

*“What is man that Thou art
mindful of Him?
Or the Son of Man that Thou
Visitest Him?”
(Hebrews 2:6)*

*The Biblical History of
Mankind
From Here to Eternity*

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INTRODUCTION

The four stages of man's history from beginning to end:

- **FORMED** in the image and likeness of God
- **DEFORMED** by sin through disobedience
- **TRANSFORMED** – the hope of man by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- **CONFORMED** to the image of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to anyone who believes and receives Christ as their personal Savior

It is the purpose of this booklet to search the Scriptures to find the answers to these stages of man's history that should concern any thinking man or woman:

- To those who have “faith” in the Holy Bible as being God's Word, the truth;
- To those who accept the “facts” about man, the Bible reveals physical death, of which the Bible says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).
- This appointment for men once to die physically is a fact that no man can deny. All anyone has to do is to look at all the cemeteries across our great land.
- The judgment to follow is a matter of faith that no man can prove or disprove.

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Before we start with the creation of man, it will help to have a clear understanding of the biblical use of the word “man,” both in our text and in the account of man’s creation. In Hebrews 2:6, “What is man...?” refers to mankind, male and female. In man’s creation, man can mean both genders – the male gender of Adam; the female gender of Eve.

As to the question, “...or the Son of Man that Thou visitest him?” is a reference to Jesus, the Son of Man, also referred to as the Son of God – not by creation, but by incarnation – conceived of the Holy Spirit of God. He was God made flesh. (1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1); (2) “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14).

Chapter 1: Man's Creation by God

We find the account of man's creation in Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2...“And God said, Let us (the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) 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 air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:26). “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created He them.” (Genesis 1:27). “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7).

Now, lest some think God is confused when we see that God created Adam, the male first, then made Eve later from a rib of Adam, we must understand that God speaks of things that are not yet as though they were. “...God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” (Romans 4:17).

God had created the animals, fish, fowls and cattle before man – also from the dust of the ground – with bodies of flesh. “And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field...” (Genesis 2:19). But God saw Adam, the male, was alone because, though he could have communion and communication with God, having been made with God's divine spiritual nature, he had no such companionship with those made with bodies of the dust of the ground, for none had the nature of Adam. He was alone without any of creation like him. “And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18). “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.” And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called

Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” (Genesis 2:21-23). This was the first marriage ceremony and was performed by God. As we read in verse 22, God brought them together.

Adam and his helpmeet, his wife, lived in the garden God had made for them, in fellowship and companionship with one another and with God, because they had both the human physical body made of dust and the divine spiritual nature of God. They were both of the dust of the ground and the divine deity of God. This brings us to the second chapter of the history – his condemnation (or **DEFORMATION**).

Chapter 2: Man’s Condemnation by Sin *(Man became deformed)*

“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12). In this context, death is not a physical death, rather a spiritual death or separation from God the Father. It is important to see this one “man” speaks of the male gender of mankind – Adam -- not Eve. “For as by one man’s (Adam) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19). “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” (I Timothy 2:14). This is important because it had a direct effect on the judgment God gave as a result of the transgression of the woman and the sin of Adam. “But I suffer not the woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.” (I Timothy 2:12-13). Eve was not yet made of Adam’s rib when God put Adam in the garden and gave him the command not to eat of the tree of good and evil. Eve, no doubt, was told by the man, Adam, what God had said to him. “And the LORD God took the man, (Adam) and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the LORD God

commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (be spiritually separated from God the Father). (Genesis 2:15-17).

The woman was deceived, but the man was not deceived. Their sin was different and their punishment was different. “Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3:16). “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken : for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 17-19)

This is the punishment for sin that has not been taken away and remains today. However, it is the penalty of death that many do not understand. There are two deaths that the Bible reveals in the history of man. The one is a well known “fact” which is physical death when the spirit and soul (that part of man made in the image and likeness of God and is eternal) is separated from the body. This death is a matter of inheritance in birth of the sinful nature of Adam. The other death is the separation of man’s spirit, soul and body which the first man, Adam, suffered the day he disobeyed God. “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: And now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever: Therefore, the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of

the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:22-24).

