudden deaths in the churches. And forced to note that this is not the case!

Such teachings are just presenting God as a vengeful and merciless. There are unfortunately today many people in the world who try to benefit dishonestly of Christians, and God does not kill them fortunately. This kind of teaching is legalistic and unfounded.

Let's take things one after the other.

I think firstly that Ananias and Sapphira were indeed part of this first church and they were born again. I do not think that they would have agreed to sell

one their property if they were not part of it. And we also see Peter who spoke to them as knowing them. You would think that they were just "sympathizers" but I do not think so, because Peter says that Ananias was lying to God, to the Holy Spirit.

Then several questions arise.

How Peter discovered this lie, because immediately after that Ananias depositing the money, Peter accuses him of lying?

Peter had the discernment of spirits. Many wonders and miracles were happening by the Apostles. This church was in a great power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who warned Peter of this lie. And we know the next happening: Peter told him that he lied to God, the Holy Spirit (which shows that God and the Holy Spirit are equal).

When he sees Sapphira, Peter knows what has happened previously and has no doubt about what will happen to her if it ranks on the side of her husband by persisting in this lie. This clearly shows us that the death of this couple is an action of God towards them. It is an undeniable fact.

But then why?

After all, today how many Christians are lying in their churches, how many church leaders have stolen money to the community? God does not make them die so far.

Yes it's true. God has not made this from a gaiety of heart.

Let's try to understand the context of that time.

Here is the first church formed after the ascension of Jesus Christ. Satan has failed in all his attempts during the lifetime of Jesus to make it fall, and thence make His death on the cross totally ineffective. Then, he is not, discouraged he continued. But this time, he will try to prevent that the Church of Jesus Christ is formed on a holy and healthy basis.

The history of this first church and others up to a little less than a hundred years after Jesus Christ, still today serves us as a base in the New Testament Scriptures.

Certainly, there are other problems; we can easily see it in the writings of Paul, Peter, James, John, Luke. But this one was the first one. And if falsehood, deceit, the love of money were entered into it, certainly these things would have been identified, yet are more "normal" today 2000 years after. In this case, we would have no more a basis for a powerful, healthy, church where all are agreed, it would not happen much in a spiritual one who barely started.

What satan wanted was to distort things, twisting the truth so that Christians would arrive at a negative and zero result.

Are Ananias and Saphira saved?

Yes I believe so.

And if we had an explanation of the motivation of God for such a thing, you could hear something like: "*Ananias, Sapphira, why did let yourselves be convinced by satan? You have let your old nature reflexes dominate on you. Your way of thinking was not good, you might have had so much more than what you've tried to keep for yourself by the lie. You are weak and in love with money, more than my love for you. It is not about casting you out of the Church, because my Covenant of grace is immutable. Then I have no choice to take you with me sooner than expected*».

If this action on the part of God had been due to misconduct, I think that many Christians still today would be struck by the same thing. But this is clearly not the case.

There was no question of a sanction on the part of God, or a punishment to Ananias and Sapphira. To understand it, we must be placed in the context of an eternal life and not just a life on Earth.

Another passage which raises many questions is this one:

**1 Corinthians 11: 30** : (AMP) *That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason many of you are weak and sickly, and quite enough of you have fallen into the sleep of death.*

To set the context, we here about sixty years after the death of Jesus. Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth. It addresses obvious improper behaviour when Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Indeed, at this time there was a real meal, some ate without worrying about leaving food for their brothers and sisters, others drank up to drunkenness. It was for some of them a good opportunity to fill their belly and drinking. And of course, these people had no thought for Jesus Christ who died for them. No celebration of the entry of grace by the cross in their lives!

Do you remember what we said at the beginning of this study: God does not change. It is a fact.

If, as some may falsely think, God had sent a judgment on these people, then why He does not still do it today?  
The explanation is quite different.

We can easily understand that those people who were not celebrating the Lord's Supper in the right way, which means without looking at a single second to what Jesus had done for them, they did not have a different attitude in their daily lives. It seems very logical.

So unfortunately for them, those who fell ill were remaining sick, simply because they had absolutely no faith in what they had received. Some of them would pray or sought that the elders pray for them, but nothing was happening for at least two reasons:

1. Because the elders who already condoned such things were surely not able to exercise their authority in prayer.
- 2 But also because these people had no life of the spirit that is their spirit had no understanding of the process of healing in Christ.

There were those who were sick, but also those who were disabled, and for the same reasons, they were remained crippled. Those who had a deadly disease ended very sadly, but all logically by dying.

Was it a judgment of God?  
Not at all.

But simply a judgment against themselves pronounced and executed by themselves. They had unfortunately only the result of their investment.

Paul continues by saying:

***1 Corinthians 11: 31 : For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.***

In other words, if you were, you will not invite such things on you, you would not include such a judgment pronounced by yourself on your own person.

You could say it's a little too easy, because I do not quote the verse that follows!

Yes, let's talk about it also, because it is important to understand things.

