Sometimes we take for granted things we have heard many times. The purpose of this study is to bring to the front Jesus. With Christmas near, we can easily be distracted by all the shopping, chaos, sparkly lights, and all the things that take our mind off of the real reason for the season~ the love of God shown to us through Jesus! To bring to remembrance the things of Messiah!

" I think it right, as long as I am in this body, <u>to stir you up by way of reminder"</u> ~ 2 Peter 1:13

"I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder" 2 Peter 3:1



I know I continually need awakening Especially when Christmas approaches.

I am prone to be dull, spiritually drowsy, halfhearted, luke-warm. That is the way human beings are including Christians, even about great things. Peter knows it and is writing to "awaken" or to stir up his readers so that they don't just know but also feel the wonder of the truth" ~ from John Piper's book, "The Dawning of Indestructible JOY", a daily devotional for Advent. (free download available for this book at desiringgod.org)

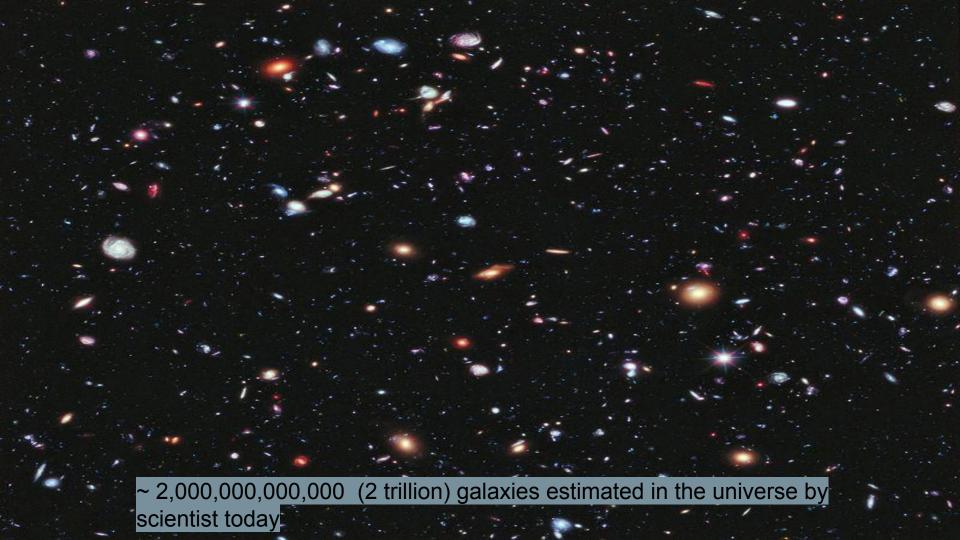
A study for this upcoming Christmas season, to remember and bring back to the forefront of our minds about how much God loves us through His gift of Jesus Christ!