Adam experienced spiritual death (separation from God) the day he sinned. But, he did not experience physical death until he had lived 930 years and begat sons and daughters. “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.” (Genesis 5:5).

No other record of man’s history can satisfactorily give reason for man’s death but the Bible -- “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27). This is the physical death – separation of spirit and soul from the body – which is appointed by God to all mankind (lost and saved; Christian and non-Christian).

But the second death, unlike the physical death, was first experienced by Adam when he was separated from God as we saw in Genesis 3:22-24. It is that which all born of Adam inherit and, unless by God’s grace are born again through Christ, will experience that death a second time, without remedy, when they stand before the Great White Throne of God and are judged according to their works. “And I saw the dead, (spiritually dead) small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12). “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14).

Up to this point in the history of man, we have seen the biblical record of his creation by God who “formed” him. We have seen his condemnation by sin which deformed him.

Now, consider the biblical record of man’s consolation provided by God through his Son, whereby man can be **TRANSFORMED** to being again that which God “formed” him to be.

Chapter 3: Man's Consolation and Path to Transformation

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23).

The wages of sin is man's condemnation. The gift of God of eternal life is man's only consolation. This answers the question as to why the Son of man, Jesus, was sent to visit man. (Hebrews 2:6). Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6).

The way to the Father by Jesus Christ begins by being born again of the Spirit of God. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; (i.e., Adam's nature) and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (i.e., God's nature). Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again (to be transformed). The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:6-8).

The importance of this is to understand that man cannot see this act of God's Spirit when born again, but you can tell if you have experienced it by the effects it has on your life. There will be repentance of sin and faith toward Jesus Christ as Lord. This, the Apostle Paul, testified to men, “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21).

This third stage of man's consolation is that those born again can progressively be “transformed” toward that of being made again in the form of the image and likeness of God, which is more of the effects of one born again. Paul says this to all who profess to be a Christian – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye ‘transformed’ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove

what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:1-2). It was Paul who said to these – “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...” (II Corinthians 13:5).

This brings us now to the CONCERN of man’s history because those who have been born again by the Spirit of God are now in that stage of man’s history of being transformed, as we saw in Romans 12:1-2 (which is a progressive process).

Chapter 4: Man’s Concern ***(His Adversary – the Devil)***

This concern we speak of is for those who were in darkness (or ignorance) of the gospel of Jesus Christ. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them are lost: in whom the god of this world (the devil) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light (the understanding) of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them.” (II Corinthians 4:3-4). “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (a body of sinful flesh) that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” (II Corinthians 4:6-7).

The fact that we are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ as a gift (not of works which we have done) and have become the children of light and not darkness, but have this gift of eternal life in this body of flesh is the cause of this concern. “But ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8).

The reason of concern can best be understood by what the Apostle Peter warned the children of light as follows: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” (I Peter 5:8)

This is because both God and the devil are spirit which no man has ever seen. Man can only see their effects in man's actions by his walk in life. Therefore God is seen in the walk of his children of light; and the devil, in and through the bodies of his children by their walk in the evil of their ignorance. Each, then, needs a physical body through which they express themselves – the devil by the works of the flesh which are sinful. “Now the works of the flesh are manifest (made known) which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like....they which do (practice) such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21). “But the fruit of the Spirit (of God) is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23).

The devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking those who are God's children, that he may devour their fruit (not their spirit or soul) of the Spirit of God which is love, which is manifest by their joy, peace, longsuffering, etc. God has bought his children from sin and its condemnation by the blood (death, burial and resurrection) of His Son, Jesus Christ. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed (bought) with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ...” (I Peter 1:18-19). “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (I Corinthians 6:20). So then, the concern of those who profess to be the children of God is that we would not be ignorant of the devil's (Satan) devices whereby he will take advantage to use our bodies to express himself through and, thus, bring dishonor and disgrace on the name of God, as the Apostle Paul warns, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (II Corinthians 2:11). One of the devices the devil will use against God's children is to devour their “confidence” that they are truly

the children of God. He tells them because they are not perfect and do sin, surely we couldn't be of God. The Apostle John wrote concerning this to God's children: "If we (Christians) say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth (about the Christian experience) is not in us." (I John 1:8). That is, we haven't learned the truth about the Christian life. "If we confess our sins (not to man, but to God), he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9).