**1 Corinthians 11:32:** *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be condemned with the world.*

The major difference that will help us here is the fact that Paul does not speak about the same people in the 31<sup>st</sup> verse and verse 32.

In verse 31, he speaks about those who are mentioned in verse 30, which get no healing and sometimes end up dying.

In verse 32, Paul speaks about Christians who practice prayer, healing in Jesus Christ. And Paul means: *"If we examine ourselves in our thoughts, we wouldn't be chastened («educated» here) by God. Because He must teach us from time to time so that we acquire the right way of thinking according to the instruction given by Jesus Christ, so that we improve and will not be condemned by the world".*

Always to the same Church, Paul wrote in a second letter:

**2 Corinthians 12: 7:** *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

Here is the "favorite" verse of those who advocate the fact that God sends illnesses or suffering to Christians so they can grow in the faith or knowledge.

This kind of thinking is so wrong in regard to what we have just said since the beginning of this study!

As I often say, if he had to suffer to learn, the grace would not be the grace. But also, if suffering was increased the knowledge and the faith of Christians, I think that all those who are suffering today for the same reasons as these Christians of the city of Corinth, to know that they did not care about the name of Jesus Christ in their lives, all of them today would be in a dimension of immense faith, and therefore would see the fruit of it by miraculous healings. Moreover, this kind of people, who think that God sends them a disease to make them grow, act so often in a strange way. In virtually one hundred percent of cases they are going to see a doctor or are hospitalized because of this disease that apparently God has sent them.

But then, if it is God who is the author, why are they trying so fast to be healed? Why are they not staying in this suffering to learn, precisely?



All this is ridiculous, and most of time comes from a lack of knowledge of the character of God.

More than fifteen years ago, when we were in a church in France, that Sunday morning the pastor preached on this verse. He said that this thorn which Paul spoke about was the result of an eye infection due to the strong light that Paul had seen on the road to Damascus.

At that time, I have to say that it had not shocked me as it could do today. But I remember thinking that this situation did not reflect in me the perfection and the love of God.

It is obvious that when we hear such teachings, it is difficult, if not, impossible, to see God in His true nature. These kind of words not only distort the true nature of God in people's thoughts. And of course, in this case, we get only the result of what we teach, which means people who fear God out of fear, and not out of respect.

If we look at the verses that precede one that interests us, we see that Paul is talking about knowledge, not to boast of our fleshly being, which means his soul and his body, but boast of his spirit, his spiritual being.

He begins in verse 2 by talking about a man who has been caught up to the third heaven. The Bible does not say it, but there are good chances that Paul speaks about himself.

**2 Corinthians 12: 2-4** : *knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

This type of experience is not given to everyone. Few are the people to whom this happens. This man has therefore been to paradise, and there, he heard words that cannot be express with our words so much they were pure, they were beautiful, they were so powerful.

And in this context Paul said:

**2 Corinthians 12: 5** : *Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.*

In other words: *“I glorify from my spirit, because this comes not from me, but from God alone by Jesus Christ. And from this I want to glorify, because it is God that I glorify through it and not me.*

*But I will never glorify myself, because my flesh is not reliable, it is weak, and I will never support it”.*

Then Paul speaks of his infirmities. And often this is here that some have taken the pretext that Paul was sick and that this "Thorn" was physical. The Greek word translated here as "infirmities" may actually be a physical disability, but also a moral infirmity.

Here are the **strong 769** definition:

*1 b 1) lack of force and capability*

*1b1a) to understand a thing*

*1b1b) to make great and glorious things*

*1b1c) to contain unhealthy desires*

*1b1d) to support the trials and difficulties*

It is now very easy to understand that “these *infirmities* “referred to by Paul are moral and not at all physical.

Why?

Simply because since the beginning of his argumentation, he never spoke of physical things, but only moral things as:

- Glorify himself
- Do not boast
- Be caught up in paradise
- Heard ineffable words
- Have an opinion
- Do not be proud

**2 Corinthians 12: 7-10:** *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure*

*in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

It is an image that Paul here uses when he takes the example of a thorn. The characteristic of a thorn is that it does hurt when we press on it. This corresponds perfectly with what Paul said about himself.

*In other words he would say: "a demonic spirit regularly takes an assignment, but not constantly belittling me, it is like if he was slapping me when he tries to make me believe that I'm just a failure, that my teachings are void, that I speak very badly. I prayed three times to chase him, but God told me that His grace is more than sufficient to ensure that I do not believe these misleading thoughts. He told me that His grace is powerful enough for these satanic thoughts to not touch me, don't undermine me. Then I understood that it is when the flesh is recessed and that my spirit is at the front, it is therefore that I am strong. This is why I love that when my flesh (here my soul) is in weakness, because that's when my spirit is strong in Jesus Christ".*

That is what Paul would have answered you if you had been present when he wrote this letter, and that you would have said to him: "What do you mean *by this, Paul, I do not understand?*"

Paul says it well: it is because of "the excellence of these revelations" that this thorn is there. Then if this thorn was a physical problem, it would mean that we have to "pay from ourselves or from our person (we are paying consequences for)" the excellence of the revelations that the Holy Spirit gives us?

