

## HLH- 810711- God\_s Plan for Man

We should take a new look at God's plan for man, which is to say why is the world around us as it is.

The Christian world, as we know it, has accepted a fundamental view, and that is that this is the only day of salvation.

That is a basic premise, whether of Catholic, Protestant, or Orthodox, that the time after this day of human experience would be the time of judgment.

And that would be the time of joy for those who ascend and terror for those who descend.

And the general view, of course, is that this is the time that you must work to bring people to conversion in one way or another to save their immortal souls from hell, or there will be a great crisis at the end of this age leading to the general resurrection, and then the final judgment passed on body and soul, or body, soul, and spirit depending on the church doctrine.

And there are those who are garnered for some future in heaven, however beautiful that may be, and those who will be suffering whatever consequences there may be in the nether regions.

Now necessarily we have a few groups who differ from this, but this has been the mainstream of thinking.

And of course it has led to the missionary activity, it has led to the spreading of the Bible in many languages, which should have been done anyway.

It also led for a long time to people punishing others to save them from their heresy.

It led to wars of religion, and it leads to doubt and concern whenever there are relatives who die, quote, unsaved, unquote.

Now of course this picture doesn't answer the question of what do you do with one-fifth to one-fourth of the human family in atheistic people's republic of China, or what you do with the people in the Soviet Union, what you do with all the people who lived and died outside of Israel before the New Testament church spread what is called the gospel, and what happened to all those after the founding of the New Testament church who never heard this message, or little children that are born and die in infancy as in many areas of the world from 20 to 50% do die, or what we do with abortions, and you know all sorts of questions come up in a world that believes in the immortality of the soul and that if you don't save man in this life, there is no hope for the future except that possibly the ignorance of infancy might rescue someone from either hell or some other substitution place after death before the general resurrection, and you've heard of the area where the patriarchs are, the area where little children are, these places called limbo, or another area of punishment called purgatory, or the Protestant term Abraham's bosom.

These are all strange and peculiar words to the bulk of young people in the church of God because you never encountered them either in the Bible or in the teachings of the church of God.

But on the other hand, if you came from the world, some of these terms might not seem so unusual.

That is, there are places that are assumed to be in between the time of death and the general resurrection.

Some believe in going directly to heaven and some are preserved in some intermediate state.

Those are the problems.

How do you find all these things in the Bible? How do you explain all this? The explanation, of course, is that you don't find them because they're not there, that man by nature is mortal.

So we want to focus in on some very important overviews this morning so we do understand.

It's written all through the Bible.

It's made clear from the very beginning, made clear again near the end in Hebrew's also Revelation.

We will start with the story of the human family as we know that family today.

We will not go back to the story of angels, but start with man.

I have mentioned before, and we'll repeat this, that when the first man and the first woman were in a garden setting, they were composed of flesh.

God breathed into Adam at the creation of man, the breath of physical life, as we experience it.

And man became a living soul, not an immortal soul.

He was a soul that now was conscious, furthermore, was also self-conscious.

Your dog, your cat, may be conscious, but they're not really self-conscious.

They do not have conscience.

There are aspects of the mind of man that differ from any creature's now on earth.

This first man and this first woman were composed of the dust of the ground.

And what is not understood is that that dust of the ground that now lived and breathed, and was now conscious of self, was by nature mortal.

There was no capacity in them to live forever.

Now that's the first thing that must be understood.

It is generally viewed that the first man and the first woman were in some way immortal.

And because of sin, the penalty of sin, which is death, that we experience in this life is what came on the human family.

Many of us possibly even have taken it for granted in part.

So let me explain it again.

Adam and Eve did not have within themselves either the capacity of living forever in the flesh, which is impossible, or an immortal soul.

Now I know that there is a group called witnesses of a God that is defined in their terms as Jehovah, who believe it is possible to live forever in flesh.

That of course is an error.

Adam and Eve had a choice before them while they were mortal.

