

WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT

Genesis 2:1-7; 3:1-15

Ezekiel, Isaiah, Job, Jude, Luke, John, Revelation

Introduction: "What is it all about? Where did it all start? Why am I here? What all is out there? When will it all end? Who am I to believe?" Questions like these everyone has one time or other wondered about and even talked about. For those who do not believe the Biblical account, they have the "wisdom" of man to listen to. For those who believe the Bible, they have the Word of God to believe in or not. What does the Word of God say about all this? How did it all start? Who started it? Why was it all started in the first place?

I. BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE EARTH

1. Various scriptures in the Bible give insight into how things were before mankind was started.
 - God spoke into being "angels" whom He gave various talents and places of service.
 - God gave to one, superiority over all the other "angels" and to this one God gave all authority and power, only stopping at God, Himself.
 - This particular angel (Lucifer, Star of the Morning) became obsessed with his own self importance and began to take steps to take God's throne from Him.
 - A vast number of the heavenly host chose to be with this rebellious angel in his conquest to take God's place.
2. God, being God could/cannot be overtaken, dethroned, for God is greater than all He has created therefore Lucifer and his followers were defeated and all the angels who had chosen to follow Lucifer were banned from their heavenly place. Lucifer, now called Satan, still has access to this very day but not in his once held very high position. He is still "prince" over those who "fell" with him and still has all his powers.

II. CREATION OF THE WORLD AND MAN

1. God used no angelic model to make man, nor gave him heavenly powers, nor unlimited movement, but tied, limited man to earth, also limiting him in intelligence and powers.
2. God and Satan (Lucifer) are in constant battle over who man belongs to.
3. The account of man's creation and fall:
 - the creation began a drama still being enacted on the stage of human history.
 - the creation gives the divine explanation of the present fallen and ruined condition of man.
 - here is learned the subtle devices of Satan.
 - here is beheld the powerlessness of man to be righteous apart from God.
 - the creation reveals the spiritual effects of sin, it separates man from God.
 - the creation reveals God's attitude toward any who are guilty of sin.
 - here is seen the universal tendency to try to make excuses for one's sins.
 - the creation teaches the gracious promises which God has made for man's great need.
 - here begins that marvelous stream of prophecy which runs throughout the Bible about Jesus.
 - here is learned that man cannot approach God in his state of sinfulness and unrighteousness.

III. THE FALL OF MAN

1. There are many areas of thought concerning the fall of man:
 - some admit the results but are unable to accept the facts.
 - some attempt to account for sin without admitting the historical facts of sin.
 - some take sin to be a normal part of life and there was no specific FIRST sin.
 - man didn't really fall, but in reality is on his/her way up.
 - man slipped but through certain man made acts, can climb back up.
 - man fell, but can go back up if he chooses to do so.
 - man fell, all the way.

2. Satan's two fold involvement in man's fall:
 - his effort to separate man from God and to attach man to him, thus making man dependent upon him and not on God.
 - his thoughts that God wouldn't judge every person, but let some go free, therefore compromising and having to reinstate Satan back to his once held position in heaven.
 - his two-fold attack on man: to cause man to doubt God's Word and to cause man to doubt God's goodness. In this manner Satan led the first man to fall.

3. How far did man fall?
 - Some say there is no need to consider human nature for man is going upward to better things.
 - Some say that man can be reinstated by his own actions of religious acts.
 - The Bible teaches total depravity of all mankind. Man can be good to man, but is not what God wants or expects.
 - Man is good in man's eyes but in man's eyes only for God requires perfection and holiness.
 - A person can dress as an airplane pilot, but that doesn't mean he/she can fly a plane.
 - People act, think themselves to be good, others think they are good and people go to great lengths to prove their goodness, but still in God's eyes, they are not good but are utterly void and destitute of any and all goodness by God's standards.
 - Goodness required by man of men is an imperfect goodness and cannot be compared to God's standards.
 - Many people qualify for places of honor among people but the same qualifications are not acceptable in God's eyes.
 - In the days of Food Stamps, the stamps were accepted only at grocery stores, not the post office nor the bank, so it is with man's goodness, only with man, not with God.