This is totally ridiculous.

If you have thought that Paul had paid from himself from his person some revelations that God would have given him, you now know the truth, and this will increase your understanding of the love that God has for you.

And what will be the result of it?

- You'll Sin less, without any effort
- You'll see God your father differently
- You are going to love Him more and admire Him even more
- You will feel much better in your daily life

This is what life is, with God.

When I happen to talk about the autonomy or self-sufficiency that God wants for us, I explained our authority in prayer (which is only one of the parts of it), and there often Christians who I talk to, quote me this verse in the epistle of James.

**James 5: 14 :** *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*

And from this verse, they conclude that if a Christian is sick, for a more effective result, you should contact the elders of his Church, so that they pray for him by the anointing oil.

It's still here, a misinterpretation which, most of the time, will result, that the disease will stay where it is, that is, the person will remain sick.

Just ask the Christians who think that way, asking them: "have you have been healed?". And a large majority cannot do otherwise than reply: "No, I have not been healed".

Let's go back to the context of the epistle of James, because it is important to understand these writings.

We are approximately in the year 45 after Christ, It is in the book of acts that we discover the situation of the Church in general.

The period of the chapter 12 of the acts corresponds to the same time as the epistle of James.

**Acts 12: 1-2 :** *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.*

James, who wrote the epistle, is the brother of Jesus. This is to avoid any confusion.

At that time, Christians were thus persecuted, and even for some persecuted to death. And it is in these heavy circumstances that many Christians from the Jewish people were dispersed out of Israel. All were perhaps not out of Israel for this cause, but it is to those who have decided to leave that James wrote his letter. Able to read, it is easy to notice that these Christians are in a difficult situation. Also, we can easily imagine that, depending on their personalities, with years of experience of life in Jesus Christ, all did not react in the same way when they faced difficulty.

Some were strong, holding firm steadfast and striving to activate the faith they had received during their new birth. Others manifestly had more difficulties to 'stay the course', because in addition to these persecutions, they also had to cope with the disease. And it is to those in particular that James speaks in verse 14 of Chapter 5.

When we suffer physically, our moral is also more or less affected. This is why James understood his brothers and sisters that for some may show signs of moral weaknesses. This is not what God wants for us, but it can nevertheless happen in some less strong people, or who, for a time, are unable to integrate and practice good teaching of grace in their lives.

What would be the effects?

A discouragement for example, would be allowing doubt to settle.

And it is in the very first lines of his letter that James warns his brothers and sisters against the doubt that has the effect to cancel the action of faith.

**James 1: 5-8** : *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

The doubt is totally different from the lack of faith, yet they are both identical to a majority of Christians. But this is not the case.

Faith will repel the doubt and vice versa (see the diagram below).

Paul tells us that faith is to be absolutely sure to see what we hope, but also that faith must generate actions that prove that faith is properly enabled.

If I believe that I have faith for a financial need for example, well I wouldn't ask for a loan.

Or, if I believe I have the faith to be healed, and someone asks me " *How's it going?* », I won't answer him by complainant or describing my sickness with pessimism.

The faith is the assurance that the word of God put in me the enough power to resolve a situation, heal me, etc.

The doubt will be present depending on my response in reply to the need in question: my faith tells me that the word that is in me is powerful enough to heal or resolve a situation, but will it come to pass now when I pray?

If I answer "yes". There's no doubt.

If I answer “no”, or “I don't know”. There is doubt and this has the effect to deactivate my faith, because doubt repels faith.

Faith and doubt are both related and connected as with a rigid link that does not flex. When one moves forward, the other backward.

Here where the faith which is already in us, is activated, it push away the doubt and cancels it.



Here when doubt manifests itself in us, his action push away the faith.



And James insists well on this point from the beginning, because it is the only condition that will make these Christians see their prayers come to pass.

On the other hand, for those who are weaker, perhaps for a time because of persecution or diseases and who can't get a result from a lack of use of their faith, or doubt that settled, then for those one's, James told them:

**James 5: 14 :** *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*

The oil has no power, it is only symbolic. Christians used it, because it symbolizes the action of Holy Spirit. It was a practice under the law to anoint a person. This is not oil that makes that patient is healed, but the faith of him to receive healing.

So it's a good thing to call brothers or sisters to help me and pray for me. But only if I'm not in the State to do it myself. And it is only in this case and for this situation that James teaches to do so. Generalize this fact as many communities do is not biblical at all. This does only keep the weak in their weaknesses and their dependence. I do not say that the fellowship is not good, it is not my intention, but we need to constantly move towards the self-sufficiency.

God wants us self-sufficient, but not individualistic. This is His will for us. If you have recognized in the fact that you are not yet self-sufficient, it is ok, but what is serious and not ok is to remain in this state year after years. We have all started one day in our Christian life, and in these times it is good to pray for each other, is what drives us to self-sufficiency in Jesus Christ. And if I am weak, I should tell to myself, this is only for a short time.