The choice was, would they bring upon themselves the penalty of death that would prevent them from living throughout eternity, being cut off from God, or would they acquire the attribute of God, which is immortality? There were two trees that were set before them, beside others.

One they were encouraged to take, which, if Adam and Eve had done so, would have provided them with spirit from God that would have made them ultimately immortal, or given them life.

So that tree was called a tree of life.

Insofar as there was a tree of life that they had to reach out and take, the evidence is automatic that they did not have it within themselves.

It was not a question of living forever in the flesh or living forever in spirit.

Most people would choose flesh.

It was a question of whether they would live at all forever.

They were put in a place where they had to choose either death or life.

This is an important thing to note.

Now looking at the tree of knowledge, and we won't comment on that beyond this point, to take of the tree of knowledge was to take of what was off limits.

I expounded this, I think, in the Auditorium PM congregation at the time of commencement, but now I will focus on only one part.

This was a tree that was off limits.

This kind of understanding and knowledge belonged to God, and God did not want man to take it without having access first to God himself.

That is, the knowledge would have come through the tree of life by means of the Holy Spirit, instead of through experimentation and going contrary to the law of God, an acquiring knowledge that leads to death.

You all are familiar with the statement that in the day that you eat of that tree, you will surely die.

Now what people have puzzled over is this, that if Adam and Eve were to take of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, why is it that they would die in that day? And still they went on living for century after century.

You see, most people have actually assumed that the death penalty that came on Adam and Eve is what we call the first death, what your great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents all the way back and maybe your parents, depending on your age, and maybe your own mates, have died.

The assumption is that the first death was the consequence and the only consequence of taking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

That in some way, if Adam and Eve had not taken of that and still did not take of the tree of life, most people still have in their mind that they would have gone on living and living and living and never having to die.

But that is not the case, because they were made of the dust of the ground and all things physical go through the cycle of physical life, that is, birth and death.

What penalty came on them was the penalty of the law which sentences one to die forever, which is the second death.

That was the penalty.

That's why the scripture says, in the day that you do this, you will surely die, because when they did that, a penalty of sin came on them, and now we'll look at the consequences.

Instead of having access to the Holy Spirit, which would have been by way of the tree of life, and therefore acquiring the knowledge of good and evil through the Spirit of God, listening to God's instruction, because God knows the difference between good and evil, God defines what's right, he defines what's off limits or wrong, and if we would have wanted to know good and evil, we should have listened to the Creator rather than introduced scientific experiment, or experiments even of an unscientific nature, philosophizing in guesswork and reasoning.

The devil, however, influenced Eve to believe that she really wouldn't die.

That meant that there was something immortal in her, and the human family ever since has in one way or another conceived of the idea that there is still something immortal that lives after death, and therefore there was no reason to take of the tree of life because you really wouldn't die.

As God said this, you shall not surely die was the devil's argument, and Eve believed that argument, and they participated in taking what was off limits.

God said, I convey the knowledge of good and evil, but you can acquire it only from the tree of life.

The devil proposed getting it anyway from this other tree that God said was off limits, taboo, not permitted.

Man chose to acquire the knowledge of good and evil by means that God did not permit, by means of reasoning, rationalization, speculation, philosophy, guessing, or the new morality as we think of it today, I saw a beautiful phrase the other day, make it up as you go.

That's the new morality, and that's what we're doing.

We invent it as we go alone.

Then there is scientific experimentation, and most people if you've been listening more carefully to some of the statements and the criticisms of poor scientific experimentation, you realize to what extent there are people who are treated also like guinea pigs as well as the guinea pigs that are treated like guinea pigs and mice and rats, in which you give people supposed drugs to help them, then you give others nothing, and then you give others a placebo, which means that you really don't know whether you're getting the drug, whether you're getting something that has no effect, or you're getting nothing.