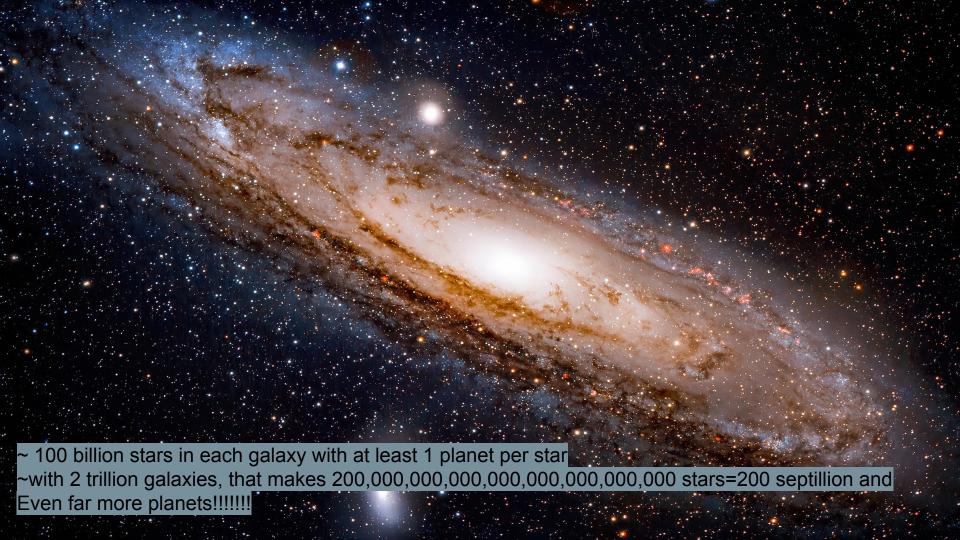
Study Outline

- Why do we need a Messiah? Part I; Nov 20 (TODAY'S CLASS)
- Jesus throughout the Bible, starting in the OT. Nov 27
- The story of the birth of Jesus. Dec 11

The Vision of God's Original Plan for His Creation

Think about the home that God created for us in this great universe!!











Think about all of this; God desired a special relationship with each one of us and He created a spectacular home for us in this gigantic and amazing universe~ all just for us!!!!



Bible Study on The Messiah

Part 1- Why we need a Messiah

I) Why do we need a Messiah? Some FOUNDATIONAL truth

In order to answer this question, we have to first look into the foundation of what the scriptures tells us about how God, sin, satan, and man weave together to <u>cause</u> the need for a Messiah:

Sin defined: 1 John 3:4 says,"Whosever committeth sin transgretheth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

sin is lawlessness; transgression of the Law (God's commands/ instruction) by <u>act or neglect- sin is disobedience to God's Word</u>

Sin defined: 1 John 3:4 says sin is lawlessness; transgression of the Law (God's commands/ instruction) by act or neglect

What does God's Word say about sin and it's effect on us?
Galatians 3:10~ cursed if not keep the Law (10 commandments)
{Deuteronomy 27-28 for study on the blessings and the curses}

James 2:10~ if break one of the 10 commandments, then guilty of breaking them all

Romans 3:23~ all have sinned (only one, Jesus has not sinned)

Romans 6:23~ sin leads to death

Our sin is why we need JESUS, our Messiah! For we have ALL sinned (Romans 3:23)

Romans 6:23 says we escape the death of sin through the free gift of God in Jesus

Galatians 3:24-25 says we are brought out from under the Law through faith in Jesus Christ

Sin defined: 1 John 3:4 says sin is lawlessness; transgression of the Law (God's commands/ instruction) by act or neglect

What does God's Word say about sin and it's effect on us?
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James 2:10~ if break one of the 10 commandments, then guilty of breaking them all

Romans 3:23~ all have sinned (only one, Jesus has not sinned)

Romans 6:23~ sin leads to death but we escape that death through Jesus- that is why we need a Messiah

Galatians 3:24-25~ FAITH in Jesus takes us out from under the LAW

Selah!- take some time today and really meditate on this; think about our sinful nature and how God must feel. Then meditate on what Jesus has done for you by taking you out from under the curse of the Law!

I) Why do we need a Messiah?

We are sinful by birth (Isa 53:6 / Psa 51:5/ Eph 2:3), but where did sin and evil originate? Was it from God, from Satan, from Adam?

>

1st-Was sin and evil created by God, who created everything?

Did God Create Sin?

Colossians 1:16 - says that GOD created EVERYTHING through Jesus

Luke 18:19 & Psalm 107:1 - nobody is good except God

1 John 1:5 - "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."



Genesis 1:31 & 1 Timothy 4:4 - everything God makes is Good - all of creation including man and Lucifer, the earth, all living creatures, **EVERYTHING!**

<u>Job 34:10</u> - God does not do anything wicked or wrong

Psalm 5:4 & Luke 16:15 - God hates sin



ACCORDING TO GOD"S WORD, HE IS GOOD AND HAS ONLY LIGHT IN HIM & HE CREATED EVERYTHING. SO based on scripture did God create evil and sin?

Did God Create Sin?