Today my brother and my sister pray for me, but in a future close it is me who will pray to help someone else.

There is also a passage in the New Testament, which often makes the Christians confused, and this confusion inevitably has to change the perception of the character of God in their thoughts.

**1 Peter 1: 1-2:** *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>Elect</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit,...*

Due to a misinterpretation of this passage, many think that God chooses those who will be saved and those who will not, by what criteria I do not know. And thus there is no more reason to pray if it is God who, anyway, has all decided in advance.

But in addition, the majority of Christians who think that way, find it totally unfair, but dare not admit it. And there is a frustration, a relationship with God less intense than what it should be, and therefore, an everyday spiritual life far less powerful from the fact that there's not a total freedom and abandonment from their part toward to God.

However Peter says well that these brothers and sisters to whom he wrote were saved (elected) according to the fact that God knew in advance that they would be.

Paul speaks of the same thing in:

***Ephesians 1: 4***: *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

But also Peter, in the sequel to his first letter, wrote:

***1 Peter 1: 20***: *(AMP) It is true that He was chosen and foreordained (destined and foreknown for it) before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view (made manifest) in these last days (at the end of the times) for the sake of you.*

What shall we think about it?

Nothing wrong in all cases.

God is omniscient, He knows all things, including what will happen in the future. Jesus said that God loved Him, thus known, Him as a man, before the Foundation of the world.

***John 17: 24***: *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

When Jesus said this to His father, He is on Earth as a man. And it is for this reason that He says to God: "*because you have loved me before the Foundation of the world*". That is, that God knew that He would send Jesus as a man to be sacrificed so that humans found back their first condition. And this long before the world was created.

God knows all things and we cannot change anything to this.

If this quality was given to men, it would be catastrophic because they would act on the basis of their perception.

But God is perfect, He does not sin. And that is what Jesus, Paul, Peter tried to say.



Here is what God's will is for anyone:

**1 Timothy 2: 3-4:** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

It is a fact, God desires that ALL humans come to new birth, but because God is perfect and omniscient, He knows in advance who will succeed and who will fail.

But the huge fact that makes a difference, it is because God is perfect, the fact to know in advance has no effect in His way of acting towards us. He knows who will accept to be saved and who will not accept it, but He acts as if He did not know it.

This is something that we need to integrate into our way of thinking.

Because God is perfect, because God loves us infinitely beyond all things, even if He knows the outcome of our lives, everyone will keep all his chances to come to the knowledge of the truth.

You see, because God is love and He is perfect, His knowledge about us does not affect His actions or thoughts.

It is a fact that everyone needs to understand, integrate and practice permanently.

Paul and Peter wanted to draw this to our attention in their letters, this fact that God's decisions are perfect and not unfair or tyrannical.

Paul and Peter wished to put to our attention in their letters this very fact, there is no election unfair or despotic.

Is it not wonderful to know that my father in heaven knows absolutely everything about me and that my future mistakes affect nothing in His way of being with me today?

This is also the character of God!

This time of grace that we live today will not last always.

On one hand it is a good thing, because those who are born again can finally live the eternal life in a place where evil will no longer exist.

But on the other hand, I think often that later will be the better.

Personally I never pray for Jesus to come back soon.

Because this time is already fixed for thousands of years and will not change, and secondly because I know that the later this time will come, the more there time there will be for those still to come into the kingdom or unsaved people who will go through the new birth.

I do not want to act selfishly, neglecting those who need to come into the kingdom yet go through the new birth.

We can now in retrospect, say that grace is the period which lasted the longest. And I hope that it will last much longer as possible. It is also the will of God, as we said previously.

**1 Timothy 2: 3-4:** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

Today anyone who so wishes it, can validate the action of Jesus Christ in his life.

As we all know, Jesus said that He will return to put an end to this period in which we live in now. Because God's plan must continue until its perfect accomplishment, this grace period can't last indefinitely.

What now takes us in the book of the Revelation of John?

It is often a book which is sidestepped because for some people the period described is not part of their daily lives, for others these writings seem too be complicated, too symbolic or with too many metaphors.

We will still turn on some passages in order to always know more about the character of God.

The purpose of the explanation of some of these passages of the book of the Revelation of John is to better understand the plan of salvation of God, better understand His motivation, His love for human beings.

We are on the island of Patmos, to where John is banished.

There one day, he receives a vision of what should happen.

**Revelation 4: 1-3:** *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in*

*heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

Shortly after the beginning of this vision, John is invited by a voice proclaiming: “come up *here*, and I'll show you what is to happen in the next. ».

Let's look at some interesting details which show that nothing is from at random in the plan of salvation of God. It is Him who sits on this throne, in all its grandeur, His love and His power. This throne is surrounded by a rainbow similar to Emerald. The Rainbow reminds us of the commitment that God had made to humans just after Noah's flood. This Rainbow symbolizes the alliance, the Covenant that God made with humans. And even if all doesn't respect it, this Covenant is still in force today, it will be no more flood as Noah's on Earth.