People are being put through these experiments, and animals are being put through these experiments, and men are trying to guess how to resolve the penalties that they have incurred by having violated the laws laid down in the Bible, but they're unwilling to look at and believe in practice.

So medicine is an attempt to resolve the penalties in the flesh of many of the sins that we have.

You listen sometimes to the radio, and one is amazed to what extent we have to deal with children in terms of adult medicine.

It was listening to certain cancer, the story of women who need to have, let's say, annual or semi-annual tests for cancers, and if they knew that the person was not likely to have a cancer, this wouldn't be necessary.

But how can you tell whether a person is predisposed to it or not, and the remarkable thing that medicine has discovered? It shouldn't have been remarkable, because it would have been in the Bible all along, and that is cancer in certain areas of the female body are far more likely, or almost universally, to be expected if they have had sex relationships before 18 and with more than one man.

That is something, of course, that indicates a violation of God's law, and we're not talking about a woman who by 18 is married twice.

In this situation, you realize that men are treating the effects, not the causes, and we're trying to acquire this knowledge that never gets at the root of a problem.

But now, once Adam and Eve had decided to go in the direction of using their own judgment contrary to what God told them to do, to listen to him, when they decided that they were going to go on their own, there were two consequences that are very important.

One, their sin cut themselves off from access to eternal life through the Holy Spirit.

Now you and I have understood this, or hopefully we have.

That is, they were cut off from access to the Tree of Life.

They were ordered out of the garden, and cherubim were placed there to prevent their having access to the Tree of Life.

Because God intended that if they were going to go their way, they will have to go, and they were not permitted the chance to rethink their situation.

If that's the way they wanted to go, they couldn't say, I'm sorry, I would like to take the Tree of Life instead.

God said, you made the choice, now you live with it.

And so we discover that access was prevented of the Tree of Life.

This meant that the human family did not have access to eternal life, that is, contact with God through the Holy Spirit.

If man is to have eternal life, he has to receive in some way the Spirit of God entering into his mind, so that now that Spirit joins with the Spirit that is in the man.

And a new life begins, that is, on the way to becoming immortal life.

Man by nature is not immortal.

Man by nature is mortal.

Since the human family was cut off, we would ask ourselves immediately, how long was the human family to be cut off? The answer to the question we will find in the book of Hebrews.

You cannot get back to access to the Tree of Life until God provides the penalty for death that the human family has incurred.

And so access to the Spirit of God as a whole was not available.

I will show the qualifications, exceptions later, but at the moment, access to the Holy Spirit was not available until that death penalty could be paid for.

It was necessary to pay the death penalty so that Adam and Eve and the human family in succession could be forgiven.

But now further, once the human family had decided to go the devil's way instead of God's way, the question would be how long would the human experience last under the government of the devil? And there we have a general picture laid out of a plan of God that was not fully clarified until the book of Revelation was written.

It was based on the week in which there are six work days and one rest day.

That was a parallel of 7,000 years of human experience in which there should be six in which man labors with sin and toils under the government of the devil who has cut this world off from direct access to God.

And then a thousand years in which the kingdom of God will be restored and the devil will not be allowed to deceive the nations and the tribes and peoples for that duration of time.

So now we have two things to note.

One, and I will reverse the order, that this world would not be delivered from the government of the devil until approximately 6,000 years had elapsed.

Now you will note of course that that also has a qualification because God has not stated the exact day and time and he has left that and I will look at that later with you here to see why.

But approximately 6,000 years were to elapse before the deception of the devil would be forcibly removed and the world should have the scales of its ignorance and spiritual darkness taken away.

This veil which the prophet Isaiah spoke that is over all nations.

But then there is the other aspect and that is that human beings could not have access to the spirit of God until someone paid the penalty of sin.

See there is the need then of the removal of the devil and the need also to pay the penalty of sin.

What God chose to do was to let human beings go on and he chose to develop a plan step by step to fulfill each of these needs, to pay for human sin and to restore human beings to the level to which they should have been in the first place having access to God because God made human beings to have access to him.