II. MAN LOST SOMETHING WHEN HE FELL - WHAT?

1. What was it that God stooped over and gave to the first man?

2. What was it that the first man had but lost because of his disobedience?
 - It has been missing from man since the fall.
 - it is missing in man even today thus causing a separation from God.
 - it is something man must have in order to be accepted by God.
 - it is something that can take a sin-torn life and make it like new.
 - it is that which can transform a lost, condemned soul into an heir to the throne of God.

- it is that which man must have in order to be saved.
 - What is it that man lost when he fell?
3. Man had something at first which made him acceptable to God.
 - Man disobeyed and lost that something.
 - Every living soul since that time has been born without it.
 - To be accepted by God, one must have it.
 - Without it a person is lost.
 - What is it? What did man lose?
 4. Man lost the presence, the breath of God. (*Gen. 2:7*)
 - Jesus told His disciples to go and wait for the Comforter to come, the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.
 - Man sinned and God withdrew His Spirit, His presence, His breath.
 - What is man born without? The breath, the Spirit of God.
 - What is it that a person receives when he/she accepts Jesus Christ? The Spirit of God.
 - What is it that seals a Christian's soul throughout all eternity? The Holy Spirit of God.

V. THE REDEMPTION OF MAN

1. Has Satan won the war by detaching man from God?
 - It must be admitted that God would have been justified in destroying the first man, Adam.
 - One must admit that God was justified in destroying the world except Noah and his family.
 - It must also be admitted that God would be justified in wiping this world clean this very minute.
2. Satan's plan for man:
 - Satan had planned on God either destroying man or forgiving man.
 - He had not planned on God being so just to demand satisfaction before forgiveness.
 - He had not planned on God stepping into the picture by leaving His throne, taking off His crown of glory, laying aside His robe of righteousness, laying down His scepter of Holiness and entering this world, walking, breathing, living as any other human being.
 - He had not counted on God taking His own penalty upon His own shoulders. Satan had not counted on Jesus. He had not counted on the Cross.
3. There are three sources of hope for man:
 - Satan. He can do nothing. Man. Human history proves that he can do nothing. God. God must do everything for man that has to be done.
 - Why does the all powerful God permit the ruination of human history? He does so in order to demonstrate to the whole universe that neither Satan nor man can do anything to redeem mankind.
 - God doesn't care or hasn't the power to do anything some say. God both cares and has the power but His divine plan is to be climaxed with the ending of this world to prove to all His creations that there is but ONE supreme power - His! God's.
 - God knows man's condition. God has power to alter it but will not because of His greater purpose. Look at the cross! Look at the presence of the Holy Spirit. Look at the

- coming return of Jesus. Yes! God cares.
- Most people never look beyond their own selfish lives, not to the past nor to the future. It is Me, My, Mine, never realizing that there is an eternal reason behind all of this.

CONCLUSION:

1. God created man for a reason, to show all the creations His divine justice.
2. Man sinned and fell from God.
3. Man lost something when he sinned and no man has been born with it since.
4. Man is lost, doomed without that presence of God and it cannot be attained by any human effort.
5. Man does not realize that there is an invisible war going on between God and Satan and man is in the middle. Two wills pull at man and in the end, only one will shall be victorious and that will is God's.
6. One day a trumpet will sound in heaven, there will be a shout given and Jesus will return to this earth in clouds of glory and all the dead who have believed in Jesus shall rise and with the living Church ascend into the clouds to be with the Lord Jesus forever.
7. Right now is the accepted time for YOU, all mankind to turn to Jesus, He is mankind's only hope of escaping the fires of Hell where Satan, all his fellow fallen angels and all unbelievers will be cast.