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SO, SINCE GOD IS GOOD AND HAS ONLY LIGHT IN HIM & HE CREATED EVERYTHING, SO based on scripture, did God have create evil and sin?

According to God's Word, ABSOLUTELY NOT!

(BONUS: BUT He does use all things for good for believers, including the control of the

(BONUS: BUT He does use all things for good for believers, including evil.)

So, If God did not and could not create evil and sin, where did it come from?

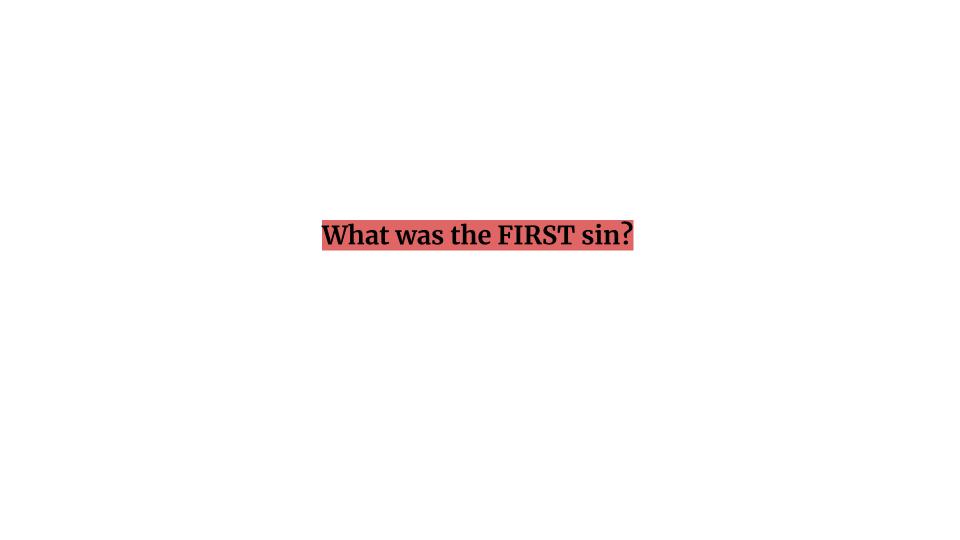
Let's see.

I) Why do we need a Messiah?

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<u>Sin defined:</u> 1 John 3:4 says sin is lawlessness; transgression of the Law (God's commands/ instruction) by <u>act or neglect</u>

- > We are sinful by birth, but where did sin originate? Was it from God, from Satan, from Adam?
 - 1st-Was sin and evil created by God? NO
 - 2nd- Was sin and evil initiated or created by satan?



So if God did not create evil, how did it come about?

What was the FIRST sin? When satan rebelled (sinned) against God.

Let's take a quick look into satan and his sin (he is a key player in all of this):

So if God did not create sin, how did it come about?

Ezekiel 28:12-19 describes who satan really is: "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your way from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.......

Notice in verses 12–15 that lucifer (satan) was created a gloriously wise and perfectly beautiful <u>creation</u>. satan was a cherub who covered the mercy seat of God and walked in the holiest of places!!! Then on the next screen, see what happens in vs 16–19.

So if God did not create sin, how did it come about?

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What the heck happened to satan? He was one of God's most amazing masterpieces as we saw in verses 12-15. Then in verses 16-19 we see that he becomes internally full of violence working the evil of his trade. He was full of pride and wickedness. Quite a change from the beauty he was created to be wouldn't you say?

So if God did not create sin, how did it come about?

- Ezekiel 28:11-19: (King of Tyre is compared to satan who is a created being. he is <u>created</u> as an extremely beautiful, wise, a cherub who was high in rank in the heavens. satan or Lucifer was so highly ranked, that he covered the mercy seat of God in Heaven. he was blameless when created until unrighteousness was found in him. he is abundantly full of violence towards God. Also God casts satan to the ground.
- ➤ Isaiah 14:13-14: satan's pride of how great he was and it consumed him until he desired to be higher in rank than God

We just saw that lucifer who was God's beautiful and beloved creation. he rebelled against God and desires to be higher in reverence than God.