Human beings can communicate with God.

I have never had a cat or a dog that understood God, not even our goats did.

But human beings can.

Human beings were made to communicate with God.

By nature they have this capacity but that has not been possible for the bulk of the human family.

After the story of Eden occurred and Adam and Eve were driven out, that sentenced the world to being governed by the devil for nearly 6,000 years.

That however did not mean that each son or daughter as such a person came along was under the penalty of eternal death.

So now let me explain one other thing.

By Christ, life has come.

By Adam, death has come.

Now let's look at this picture.

When Adam sinned, he brought about the death penalty.

Death entered into the world.

That's not only the penalty of sin or the second death but death that is the first death also entered so one generation after another dies without access to life.

There is not the possibility of gaining eternal life after you have lived this life but before you die and are buried or sleep in the grave.

But each human being who lives is still responsible before God as to whether or not that person will sin.

Now let us look at Cain and Abel.

Cain and Abel were born in a world in which there were only a very few human beings, a handful let's say if you count them on your fingers of your two hands.

Adam and Eve had brought upon themselves the penalty of eternal death because of sin.

The government of this world was in the hands of the devil.

The devil was allowed to influence their minds more and more.

Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel and any other, in this case probably sisters, that they had.

Those minds were being influenced and each of those individuals had sinned.

Cain had sinned and Abel had sinned because they were reared with parents that were cut off from God.

And unless you are in contact with God, you do not have sufficient knowledge to prevent yourself from sinning.

Now Cain did not take it seriously.

Abel did.

He realized what had happened.

Each one had brought upon himself the death penalty.

Paul says this clearly in Romans.

So death passed on the whole world for that each person has sinned.

Each one as we mature in one way or another transgresses God's law because we did not know as we were growing up what that law said at all points.

Now Abel asked God for forgiveness and he offered an animal.

Cain merely offered vegetables.

He thought that was sufficient by which he meant that he wasn't really concerned about the question of reconciliation with God.

But Abel was.

And Abel by faith testified that he understood that someone would have to pay this penalty of death in his stead.

But you see God did not cut himself off from Cain and Abel.

Their sins cut themselves off from him.

And it was at that point that God asked them to reconcile themselves to him that one did the other did not.

And the world generally has gone the way of Cain.

What the scripture says Jude says that the world has gone the way of Cain.

God cut Cain off in his descendants.

But you notice something very important here.

The one who would come to pay the penalty for sin had not yet come and paid it.

Yet we have the fact that God did accept an individual in this case Abel.

Here also Enoch later certainly recorded Noah.

So that we have the story of individuals who through faith.

Book of Hebrews chapter 11 came to God in this life and asked to be forgiven.

Now it is not possible to come to God unless God first should draw the individual.

And God was therefore influencing Abel and Abel responded.

He was influencing Enoch and Enoch responded and he was influencing Noah and Noah responded.

It is not possible of course to come to the one Christ who pays the penalty for sin except the Father draw that individual.

And so God was selecting individuals in the meantime.

Not the human race as a whole simply individuals perhaps from generation to generation to be a witness to the way human beings ought to go.

The first witness was a martyr because Cain slew Abel.

There is every reason to see that the same thing must have happened in the case of Enoch for all his days were only 365 instead of in the 900s.

His body was not found because God removed it so it was not publicly abused.

There was Noah whom God called and saved through the story of that boat or ship that we call the Ark and the human family as a whole perished.

And God started out with his children but what's important is we have just a few individuals whom God selectively called and brought to a state where they were given access through Christ through the one whom we know as Christ Yahweh the word the Lord and the King James version with capital letters the one who did the speaking the God of Israel the one who first talked to Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel.

That was the one who communicated from time to time and who was going to pay the penalty of death.