***Revelation 4: 4*** : *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

Here again we find the same idea of alliance, but this time it shows that God, from the beginning, was not only planning to produce a plan of salvation for the Jewish people elected in the period of the law, but rather for all human beings. There were twelve elders for the twelve tribes of Israel, and twelve elders to symbolize exactly the same alliance, the same salvation for anyone who is not come out of the Jewish people. It is mentioned no difference or distinction between these old men. John mentions them twenty-four at a time, and not twelve and twelve.

***Revelation 6: 9-10*** : *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

There are two interesting ideas that we will cover.

The first can be confusing if you are not well guided on the facts of the spirit, soul and body (for more details on this topic, see my study *the spirit, soul and body*).

When John says he sees “*the souls of those who have been slain*”, many falsely think that it is our soul that is saved and it is this soul who will go take a new body in paradise.

If you look a Strong concordance, we realizes pretty quickly that this word translated here as souls is very broad sense.

*Strong (5590) Psuche: LSG - soul, life, someone, anyone, spirit, heart, a being...*

*1) breath, the breath of life, in a word the vital force that animates the body and shows itself in respiration of animals, humans, life, this in what is life, a living being, a living soul.*

Let's look at other passages which contain the same Greek word translated here by soul.

**Matthew 6: 25** : *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life (psuché), what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life (psuché) more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

**Matthew 10: 28** : *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul(psuché) : but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul (psuché) and body in hell.*

**Mark 3: 4** : *And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life(psuché) , or to kill? But they held their peace.*

When John speaks of the "souls" that were under the altar, it is individuals, lives, and not a part of a being as the soul only.

It is very important to understand and assimilate this fact. In the Bible, sometimes the word soul is indeed the soul (one of the three parts of the human being), but other times the word soul means the whole being, the life of the person.

There is therefore no carnal souls in heaven, but only spirits beings coated with a new body run by a new soul.

This vision that John described us here takes place in the future because it speaks of events that have not yet occurred.

Jean talks about Christians who have been slain because of the word of God, they are martyrs.

In the second part of this passage, it would seem that these martyrs are getting impatient because God did not seem to answer them.

It comes here to the martyrs, and purpose of a martyr is to suffer for a cause. These martyrs pray to God of course, and we would think that their prayers are not answered, but is not so. If they were, they would no longer be martyrs, because the purpose of the martyr is to suffer, when he suffers no more, he is no longer in the State of martyrdom. This is why we can say that their prayers may seem not to be answered.

What does mean? That it must be understood that a percentage of prayer among Christians are staying in a not fulfilled state. This case, here, applies only to the martyrs, not to the born again Christians who are living.

***Revelation 6: 11*** : *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

Here the martyrs are asked to wait for a time. All the martyrs will be rewarded according to their suffering, at the same time, in the same moment. This is why those who arrived in the Sheol are asked to wait until all their brothers and sisters, who are also martyrs like them, arrive in the Sheol.

Everything is perfectly planned, there is no delay.

In this period that we call “*after the return of Jesus*”, it will still be possible to benefit from the sacrifice of Jesus, but things will be far less easy than they are today.

Indeed satan will be in possession of certain powers that he does not have today. God must be fair to satan in the battle between them. There is no effort from God to do this, it is in His nature, his character.

It would be presumptuous to explain all the details of this battle that has lasted thousands of years. But we can see satan, at different periods described in the Revelation of John, from time to time, with powers that will be giving back to him.

***Revelation 7: 1*** : *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.*

The first time I read this passage, I thought, like many others, that John had the impression that the Earth was flat with four corners.

What a stupid mistake!

The word of God is true, it does not take to account limited thoughts of human beings.

A few years ago I met an astronomer Christian physicist. I have had long interesting discussions with him. He told me that discoveries showed that the Earth is not perfectly round. It is oval and not round. This oval shape deepens with the attraction of the moon on the Earth. And as the Earth is not perfectly round, we could easily consider that the poles form a slight point or pin at each end, each pole therefore forms a corner. Then if we set an Angel opposite to each other on the line of Ecuador, so we have our Earth divided into four equal quarters. The vision of John was therefore had nothing skimpy, or limited.

These four Angels thus received the power to stop the four winds, which means all of the winds: those who come from north, South, East and West. In this configuration the four angels are so positioned in strategic corners of the Earth to stop all the winds from any direction.

Often, the problem is that Christians forget that God does nothing by chance, and that He always chooses the best outcome.

We tend to see, evaluate His decisions or His actions as if they were managed by a human with his faults.

As we said at the beginning, God is not a man, and does not react as a man.

Grace, as we know it today, is then here finished in its form, but not in its action.

Many people at that time have gone through great persecutions. They have experienced great suffering, famine, and burns. And for this they have the privilege of being right next to the throne of God, in His presence.

John is transported in the heaven where he sees those who will be saved through great sufferings.

