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King James Bible (KJV) (Old English, but generally reliable)

J. N. Darby (an accurate study Bible, easy to understand)

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Scripture is normally cited in italics.

God's plan to redeem humanity from eternal death is for all who seek Him. Your faith can easily unlock extraordinary experiences you can have with the Lord in this life, continuing in the afterlife to come. This book is dedicated to my Lord Jesus Christ and all who seek to know Him.

Each statement is backed up by relevant Scripture. Each Scriptural reference is printed in *italic type* with the Bible reference following by book, chapter, and verse.

Most Scripture cited is from the NJ Darby Bible (first published 1890). The Darby version of the Bible is easy to understand.

A few quotes are cited from the King James Bible (first published 1611) and may be cited where the KJV wording better explains a concept.

There is an associated website with a contact link to send email messages directly to the author, should you have questions or comments on this book. <Jesus2Crowns.com>



1. You are created in the image of God

You are a self-aware, eternal being, made in God's image. Just as God is a triune (three-part) being (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), you also are a triune being made in His image: (soul, body, and spirit). You are still one person, but have three aspects to your whole person just like God.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over the whole earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth on the earth. 27 And God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created He them.

Genesis 1:26-27

God prepared a garden called Eden for Adam and Eve to enjoy. The garden was full of trees with every manner of wonderful fruit. There were two special trees with tremendous spiritual significance. The first was the Tree of Life with fruit they were allowed to eat. The second was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; its fruit was strictly forbidden.

And Jehovah Elohim planted a garden in Eden eastward, and there put Man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground Jehovah Elohim made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; and the tree of life, in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:8-9

God told Adam not to eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. All other fruit trees in the garden were allowed. Eating from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil rendered all men responsible for discerning right and wrong, an inheritance from our ancestors, Adam and Eve.

And Jehovah Elohim commanded Man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou shalt freely eat; 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 of it thou shalt certainly die. Genesis 2:16-17

Eve conversed with Satan (who was in the form of a serpent)... then, she ate some fruit from the forbidden tree and gave some forbidden fruit to Adam, and he also ate. They both were fully aware that what they were doing was wrong.

[Eve said] ...but of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, God has said, Ye, shall not eat of it, and ye shall not touch it, lest ye die 4 And the serpent [Satan] said to the woman, Ye will not certainly die; 5 but God knows that in the day ye eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and ye will be as God, knowing good and evil. 6 And the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a pleasure for the eyes, and the tree was to be desired to give intelligence, and she took of its fruit, and ate, and also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves aprons. Genesis 3:3-7

God pronounced the death sentence on Adam and Eve for disobeying Him. Eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil violated God's perfect plan. We inherited the death penalty from our father, Adam. Since all men sin, all men must die. Death includes both separation from God and also the corruption of our bodies that results in old age.

And to Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, and eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed be the ground on thy account; with toil shalt thou eat [of] it all the days of thy life; 18 and thorns and thistles shall it yield thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return to the ground: for out of it wast thou taken. For dust thou art; and unto dust shalt thou return. Genesis 3:17-19 KJV

God wanted to break the power of death we must all face. So, God sent His only Son Jesus to earth to redeem us. Jesus came in the form of a man to serve as the Heavenly ambassador.

For since by man [came] death, by a man also the resurrection of [those that are] dead.²² For as in the Adam all die, thus also in the Christ, all shall be made alive. ²³ But each in his own rank: [the] first-fruits, Christ; then those that are the Christ's at his coming.
1 Corinthians 15:21-23



Paul explains the contrast between Adam and Jesus. First Corinthians chapter 15 describes how Adam brought death to the human race due to his disobedience, and Jesus brought eternal life to us due to His obedience.