This brings us to the last stage of man's history, in view of what we have seen of man's concern with our adversary, the devil, and his devices to cause doubt as to our relationship with God. John has written his first letter to those to teach them (Christians; those of like-faith) the truths of the Christian life that they might know. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:13).

Chapter 5: Man's Confidence of Spiritual Rebirth

"My little children let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not (in deed and truth), then have we confidence toward God." (I John 3:18-21). This speaks of man's true relationship with God.

Seeing that mankind is made up of two families in the Bible, we need this confidence. The family of God shows that He is the Father of all those who are His children by grace through faith. Paul says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." (Ephesians 3:14-15).

But Jesus, speaking to some who claimed they were the children of God through Abraham, said this to them: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father (the devil) ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44).

We know, in our human society, there are children born who know not who their father is. So God has given man the wisdom, by a biological means called DNA, to be about 99% sure who the earthly father is. Webster’s dictionary defines man’s DNA as: an essential component of all living matter, and a basic material in the chromosomes of the cell nucleus; it contains the genetic code and transmits the hereditary pattern.

The question now is do you know which family you are in? **Do you know, with all confidence, who your spiritual Father is?** God has given to his people a “DNA test” by which they can know the answer:

D - DEFINITE: because it is by God who cannot lie – so it’s 100% true.

N - NATURE: to know if we are of the Divine Nature or of the devil.

A - ANALYSIS: which Webster defines as “the last and final analysis after all factors have been considered.”

We have already considered all factors from man’s creation to the end of man’s history. The first of these – to become one of God’s children – “ye must be born again” and have that divine nature of God, of which Peter speaks. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (II Peter 1:4).

We can know we have been born again, as already seen by the effects it has of (1) repentance of sins toward God; (2) our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord; and (3) the change it produces in our lives. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...” (Romans 8:16). But the last factor of the analysis is the fruit of the Spirit – love. We saw in I John 3:18 that this love is not just in word and tongue, but in deed and in truth. John also said, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...” (I John 3:14).

Do you have this confidence of your heart that you are a child of God? “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14). As Christians, after we experience the first (physical) death, we will be **CONFORMED** to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ and will not experience the second death – eternal separation from God. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (I John 3:2).

SUMMARY

- ❖ Man was **formed** in the image and likeness of God.
- ❖ Man became **deformed** by the sin of disobedience, which is the root of all sins, and brought suffering and death to man.
- ❖ God provided the one and only way for sinful man to be **transformed** back to that he was originally formed.
- ❖ All who choose God’s way to escape the penalty and punishment of their sins in Christ, God has predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his Son.
- ❖ We need to examine ourselves to prove we are the children of God in confidence.

As was stated in the beginning, the Word of God that says, “it is appointed unto man once (physically) to die” is a fact. The judgment after that is a matter of faith. Many will gamble that it is not true and wait to find out if they are right or not after they die. Will you take such a gamble with your soul? God’s Word tells us of a “Second Death” which is not by appointment, but by choice of those who hear, but reject, the gospel of Christ. This death is when man – spirit, soul and body – will be separated from God for eternity. Christ says unto those who know they are sinners, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28).

And, as believers, we say to you, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He (God the Father) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (II Corinthians 5:19-21).

“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:17-18).

Will you die ONLY ONCE, or will you die TWICE? Only you can answer this question. God has provided the way, through Christ, to avoid the second death – eternal separation from God. Accept Jesus Christ, the Son of the only living God, to be your personal Savior today, to avoid the second (eternal) death.

If you need someone to talk with, please contact Faith Baptist Church of Seffner, Florida (at the phone number and/or address on the back of this booklet).

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**We invite you to visit or call if we may be
of help to you in your spiritual need.
Thank you for taking the time to read this
booklet. It is our prayer that God will
bless you with His love, mercy and grace,
to the saving of your soul!**