

THE ONE THEME OF THE BIBLE

Psalms 119:9-16

Introduction: The Bible is composed of several "books," hundreds of chapters and thousands of verses and all with a single theme: "God and Man."

- Man wants to be and do "his own thing."
- God has greater things in mind for man than man wants to do.
- God intervenes over and over again saving mankind.
- God eventually sends His own Son, Jesus, to make a way for man and God to be together again.
- Three "wills" are seen in the Bible: God's Will, Man's Will and Satan's Will.

THE STRUGGLE OF WILLS: GOD'S, MAN'S AND SATAN'S

- 1. Adam and Eve (*Genesis 1 - 3*)** - The starting relationship between God and man is broken.
 - God made a perfect place (Garden of Eden) then made a man and a woman (Adam and Eve).
 - Their only responsibility was to God.
 - There came a day when Adam and Eve (first couple) chose to go against God's will.
 - Immediately they were separated from God. (Listened to Satan)
 - God intervened, making changes, putting them out on their own but promising to one day restore the broken relationship and fellowship through someone from a woman.
- 2. Noah and the Flood (*Genesis 6 - 10*)** -
 - Through the centuries man continued to "do his thing" and disobey God, becoming extremely immoral, lawless and violent. (Listened to Satan's Will)
 - In love, once again, God intervened, finding one righteous man and his family and started all over again after flooding away all other human life.
- 3. The Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11*)** -
 - Again man returned to "doing his own thing" and was attempting to build a worldwide empire, both religious and secular that was totally opposed to God and what God wanted.
 - God stepped in and saved the human race from becoming totally Godless by confusing the languages of the people and thus forcing them to scatter all over the earth.
- 4. Abraham and Israel (*Genesis 11-50*)** -
 - Centuries pass and man is seen doing nothing for God except populating the earth with no thought of what God might want. (Satan's Will)
 - God intervened once again, this time by choosing a man - Abraham - to "father" a new nation of people God would call "Israel:"
 - Who would love God supremely, giving Him their first loyalty.
 - Who would be a witness to all the world that God is the only God.
 - Who would be the **chosen line** through whom God would send the one He promised back in the Garden of Eden.
 - Who would be the recipients of and channel through which God's **written revelation**, the Bible, would come.
 - Who would be given a **land of their own**.

5. Moses and the Law (*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)

- True to the past character of mankind, all of Abraham's descendants chose to leave God and "do their own thing" and thus were put into slavery to the Egyptians.
- God, in love, intervened again, raising up yet another man, Moses, to lead Israel out of their Egyptian bondage and be given a set of written, visible laws:
 - To teach them that God is holy, just and good.
 - To teach them that they just cannot save themselves.
 - To teach them their need for the promised one, the savior of the world, God's own Son.
- Even after all God did through Moses and others, after a while Israel did not follow God and chose to turn away and "do their own thing" even while in the wilderness years.

6. Their own Land (*Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*)

- God used Joshua and others to help Israel conquer enough land to get started settling the land.
 - Even while still conquering and settling the land, Israel began to "do their own thing."
 - Israel didn't want God as their "king," they wanted a real human being as king.
- God intervened and let them have their kings. Some were good and some were not.
 - Through the years Israel became just like the other nations, immoral, covetous, prideful, idolatrous and corrupt. (Listened to Satan)
- God put Israel into slavery again bringing an end to their "doing their own thing."

7. The Cry of the Poets and Prophets (*Job through the rest of the Old Testament*)

- Through the years God raised up men (poets and prophets) to plead with Israel to return to their God, but with little success. Israel only went further from God.

8. God's Supreme Intervention (*Matthew through Jude*)

- The "New Testament" reveals God intervening with His Promised One, His Son, Jesus.
- Again man rejected God by killing God's Son, Jesus on a cross. (Listened to Satan)
- God did not wipe man off the face of the earth despite what was done by man.
 - God intervened once again.
 - God laid the sins of the entire world on His Son while His Son was dying on the cross.
 - God's Son, Jesus died for every person's sins.
 - God then raised His Son, Jesus up from the dead.
- Since that day, thousands upon thousands have trusted God's Son, Jesus, believing what God said that whenever they believed, their sins would be forgiven and they would be indwelt by God's Holy Spirit and they would live forever in God's place called Heaven.

9. God's Great, Climactic Final Intervention (*Revelation*)

- God's Son, Jesus who ascended into heaven after His resurrection shall return again. God is going to intervene just one more time and it will be to end human history.
- In God's time, Jesus will return and then will come the great judgment time when every person will stand before God and answer for doing things God's way or "doing things their own way."

CONCLUSION:

1. Every day every person decides: "God's Way," "My Way," or "Satan's Way."
2. One day God will stop intervening and all will be over. Be sure to do things "God's Way."