Sooooo.....it is next important to understand how God's creation could have have even contemplated sinning against God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

So how could a created being of God, who is wholly good, sin?

Why would God give free will to the angels and not just make them unable to sin?

What would a relationship be like if a person was not given a choice to love or not to love you. But instead a person was programmed with no choice but to love you? How would you feel toward them? How would that effect the relationship?

<u>Understanding satan, our adversary:</u>

- Ezekiel 28:11-19: (King of Tyre is compared (reference to) satan is a created being. he is created as an extremely beautiful, wise, a cherub who was high in rank in the heavens. satan or Lucifer was so highly ranked, that he covered the mercy seat of God in Heaven. he was blameless when created until unrighteousness was found in him. he is abundantly full of violence towards God. Also God casts satan to the ground.
- Isaiah 14:13-14: satan's pride of how great he was and it consumed him until he desired to be higher in rank than God
- Job 1 & 2 & Zecheriah 3: satan must SOMETIMES have permission to attack us; also shows us satan can and does move between the "3 heavens" (2 Cor 12)
- Ephesians 2:1-2 & 6:12 & John 12:31: satan is present here on earth:

 prince of the powers of the air and this world

<u>Understanding satan</u>, our adversary cont'd:

- ➤ 1 Peter 5:8: satan is fierce and wants to take you with him (not a weak minded adversary he can be powerful in our lives <u>if we let Him.</u> (satan is <u>weak against believers</u> when we resist him see James 4:7 & Revelation 12:11
- satan is not the opposite of God~ he is not all powerful and omicient
- > IF allowed, satan can: *manipulate weather, matter, bacteria (Job 1 & 2)

*influence legal systems (Rev 2:10 & Job1:17)

*seeks to trap elders (1 Tim 3:7)

*lies (John 8:44)

*accuses us (Col 2:15 & Rev 12:10)

*can kill body but not eternal spirit (Job & Rom 8)

* tempt us (James 1:13 & Acts 5:3 & 1 Thess 3:5)

* move about the earth (Job 1)

satan is no joke as portrayed by some, but we have been given power to overcome him through the blood of Jesus! Hallelujah!

Important Note: The Bible does not state outright many things about evil, satan, and demons. For instance the Bible does not clearly state:

- Did God know Angels would sin
- **Does satan need permission every time to tempt people**
- Where do demons come from (fallen angels or from Nephalim/akulla)
- **❖** What power is satan given so he does not have to go ask God for it

*** Remember this important fact in studying the Bible, the main message is the plain message OR the plain message is the plain message!!!

THUS, There is evil in the world, satan and demons do exist, satan and demons want to destroy your soul, God loves us and gave us a way to fight against evil; salvation and foregiveness DO EXIST through JESUS!!!!

Although we could do a whole study on these topics, it is not part of this particular lesson. But for some more insight on some of these questions, here are a couple of really good articles on them:

- 1) **"Where do demons come from" by Michael S. Heiser at <u>logos.com</u>
- 2) "Does satan have to get God's permission before he can attack us?" at gotquestions.org
- 3) "What is the extent of satan's power?" by Don Stewart at blueletterbible.org

I) Why do we need a Messiah?

In order to answer this question, we have to first look into the foundation of what the scriptures tells us about how sin, satan, and man weave together to create the need for a Messiah:

<u>Sin defined:</u> 1 John 3:4 says sin is lawlessness; transgression of the Law (God's commands/ instruction) by <u>act or neglect</u>

- > We are sinful by birth, but where did sin originate? Was it from God, from Satan, from Adam?
 - 1st-Was sin and evil created by God? NO
 - 2nd- Was sin and evil initiated or created by satan? Yes~spiritually
 - 3rd- Was sin and evil initiated by Adam?

Let's take a deeper look into this; it's all about to come together!