We must see things this way: God put an end to this period of grace where anyone could easily and simply accept the sacrifice of Jesus.

And in this new period “*after the return of Jesus*”, we would have thought that everything would be closed, locked, that everything would be too late. But no, God keeps this small door open, yet for some more time, as to always accommodate the “latecomers”.

***Revelation 7: 13-15:*** *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

When we read in the fifteenth verse that these people are going to worship God day and night, this may seem long for some folks. I think about those who are born again and who find it difficult to worship or pray to God more than 20 or 30 minutes in their churches. Such people need to ask themselves: “*but how I will do to live in praising God night and day! I won’t ever get there!*”.

Of course this has a meaning.

All of these people will not worship God continuously as we could do it today Sunday in a church.

Being near the throne of God means that these people will have all the presence of God at their side, they will not have to leave and return, they will not miss anything of the presence of their creator. They will feel His presence permanently. That is why they worship God constantly, which means that this presence near the throne will never leave them anymore.

This permanent worship that John speaks to us is a feeling, a way of life and not any action on our part to God. Let yourself be loved by Him and have that feeling of return of our love to His person.

Here is a passage where we see that Satan and his demons get back some of their powers, in the purpose to be beaten in the end of this conflict with God. But also, and above all what interests us here, it is a new demonstration of love and God's compassion for humans. Let's look at these two passages that follow a little more closely.

**Revelation 9: 1-2 :** *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

So what is this star?

Often the star means an angelic being. But it is clear here that this can only be a fallen angel who was a star before disobedience. The logic could show us that it is satan himself. But the problem is that satan was already cast out of heaven a long time ago.

I looked at what time the verb "fall from heaven" is used and the tense that has been taken is uncertain in the manuscripts. We can therefore develop two hypotheses.

John could have said: "*and I saw a star that fell from the sky*" in the meaning of: "it just barely fell off now".

But he could also say the same sentence in the sense: "*this star that was cast out and therefore fallen from the sky a long time ago*".

But in the second case, this would imply that an Angel of God would be descended from heaven to give him these keys. The two hypotheses are just pure speculation, but it is always interesting to understand, to know more about God.

So, there are apparently 3 solutions:

1. satan would have had access to the heaven just so that these keys will be given to him.
2. The one who is handed over the keys isn't a simple demon.
3. An Angel would have descended from heaven to give him the keys.

**Revelation 9: 3-6:** *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*



Who are these grasshoppers?

It is clear they are not true grasshoppers.

These are demons which were locked in a well in the ground.

Once again, just like in previous wounds, it is total darkness on Earth, because of this smoke that obscures the sky. The light of the Sun no more goes through. Humanity is in the dark. This event may be seems to an eclipse for a while, but for a while only. All this without counting the stifling atmosphere because of the smoke.

Let us not forget that it is God who is coordinating this event.

Of course the event (vision) took place long time ago, but this does not mean that there are no more people who are born again on Earth. As we were saying previously, the grace as we know it today is complete in its form, but it is still in force, just under a different action. Today we just have to accept what Jesus has done for me to receive it, but in that time that will come, most people will have to suffer as martyrs to gain access to the real good news.

Then why God sends such a scourge? This may seem hard and without compassion.

Quite the contrary.

The rapture already took place.

The time is moving forward.

The time will come when satan and his demons will be destroyed in the Lake of fire. And God, in His love, has no other choice that pushes the maximum of people to make their choice between eternal life or eternal hell. And for this there is no great choices, they have to be obliged to take a decision!

These demons are bloodthirsty hatred and death towards men.

But John tells us that these locusts are commanded to do not touch the grass, or trees or anything that is green, otherwise not that which what true locusts would eat normally. This is evidence to the fact that they are not true locusts as insects. Even before their craving of hatred and death, they won't do what they want. These demons will not be able to kill even if it is what they want the most.

God's desire is that people can make their choice and not die taking hell by default. It is hoped that the utmost of people return to biblical thoughts in these moments of suffering. Not that suffering leads to God, not at all, but it often pushes to refocus on the essentials of life priorities, scrap what is not essential, return to more balanced thoughts.

These demons may not, therefore, give death.

Their bites will be directly physical or mental first, then physical after? It would seem that they will be physical, and we all know that physical suffering affects the mind after a while. So we can say that both will be affected.

For those humans who have been bitten by these grasshoppers demons, satan will surely use lies saying that the sufferings will stop if some folks promise to worship him. But for those who will fall into this trap, their condition will be even worse than suffering on Earth, because of these bites.

The rapture having already taken place, it can be deemed that no one will be there to preach the true Gospel, but that there will still be much books and writings left on Earth by caught up Christians. There may be also as a phenomenon "*snowball effect*" because once some have understood that they can access to eternity in Christ Jesus, others will surely follow.

Tormented by these demons humans will seek death, but will not find it. In other words, impossible to commit suicide to stop this suffering. It is still there a chance and evidence that God wants a maximum to be saved. If death were possible, a huge percentage would have finished in hell because of their suicide without going through the new birth. The suffering will be so violent that men would seek deliverance by all means.