He administered directly to a few individuals the Holy Spirit individually these people were called whom I have named later Abraham was called and then Isaac and Jacob and Joseph and Moses and Aaron and 70 others and Joshua and Caleb and judges listed in the Bible.

But that's slightly ahead of the story.

You come to the place where God said to a man whom the father was drawing Yahweh said to him to leave Mesopotamia and come to a land that I will show you which was the land of Canaan.

And Abraham repented God asked him to walk before him and be perfect Genesis 17.

This was in Abraham's 99th year and God said it is that his covenant was with him and that he would be a father of multitudes of peoples and would ultimately of course inherit not only the land but the earth.

Now what is important is that each one of these did have access to the one who was speaking Yahweh in Hebrew the eternal is the way Moffat translates it the one whom we know later as Jesus the Christ the Messiah and he imparted the spirit to each of these men who and women Sarah included who were converted in that life that they lived.

God promised to make a nation of Abraham's children and when that nation was now born as a nation out of the waters of the Red Sea and we're at the foot of Mount Sinai and that peninsula God said he would make them a nation he would give them the land of Canaan he would bless them with good weather with crops it would not fail they would not be hungry their enemies would flee from them should they try to attack them and all of the physical blessings of physical nationhood were given.

God also said I want you to make a portable box we'll call it an ark in modern English in which on which my presence will be and I want you to put it in a tabernacle and this will be in your midst because I will dwell my presence will be in your midst but not in you but since it was to be something temporary a tabernacle it meant that God was not permanently going to dwell only in their midst he would ultimately dwell in them but in their life he was only to dwell in their midst now that's in keeping with the fact that we already noted from the story of the Garden of Eden at the beginning human beings were cut off from access to life the children of Abraham we call them the children of Israel because Abraham had other sons beside Isaac another son and he had and Isaac had another son beside Jacob and so you have a situation where the children of Israel and Abraham are called to be a nation to receive the presence of God in their midst but were not called to receive eternal life through the Holy Spirit they could meet with God whose presence was in the tabernacle they could not communicate as a whole by means of the spirit of God in them because they were not being called to conversion they were called to occupy Canaan they were called to show what a physical

nation should be like just as God before had called individuals to show what a spiritual individual should be like now he called a physical nation and the important thing in the old covenant is to know that everything about the old covenant established Israel as a nation in this world and since there had been no one yet who had paid the penalty for sin God had not chosen to open up to that nation the possibility of receiving as a whole the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life but God did make exception to such men from Abel's time through Noah's Abraham's and Moses and the judges to come those were exceptions God specifically called them otherwise the human family was cut off entirely from God or the nation Israel had God in its midst but they were not being called or promised the Holy Spirit as a whole every blessing pertain to rain and sunshine and due season pertain to no pests and no enemies no Mediterranean fruit flies there came a time that the children of Israel were being tested and another time and another time and this is the story of the judges to bring the children of Israel back to the level that they should be God had regularly to call a judge better it would be to use a term leader because most of these men were leaders before they were judges judge meaning the one who makes decisions on the basis of God's law to bring the nation back God had to call an individual every so often and give that person individually the spirit now God did the calling but the one who spoke to these individuals was Yahweh the word who became Jesus and he administered it Peter speaks of the fact that Moses had the Holy Spirit Peter speaks of the fact that it is called the spirit of Christ not because it's different from the spirit of the father but because the one whom we know as Jesus administered it and Moses talked to him Moses did not talk to the father who remained in heaven the one who manifested himself to Moses was the one who became Jesus even during the judges the nation kept falling back and so God finally allowed them kings because that's what they wanted and he called some kings but not others and in the meantime he spoke to them through prophets first called seers seers or those who see a vision and later those who preached or announced sometimes God called others to support these individuals but all during this time there was a tabernacle and later a temple God's presence was in the tabernacle God's presence was in the temple God's spirit was not in the individuals as a whole so the idea that people were saved by Moses law and later by Christ law is nonsense Moses law didn't save people you know what Moses law did it brought about the execution of the death penalty Moses law said if you do this the death penalty comes on you if you do that a certain fine comes on you there was never any prison penalty by the way prisons were invented in Egypt the law of Moses only find you sent you into exile or excommunicated you from the community and had you excommunicated permanently through death that was called the administration of death second Corinthians Paul writing to that group in Corinth explains that Moses law administered death there was nothing in the law that God gave that administered life and that's all God said if you do the law you will automatically live out your natural lives now if as Moses said you really want to do the law according to its intent and purpose he said then you must choose life God set before them through all the laws that Moses gave life and death what Moses law administered was the death penalty Moses law did not administer the Holy Spirit but it was describing the way to life by defining the laws of God so it is very important to realize that under the old covenant there were three things to remember one the definition of the way of life was made the definition of the way of death was made but no provision was made to administer the Holy Spirit but provision was made to administer the penalty of death and of certain lesser punishment the only promises of a positive nature pertain to having children and not miscarriages pertain to having fruits and vegetables and stock without plague and no enemies to plague you now this is a very important picture when Adam and Eve cut themselves off from the tree of life Israel was not given the tree of life there was no symbol of the tree of life under the old covenant there was only the symbol that God dwelt among them not in them they were promised no eternal life Moses says Joshua says later he says now I want you to notice you say we'll serve the Lord but Moses says in turn but look God hasn't given you His spirit Joshua says when they