Thus also it is written [Genesis 2], The first man Adam became a living soul; the last Adam a quickening spirit. ⁴⁶ But that which is spiritual [was] not first, but that which is natural, then that which is spiritual: ⁴⁷ the first man out of [the] earth, made of dust; the second man, out of heaven. ⁴⁸ Such as he made of dust, such also those made of dust; and such as the heavenly [one], such also the heavenly [ones]. And as we have borne the image of the [one] made of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [one].
1 Corinthians 15:45-48

The theme of free will is reinforced throughout the Bible. If God had omitted the inherent right of eternal spiritual beings to seek Him or reject Him, it would have been counter to the Heavenly Father's basic intent for you to be His willing friend. Abraham was an ancient man who loved God because he knew in his heart that God existed and wanted to know Him. Abraham was the first man to be called "the friend of God." Wouldn't you like that relationship with God also? He offers friendship to you graciously; you just have to trust Him.

Behold, I stand at the door and am knocking; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in unto him and sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

Adam defied God's expressed command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. This "original sin" defiled us as a race. The death penalty extends to us personally due to our own sin and God's absolute holiness. Explaining this to a child the concept of something very much loved but defiled, we might use the analogy of a much-loved puppy with stinky poop on it. While the puppy is dirty and stinks, the child can't play with it. Once the puppy is washed clean and smells good again, it is OK to play with it.

Come now, let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18

God loves you much more than we could ever love a puppy. But sin is even more loathsome to our holy God than stinky dog diarrhea is to us. The Lord is absolutely holy. We must each be washed clean of all our sins to approach Him. We must be holy as He is holy to live with Him. Keep in mind; He is the one who defines exactly what is not holy; that decision is not given to humans. Wicked people are driven away from the presence of the Holy One.

Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered, and let them that hate him flee before him. 2 As smoke is dri-

ven, thou wilt drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, the wicked shall perish at the presence of God. 3 But the righteous shall rejoice: they shall exult before God and be glad with joy. Psalm 68:1-3

Only those of us actively choosing to know Him in this life will live with Him forever. Once we die, our lot is cast, and no amount of prayer or money expended can change our eternal situation. Heaven or hell is all there is. Purgatory is not even suggested in the Scriptures. Reincarnation is also not compatible with Scripture. We only die once and then face judgment.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27 King James Version

God created man so we might become His willing friends. Before sin spoiling their relationship, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God each evening in the garden. He has even gone further than friends, calling those who seek Him, His beloved children! What did we do to deserve this? Absolutely nothing! The pathway back to Him is paved with God's grace and mercy. Jesus offered Himself to die as a man for all who seek Him.

*For scarcely for [the] just [man] will one die, for perhaps for [the] good [man] someone might also dare to die; 8 but God commends *his* love to us, in that, we being still sinners, Christ has died for us.
Romans 5:7-8*

Satan, by default, keeps those souls who fail to seek God. These lost souls defiled by sin will be dismissed from the holy presence of God at the Judgment. The Lord will tell them, "Depart from Me. I never knew you." So, a relationship with the Lord is the defining issue, not comparing good works vs. evil works. He will only allow those who know Him entry to Heaven.

*Many shall say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied through *thy* name, and through *thy* name cast out demons, and through *thy* name done many works of power? 23 and then will I avow unto*

them, I never knew you. Depart from me, workers of lawlessness. Matthew 7:22-23

Unfortunately, statistically, only a few of us reject Satan and seek the Lord in this life. This is where Christians come in. It is our duty to explain to everyone God's sincere desire to have an intimate relationship with them. Preferably this is done in a form that they understand clearly and can relate to.

Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide the gate and broad the way that leads to destruction, and many are they who enter in through it. 14 For narrow the gate and straitened the way that leads to life, and they are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14

There was a second tree of special note in Eden. It also grows in Heaven. It is called the Tree of Life. We will be able to eat fruit from that tree whenever we want to, and we will also be able to drink living water that flows from beneath His throne freely!

Blessed [are] they that wash their robes, that they may have right to the tree of life, and that they should go in by the gates into the city. Revelation 22:14



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