The only way out to this suffering will be of course to accept that Jesus has forgiven their sins and follow His teachings.

God will make sure that the only way out in these atrocious suffering will be salvation in Jesus Christ and nothing else.

People will be immortal for a time. Those who will be stung will actually receive immortality for a time, in order not to die so as not to escape the choices of life in Jesus.

God had made things so perfect.

This solution may seem hard, but it is in fact one more offer God gives at this time, because the majority of the people will be so influenced by evil, that it

will be extremely difficult to ask the question: “*Can this Jesus can really do something for me*”. ?

Several theories are possible.

But what you should remember first is that God, even after the return of Jesus, still maintains this state of grace that allows anyone access to eternal life through Jesus.

The only difference will be that at that time, as rapture will be passed, there will be more possibilities to arrive in heaven with Jesus Christ. But this time, the only transition for possible eternity will be by physical death. Many will be martyred (not all) because of the coming tribulation. We can easily think that hardly anyone could escape these spirits '*grasshoppers*'. Impossible to take refuge anywhere, because a spirit is not stopped by walls, a cave, or anything else. So nowhere where to take refuge, or to escape them.

Again an evidence of the love of God, although the pain will be intense, but in the same time all will pass by this choice of pain or salvation in Jesus Christ. And this is essentially.

We could say that God is hard to inflict these sufferings, but the heart of man (his thoughts system) is even harder. This is why God had to use more than toughness than men in their rejection of the plan of salvation that He offers them.

It will be impossible for humans not born again to combat these grasshoppers' spirits. John shows in his vision that they have breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings recalled the noise of battle carriage with several horses.

At the time of John, in a battle, if one were on foot or on a carriage with several horses, it wasn't the same thing at all. With a charriot, it had the power of four horses, could be much more offensive, and the chances of victory over soldiers on foot were almost 100%.

This is what the vision of John wants us to understand. These demonic spirits will be invisible to humans. Even with the advances of science, humans cannot absolutely do anything against these grasshoppers' bites.

Let us remember that it is God who sends these grasshoppers spirits, and that they are part of a perfect plan of salvation for the rest of the humans of that time. Many will go through the new birth because of these grasshoppers'

spirits. We can assume that millions of people will run to the Gospel and go through the new birth.

This scourge will last five months. The same time as Noah's flood. Waters remained high for five months before starting to decline. Five months, it is also the time that Elisabeth has remained hidden when she fell pregnant with John.

These spirits will have a leader at their head. His name means *destroyer*. We see here that there is a satanic hierarchy, Paul tells us in **Romans 8: 38**. Even if this hierarchy is totally corrupted by evil, it remains present, and a leader will coordinate the attacks of these spirits.

**Revelation 9: 13-16**: *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

Now, after five months, another scourge arrives.

Other information is given by John.

We don't know if the scourges are going one after the other, or if some time is going on between the two. We might assume that events will follow quickly enough, but this is still only speculation.

We learn here that four angels, who are falling angels have been prepared and chained here, on the Euphrates River.

The Euphrates is about 2000 km long, originates in Turkey, and then descends to the Persian Gulf through the Syria for a quarter and the other three-quarters through Iraqi territory.

We might ask the question: *“the four demons are chained now on the Euphrates?”* Nothing allows us to say it, but nothing prevents us to say it either. It seems in any case that these four demons task will be only of this scourge. Past history shows us that Babylon, Iraq, has very often been a source of conflict and attacks to the people of God. Today, this region of the Euphrates is mostly against Christians and especially against Israel.

We might assume that these four demons, chained, nonetheless engaged as early as today a strong influence on the leadership of this region of the world. But this is not their primary purpose. They were then chained where they are only to supervise this attack on humans.

These horsemen will be 200 million, it is a huge army. Today, there never was such an army deployed to human's beings. To give us a comparison, this army will be equivalent to the population of the Brazil.

***Revelation 9: 17-19:*** *And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.*

Humans became subject to the scourge with the grasshoppers spirits. They were unable to find relief in giving themselves death.

This time, it seems that the purpose of God is quite another.

Prior to the scourge was to push humans to reflect on their lives and achieve in an urgent manner that a Creator God wants to save them.

This time, the Demons will have the power to kill. And they are not going to miss it. 200 million of demons that have possessed powerful animals are going to throw without any restraint on a third of the population of the Earth.

John gives us some details on these animals.

We can see that they have a battleship red, blue and yellow, they will have the power to spit fire, smoke, and sulphur. Their tails will be fitted with a serpent's head.

It is clear that these creatures do not have the same purpose or the same mission as the grasshoppers that have gone before.

The fire burns and consume. This is what will probably happen to those who are their victims.

But there is also smoke, it Smothers and makes the vision very difficult.

Sulfur is worse than smoke, because it enters the lungs and interferes with breathing.

John tells us that these three plagues will kill one third of humans. We may wonder why God, who previously seems to give a chance, seems to, this time resigned to kill.