say well we'll serve the lord he responds but look god has not given you a spirit to really understand you are not being spiritually called now and they still didn't believe it as a nation they were not then being called spiritually but god did give them seven annual holy days the first showed if you'll note that there would come one who would die that's the Passover to pay for this sin that has been set human the human family then there was the need once that penalty was paid for human beings to repent get rid of sin to abjure it to turn around and go the other way symbolized by the days of unleavened bread then there is the festival Pentecost which symbolizes the coming of the holy spirit that will quicken individuals so that you do have life and can be born again immortal then there is the festival of trumpets which symbolize the intervention of god in world affairs followed almost immediately by binding of the devil and terminating his near six thousand years of rule followed by the establishment of a thousand years of god's government symbolized by the feast of tabernacles and then a last festival or the seventh which symbolized the last great day when all the Israelites were given the festival and all their Gentile neighbors and all who followed and lived and died in ignorance and all who preceded and lived and died in ignorance would be resurrected and have access to the holy spirit if they wanted to they're going to have to make that decision so we have the plan of god laid out now instead of understanding what that plan meant that there is really nothing happening until the Passover or the Messiah the Lamb of God should be slain the children of Israel got the idea of course that they were being called them and they thought that the works of the law of Moses would be giving them somehow access to eternal life and by the time of the New Testament you have the Jews with the general view that if they do the works of Moses the sacrifices the washing and all these things that that will give them life just because they descend from Abraham and it did not it only brought to their conscience the fact that they had sin Protestants today and the religious world that claims to be Christian as a whole has this misunderstanding that somehow the law of Moses promised life the law of Moses didn't it defined the way of life it did not promise them life but there were individuals later such as David and the prophets such as Josiah and Hezekiah Zerubbabel and Ezra and Nehemiah whom God called each in the generation that God was wanting to do a work to lead to guide to instruct the nation in this world then the Messiah did come in the days of Herod the great and he was crucified the hands of the Romans at the behest of the mobs that had been stirred up by the high priests discover you see how it was all done everybody had a part in it now for the first time something unusual has taken place that had never taken place before it will never take place again again someone came who was without sin Jesus asked of the Jews of his day which one of you can convince or convict me of having sin can demonstrate I have violated the laws that God gave this people and not one of them did they said well he blasphemes and they were liars they said he's a demon possessed person and he was not they thought they could link that accusation up with his being a Samaritan which was an expression of their vanity but he died the penalty for sin was paid God however chose that he should not remain dead because he was not worthy of death and therefore God raised him from the dead a person who was perfect and who voluntarily died was also not worthy of death and God chose to raise him up from the dead this being the father in order that he should now begin to administer God's work and the unfolding of that plan in the world and so Jesus said before he died that afterward I want you to have access to the father in heaven you find no place anywhere in the old testament that this access was made available in the book of Hebrews we'll quickly turn to one of the very important verses in this connection David heard the father say of the son you are my son sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstools Psalm 110 there was the knowledge of the father and the son because it was clearly said that Elohim Yahweh is the personal name of Elohim or God in the plural God the Hebrew I am as in caribbean is a plural form they said initially let us make man they came down to the tower of Babel let us see what man is doing so there was a recognition of both but communication was always with the one whom we know as the speaker Yahweh the one who was