So we saw that sin first entered God's creation when satan rebelled against God. How

did sin enter into the human race? Through Adam. (Romans 5:12)

So we saw that sin came about when satan rebelled against God. How did sin enter into the human race? Through Adam.

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him: "And the Lord God commanded the man saying, FREELY eat from ANY tree.
BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

***If we do an in depth word study in these verses, it will help us better understand how Adam and Eve sinned later in Chapter 3.

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him that he can

"FREELY eat from ANY tree. BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

"Hadda'at tov vara" = Hebrew for 'knowledge of good and evil'

tov= Hebrew for good

ra=Hebrew for evil

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him that he can "FREELY eat from ANY tree. BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

A look at "good and evil" from different viewpoints (ref Israelibible.org):

- ➤ Good: hebrew= tov (mostly used in Hebrew not in a moral sense but in orderly sense). Hebrew usually uses tsedeq for righteous good. Tov was used in description of creation of earth and man. So GOOD here can be attuned to 'order' through obedience to God's Word and instruction-it is good.
- Evil: Hebrew= ra; "inappropriate; unacceptable, unhealthy, distasteful, evil (ra has a wide range of meanings). What does evil mean? "Immoral and wicked; causing harm"-MerWeb. But scripturally and spiritually, evil is fundamentally disobedience to God's Word because His Word is good-disobedience is actually sin.

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him that he can "FREELY eat from ANY tree. BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".



Let's dig into this other phrase, " for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him that he can "And the Lord God commanded the man, <u>FREELY eat from ANY tree.</u> BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

God says they may eat from ANY tree in the garden (FREE WILL).

But He 'warns' Adam and Eve about the tree of 'good and evil'- there will be consequences (you shall surely die). He did not say they could not eat from it, but it is more of a warning that there will be consequences if you do:

Commanded =vayetzar = Hebrew for <u>warning</u>, instructed, commissioned, ordered, commanded (wide range of meaning based on context within the sentences).

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Surely die = Mote tamut = Hebrew for "to die, you shall die"

God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden in Gen 2:15-17 and tells him that he can "FREELY eat from ANY tree. BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

"mote tamut" = Hebrew for 'to die you will die'. This is an 'infinitive absolute' - to emphasize or intensify the verbal clause in which it occurs. So by placing the verb's infinitive absolute immediately before the verbs is commonly used by Biblical authors to emphasize the action of the verb (thus english Bible translations say surely die or certainly die).

Did they die immediately? NO. Thus the death described was a spiritual death due to sin entering into mankind- a spiritual death AND a turn to physical mortality, not an immediate death (remember this translation coming up when we see how satan works his wickedness with Adam and Eve).

RECAPPING (to this point):

- So evil is the outcome of sin. And evil entered the world through sin.
- Evil is not a created object by GOD but it is actually the CONSEQUENCES of sin. God did not create evil, but through disobedience (sin), evil exists; and that only by God's gift to us of free will to choose. (which we saw in satan and Adam and Eve

- > So evil is the outcome of sin. And evil entered the world through sin.
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- We have a moral responsibility in our God given free will to choose good (obedience) or evil (disobedience) AND to receive the consequences of those choices.
- {sin leads to death, which is what we deserve, but God in His loving kindness gave us a Messiah to pave the way for forgiveness and a place in heaven}

BUT REMEMBER, the main truth is the plain truth.

And that truth is: evil exists and we have a choice to do good through obedience to God or to sin and do evil through disobedience to God-THAT'S A FACT!!!

For the full, detailed explanation of these word studies, See: israelibiblecenter.com: ~Israel Bible Weekly magazine article "What is the Knowledge of 'Good and Evil'

Food for Thought about free will:

Why did God give His creation free will?

What would a relationship be like if you were programmed to love and be obedient to God vs. having the ability to choose freely to love and obey?

Does God's plan for us to have free will show anything about His love for us?

Does God desire to know you intimately and do you have a desire to know Him intimately?