The only parameters on which it can rely, as they are like pillars, is the fact that God does not change and that His goal is still to save the maximum of His creatures for eternity.

If we look at the context of this passage, we can think that a large number of humans just came through the new birth in the previous scourge. They must now live their lives of Christians on Earth. But there are also a large number of people who have refused this new birth. They have surely begun to persecuting the new Christians. These people would be number of one-third of the population then.

Can we say that when this third of the population will have been eliminated, all others who remain would be Christian?

No, certainly not.

But we can think that the third part who will be erased by these animals, themselves driven by demons, corresponds to the population, which of course was denied the first born again that God offered them, but also those who severely persecuted the new Christians of that time.

John does not tell us how many people have passed through the new birth, but we can suggests that several million did.

Unfortunately humans do not always follow what God offers them, and those one's have surely denied the new birth and preferred to suffer. They persecute Christians in a pretty powerful way. And God will have no other choice but to eliminate the third party to protect these millions of young Christians.

It is a very important fact to assimilate.

Think that this third part who will be eliminated were really all dedicated and subject to satan and his demons. The demons of this scourge will not hesitate a second to slaughter this third of the population of the Earth, yet these people had chosen to serve satan by refusing the new birth offered by God. And that is without any restraint that they will be slaughtered by these 200 millions of demons.

What can we say from it?

The devil only wants to destroy, strangle and kill humans, because he and his demons have a hatred without measure for us.

This passage clearly shows that even those who follow the devil and are loyal to him will be killed without hesitation, Satan will not do any exception of any of them.

Here is an evidence of the love of God to His children, yet when He protects them from persecution that will be difficult to overcome as a young Christian. God removes not human beings without sadness, all these people are His creatures. But there is no choice that to eliminate those who chose to go against Him and deliberately follow Satan even after numerous offers of redemption from their spirit.

If God were not doing so, He would take the risk to lose everyone, Christians and non-Christians, to see the moving forward of the Gospel stopped here.

***Revelation 9: 20-21*** : *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

There were two types of people before this scourge:

1. Those who refused the offer of God that gave them eternity.
- 2 Others who had refused the offer of eternity, but simply to live a life of idolatry without persecuting the Christians.

And it's of this folks that it is about in verse twenty.

Despite all these plagues, they preferred to continue to develop their confidence and their lives in statues that are pieces of wood, bronze, gold, silver or stones. But behind all these statues hide real demons, and these people will feel that the statue speaks to their souls, but it will be in fact just demonic lies.

Things are already so nowadays. There are many who believe by naivety, that large or small, fetish statues, of charms will improve their lives. But all of this is only demonic lies.

Most Christians are not enough vigilant on these points, and believe that yes these statues are dead and without lives, which is true, but they forget that there are demons that affect people who worship these statues. And these people, for some, come to commit theft, murders, but also in response to these demons, satanic magic acts and the immorality of any kind.

We can think that, these humans that remained in the verse twenty have not been affected by this scourge, because they were not seeking to persecute the young Christians. But God, in His love, still gives them the opportunity to turn away from evil perhaps listening to someone talk about salvation in Jesus, or by finding a writing of the Gospel.

After different stages and tribulation, satan will be eventually destroyed and his demons and all those who have followed them, will be eliminated from the spiritual world. Evil will no longer exist.

Well one unwary which might explain our future life with God. No one has this revelation.

We can however give some glaring indications.

An easy conclusion is to say that, where we will be evil will not exist anymore. Evil, but also everything that relates to evil.

So we bathed in this world, that often we don't pay attention of all these small things that we seem to be part of our everyday life, but which should not be in a world where evil no longer exist... Finished the keys, locks, no more grids, no more contracts, no more evidence means, whatever it is, etc.

**2 Pierre 3: 13:** *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

**Revelation 21: 1:** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

**Revelation 21: 3-5:** *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make*



*all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

Several times, our youngest son has already asked me: «Daddy, *how it is going to be in Heaven? " Could we play? Could we play basketball? »*

And each time I reply: *"you know Kyle, I don't know exactly how it will be, but if, as I think, God makes in the same idea as the first time with Adam and Eve, we will have a world like ours, but without any form of evil, and surely some heavenly basketball ».*

Then he answers me excited by saying: *"I look forward to see how this is going to happen.. "*

Of course, we have not described all the character of God in this study, but I hope (which means I'm sure I'll see it happen) that your perception of the person of God evolved in a sense of love and freedom.

Remember, God loves us, regardless of the circumstances and regardless of our actions.

Too many Christians still have this image of a "give and take" God, where we have to be like this, like that, to "get" from God.

But also, too many non-Christians also have this perception of God, where you have to give to get. As a result very often to make them run away, because they are not interested in such an undertaking.

God is perfectly balanced in the Trinity father, son and Holy Spirit. He does not need that we love Him, but He just want to love us.

God just offer you to let Him loving you.

This study has been offer to you by '***The Real Good News “Ministry.***

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