the word hence John uses it as the word word in English and the Latin renderings or those languages derived from the Latin they do not use the word word which means a noun generally or just the spoken sense they use the word verb or something that is expressive the terrorist force in the book of Hebrews chapter nine Paul tells about the nature of the tabernacle and what was in it and all the preparations the priests had to go through all this signified verse eight that the Holy Spirit sorry by this the Holy Spirit signified or indicates that the way into the sanctuary is not yet opened as long as the outer tent is still standing which is symbolic for the present age access was not possible until the death penalty was paid and Christ entered in once for all and so we learn this very thing Christ appeared as a high priest of good things to come verse 11 and through the sacrifice of himself has entered into the holy of holies which is heaven itself he did not take the blood of goats and calves but he offered himself by his own blood thus securing an eternal redemption verse 12 because the physical blood of animals could at most only set the individual apart ceremonially what was needed was the penalty on a human being who did not sin in order that our respective penalties could be transferred to him and God accepted the offering that he made by the law of Moses all the rituals at most only reminded the children of Israel of their sin whereas the sacrifice of Christ end of verse 14 purifies the conscience from dead works to serve the living God now here Christ has paid the penalty God the Father accepts him on that Sunday midday as the one who is the Lamb of God and because now the penalty of sin can be removed because the penalty has been paid and Abraham of course had it removed through faith in advance he looked forward and Abel looked forward the book of Hebrews chapter 11 is the story of all those in advance who look forward in faith to what now we can look back in faith and see those were individuals however who having received the Spirit of God were in contact with Yaweh the one who was the word or the one who became Jesus what was necessary Jesus said was no longer to pray to him but in his name and to ask the Father so that whatever you wish you ask the Father Christ came to reveal the Father he did not come to reveal himself he came to reveal the Father and to make no one that man now could have access through the Holy Spirit to God the Father who abides in heaven and rules the whole of the universe which was possible to Adam and Eve if they had taken of the tree of life then they could have had access also through prayer to the Father and the Father would have answered by sending Yaweh the word to communicate his answer to them and things they needed to know but that's not the way it turned out for four thousand years the human family lived before this death penalty was paid and finally the death penalty was paid and now we discover in Acts chapter two that God said the next step on the plan would happen and God sent his Spirit here to large numbers of people who were being called now no longer a rare individual who was used to write the Bible to preserve the Bible to lead the nation to be a witness in his generation now rather hundreds and thousands of people were being given the Holy Spirit three thousand on one day two thousand on another to support the work of the apostles and others whom God had called to carry his message now you will note that there were two harvests in Palestine and we recognize in this the story of that first harvest this is the story of many many being called over the centuries since AD 31 not by any means more than a tiny percentage of the human family but many in comparison to previously the access to the tree of life symbol symbolized now in the Holy Spirit was possible Christ had paid the penalty the curtain that separated the holy place from the holy of holies was torn symbolizing that someone entered heaven itself or would enter shortly the rending occurred on the Passover the entry symbolically into heaven occurred the following Sunday morning after Jesus had talked with Mary Magdalene and he had then returned that afternoon before he met the women on the way to Galilee you will remember that and we discuss that every year as we discuss the spring holy days having now paid the penalty God was calling individuals man now could have access to life and so the church has gone out and gone forth over the centuries to announce that you can have access to life if you will and God has chosen to call larger or smaller numbers of people and to impart to them the Holy Spirit and to convert them and to