Let's breakdown the fall of Adam and mankind in Genesis 3:1-7 (and at the same gain some insight into how satan works AND to solidify why we need a Messiah):

satan = the serpent in the garden of Eden, according to Revelation 12:9 & 20:2

(Recall Genesis 2:15-17 where God gives Adam instructions about the tree of good and evil.)

Genesis 2:15-17

"And the Lord God commanded the man, <u>FREELY eat from ANY tree</u>. BUT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

Genesis 3:1-7:

- 1 Noww the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman,' Indeed , has God said,' You shall <u>not</u> eat from any tree of the garden?
- 2 And the woman said to the serpent,' From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
- 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said,' You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'
- 4 And the serpent said to the woman, 'You surely shall not die!' 5 For God know that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- 6 And the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Let's breakdown the fall of Adam and mankind in Genesis 3:1-7 (and at the same gain some insight into how satan works): satan = the serpent according to Revelation 12:9 & 20:2 (Recall Genesis 2:15-17 where God gives Adam instructions.)

Vs 1- satan twists God's command planting seed of questioning in Eve's mind

Vs2- 3-Eve twists God's command, dipping her toe into the pool of temptation. She leaves out 'freely' eat. And she says you will die if you eat from tree of good and evil. But in the Hebrew when God tells Adam not to eat from it, the translation (of *mote tamut*) means 'to die you will die'. A complicated translation analysis shows that it is not immediate death but no longer will you be immune to death. BUT when Eve says surely die, it means instant death. But in the story, instant death did not occur. Also Eve adds not to 'touch' the fruit.

Vs4-5- satan twists truth: He know she will not die instantly but will die spiritually to sin (remember satan was full of wisdom). He also tempts her with being like God. Again satan plants a seed. Remember, he is the ultimate liar, deceiver, and accuser who wishes to take as many souls with him to magnify his rebellion against God.

Vs6-7- Eve let's the thought into her mind which lead to action and sin. She succoumbs to all 3 major categories of sin (lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, pride of life- complete rebellion to God. ~ 1John 2:16

Note: at this point when Eve eats ther fruit, sin has not entered mankind. Why?

Vs6-7- Eve let's the thought into her mind which lead to action and sin. She succombs to all 3 major categories of sin (lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, pride of life.

Note: at this point, sin has not entered mankind. Why?

Answer:

God created Adam directly from the earth and was His original creation of humankind. Then He said it was not good that Adam was alone, so He created Eve out of Adam's rib. So when Adam sinned, being a first born male, God's first ,direct representative of mankind, AND most importantly, Adam did not even question the sin- he just ate the fruit. When Adam ate of the tree, that is when sin entered mankind (see Romans 5:12).

Think about all of this:

Think about how God's creation originally was so beautiful and pure, AND how he desires it to be.

Think about how God's love for relationship caused Him to create His creatures with free will. Do you think He knew we would all turn against Him BEFORE He created everything?

Think about how different your life would be if sin had not entered God's creation.

Think about what Heaven will be like due to God's Love for you through Jesus.

What kind of picture about God and our relationship with Him does this create in your mind?

Selah! Let's stop and think about all this

SO, why do we need a Messiah? Why does evil (rebellion against God which is sin) exist in God's creation?

- God did not create evil but He did give His created beings free will, why? A relationship with forced love is not a relationship at all and He wanted an honest and loving relationship with His creation
- > Sin entered through satan, then moved to man through Adam.
- > Sin is choosing to go against God's Word and instruction
- > We need a Messiah due to our sinful nature at birth and attacks of satan and his demons that may cause us to stumble
- > We need a Messiah because we can not conquer sin on our own
- ➤ We are given a Messiah because <u>God loves</u> us so much and wants an intimate spiritual relationship with each of us.

With all of this in mind, GOD STILL LOVES US AND DESIRES RELATIONSHIP WITH US! He gave us all a way back to Him to live the original plan's design in Eden by giving us a Messiah to bring us home to Heaven to be with Him! (JOHN 3:16-18/Romans 5:8)