

## GOD AND MAN - THE VISIBLE STRUGGLE

### Genesis 1-3

**Introduction:** The Bible has only one story and that is of God and man/people, God's dealings and struggle with people. The Bible describes human history, where man struggles to be his own master, to do things his/her own way, committing all kinds of evil and cursing God.

The Bible reveals what man/people is/are really like but also what God is really like, intervening and man's source of salvation through God's own Son, the Savior, Messiah, Jesus Christ. This struggle between God and man is experienced by every human being in heart and mind every day of his/her life. Temptations in thought or act, causes a struggle whether to follow God and do right or to give in and disobey God. This struggle started from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden with God's first human beings.

#### 1. Adam and Eve: A perfect relationship with God is broken (*Genesis 1 - 3*)

##### - The Perfect Relationship (*Gen. 1-2*)

- God created man with the purpose to cover man with love, goodness and grace.
- God put man in a perfect place and man's responsibility was to keep the relationship alive by obeying God.
- Disobedience would bring death, physical and eternal, with permanent separation from God.
- For an unknown amount of time all was well and God and Adam and Eve fellowshiped together.

##### - The Relationship Broken (*Gen. 3:1-7*)

- There came a day when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and the relationship was severed.
- The penalty took effect and they (man) were separated from God, doomed to die.

##### - The Relationship Restored (*Gen. 3:8-24*)

- God who is so loving, intervened and sought out man (Adam and Eve) and promised to restore the perfect relationship through the "*seed of the woman..*"

#### 2. Noah and The Flood: (*Gen. 6 - 10*)

##### - People (man) continued to disobey God (*Gen. 6:1-7*)

##### - In Love, God intervened. (*Gen. 6:8-10; 10*)

- God found one righteous man, Noah and saved the human race through him.

#### 3. The Tower of Babel: (*Gen. 11:1-9*)

- Man (people) attempts to build a world-wide empire.
- Both an empire and a religion that stood totally opposed to God.

##### - In Love, God intervened.

- God confused their tongues, forcing the people to scatter all over the earth.

#### 4. Abraham and Israel: (*Gen. 11:10- Gen. 50*)

- Man (people) continues to do nothing different toward God after the Tower of Babel.

- God intervenes once again by choosing a man, Abraham to father a new nation.
  - To be a people who would love God supremely and give Him their first loyalty.
  - To be a witness to the rest of the world that God is the only living and true God.
  - To be a chosen line through whom God would send the *promised One, the Messiah*.
  - To be the channel of God's written revelation to the world, the BIBLE.
  - To give Israel the *promised land* and to set before the world the goal of a promised "heaven."
- The immediate descendants of Abraham continued to fail God time and again and the book of Genesis closes with Israel being in bondage as slaves to Egypt.

#### **5. Moses and the Law: (*Exodus - Deuteronomy*)**

- God, in love, intervened again by raising up Moses to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage and to give His law to Israel and the world:
  - to teach man that God is holy, just and good.
  - to teach man that he/she is unable to save him/herself.
  - to teach man's need for the *promised One*, the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The people of Israel were not faithful to follow God consistently.
  - They chose to turn away from God and go their own way throughout their wilderness wanderings.

#### **6. Establishment of a Kingdom: Joshua, the Judges, Saul, David, Solomon, other Kings of Israel: (*Job - Esther*)**

- Through the courage of Joshua and the Judges, Israel conquered enough land to move into Canaan.
  - Now in the promised land, Israel again rejected the rule of God and demanded a king.
- God again intervened and gave the people of Israel a line of kings.
  - Some of the kings were good and some bad and the nation of Israel became more and more like the rest of the world's kingdoms.
  - The people became more and more worldly minded, etc.
  - Israel finally fell just as all other worldly kingdoms fall and once again went into captivity.

#### **7. The Cry of the Poets and Prophets: (*Job - Malachi*)**

- God raised up poets and prophets to plead with Israel to return to Him but Israel continued to do as they wanted, rejecting God and turning further and further away from Him.

#### **8. God's Supreme Intervention - Jesus Christ: (*Matthew - Jude*)**

- In the New Testament
  - God is seen intervening in human and world history by sending *the promised one*, His own Son, Jesus Christ, to save mankind. (*Matthew - John*)
- Man rejected God's Son and killed Him on a cross.
- However, God still did not wipe man off the face of the earth, God intervened once again:
  - while dying on the cross, God laid the sins of the world upon His Son, who then died for man's sins.
  - God then raised His Son from the dead.

- The result has been astounding:
  - countless of people have trusted God's Son, Jesus Christ as their Savior.
  - they believed what God said that Jesus Christ actually died for their sins on the cross and when they believed, they would receive God's Holy Spirit.
  - the Church was born and began marching toward the glorious day of redemption. (*Acts - Jude*)

**9. God's Greatest Climactic Intervention Is Yet To Come: (*Revelation*)**

- Human history will end with the return of God's Son, Jesus Christ to bring all people into judgment.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. There can be no doubt about it: God loves people or else He would have obliterated mankind from the face of the earth a long time ago.
2. From the beginning of the human race, people have replaced God with their own ideas and inventions but God never gave up and hasn't yet.
3. God has provided a means of salvation for people if they will accept it and it is through His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. There is coming a time, perhaps very soon, when God will bring an end to all His mercy to the human race and do away with this old earth and all who have rejected His loving offer of eternal life through His love, Grace and Son.
5. So, how is it with you and God? With you and Jesus Christ, His Son? Are you among those who have accepted God's Son and have eternal life? If not, now is the time to do so.