enable them to support the work of announcing the government of god to come to the world the purpose of those called before ad 31 was to preserve let's say was to write and to communicate the written word of god and to see that it was preserved from generation to generation now the written word was preserved and we call that the old testament the apostles had a dual responsibility to write the new and next beside writing the new to announce that not only had the messiah come but he's also after about 6000 years have elapsed going to establish the government of god and bind the devil and call the world as a whole and the church we call that the good news the announcement of a world to come that is not under the rule of the devil or the rule of the devil and so the purpose of the church is to support that work and also to bring each one of us ourselves as individuals in conformity to the character of god and his government the next step will be that this church finishes its work and god intervenes in world affairs but god is not going to intervene till men have come to the place where they will know that they could not have survived and there was no other alternative left before god intervenes that's why god has not chosen to reveal whether it will be exactly 6000 years or not what he has said is that the seventh day like the Sabbath is a thousand years but he hasn't said that the others the six before before are absolutely 6000 but that's going to be basically what it is but he reserves for himself the right to intervene at that moment if god would intervene sooner human beings would reason that there was still an alternative and god's government and his way was not necessary our daughter has the youngest one after the junior year was invited in a summer scholar program to UCLA and she's rooming with a person whose father came and we got acquainted with him and he's the kind of person who believes that man can still extricate himself from what he's getting into and he has no reason to want to be converted so to speak now he thinks he is without any question that's not the point that i'm arguing i'm pointing up that in his view there is no reason why god yet should intervene because we haven't come to the place where all man's alternatives have been tried that we still can think ourselves around the problems we're getting into god however is going to let man come to the place where there is no alternative and where men of science and men of religion and men of philosophy admit that it cannot now be turned around that it is only a matter of time and that time would be short the radiation is so great that there is nothing we can do to save human life and god's going to have to let it go that far or human beings will offer some alternative to god's law some alternative to his government and if god has to intervene to cut the devil's role short the devil will of course want his last few days or years yet and that's why after the millennium he's going to bargain without any doubt and say that his six thousand years was not fully given him he wants a right to go out and to finish the time that he was cut short of and so after the thousand years the devil is loose for a little season to delude those who simply had not maintained at the end of the millennium their contact with god as they should and then when that six thousand years is up and he has deluded the world to try to take over the government again at jerusalem he is going to ultimately meet his punishment and no longer ever be allowed any opportunity to rule again that's of course going way downstream but once christ does intervene and the devil is bound there we have now the fulfillment of that other part first it was to have access to the holy spirit then it was to remove the government of the devil because these are two aspects to the great crisis that occurred and went in the wrong direction at the time of the garden of Eden one man did not achieve contact with god two having rebelled against the government of god he put himself under the government of the devil to resolve the first christ came to die and so access figuratively to the tree of life or the holy spirit came to be possible on a grand scale for the first time in ad 31 it will not however fully be made possible to the world at large until the devil's government itself is removed and all human beings will have access to the holy spirit so the sin of adam not only cut man off from the tree of life having the holy spirit but placed human beings and mankind as a whole back under the government of the devil because adam chose to do what the devil said in the person of that serpent and there was the need and to pay both the penalty and the need to dispose

of the devil to remove him from this position of power the one the paying of the penalty of sin has occurred the other has not yet that will be fulfilled on that special day of atonement after christ returns and of course in the meantime we have our responsibility those who are now called since access to the father is possible it's our responsibility to play our respective roles in the work that god has given the church to do first to announce the government of god is coming and to train ourselves in the meantime for the time when it shall have come and we will rule in it not merely talk about it and that's your job today and tomorrow