



The
Crucifixion of **Christ**

in the days of

Noah & Lot

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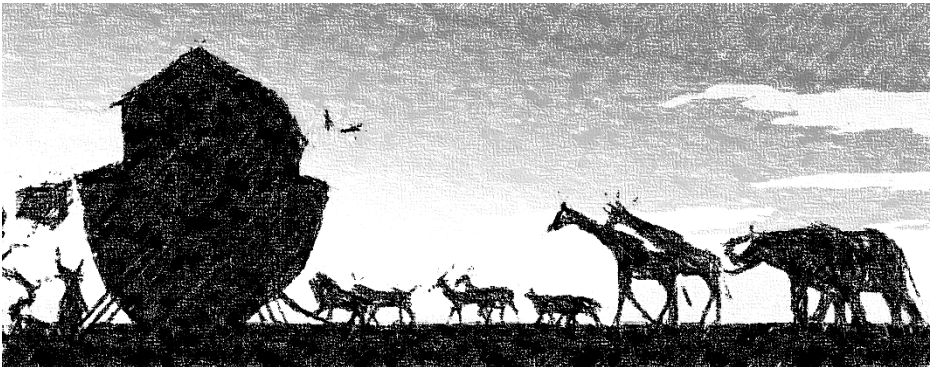
Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture references
are from the King James Version of the Bible

Abbreviated Bible translations are as follows:

NKJV – New King James Version CSB – Christian Standard Bible
NET – New English Translation ISV – International Standard Version
GWT – God’s Word Translation BSB – Berean Study Bible
GNB – Good News Bible WNT – Weymouth New Testament

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Did Noah Run a Global Extortion Racket?

A man politely walks into the grocery store and informs the owner that a very real threat exists towards his business. “There is coming certain destruction upon your business and your family,” he says. “Nothing can stop this destruction except that you come under our protection,” he continues. “We have provided an Ark of Safety for those who acknowledge us as the only true protectors of freedom.” The man declares that he wants to save the shop owner from the certain destruction that will fall on all those who refuse to accept this protection.

The man gently puts his hand on the shoulder of the shop owner and pleads with him to give careful consideration to this offer of “mercy.” “We would not want any harm to come to you or your family. We would be very sad about it.” So the man urges him to accept the merciful terms of protection.

If the threat of destruction would actually be carried out by the same group this man represented, then this would be the criminal offense called an extortion racket. It is the coercive practice of manipulating a person’s will through intimidation or threats with some type of pressure being applied.

Is it possible for the one applying the pressure, and who represents the party who will carry out the threat of destruction, to be the same person who could give a genuine message of mercy?

Is the story of the flood in the Bible actually a worldwide extortion racket? Does the God of the Bible provide protection to those who do what He wants and then kills all those who refuse to support Him?

Genesis 6:13-14 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for **the earth is filled with violence** through them; and, behold, I will destroy [H7843] them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

The Bible says that the earth was full of violence. Does it make any sense to violently destroy people using the reason that they are violent? Would this not be considered hypocritical?

If we look at the word *destroy* in Hebrew it means:

H7843: A primitive root; to *decay*, that is, (causatively) *ruin* (literally or figuratively): - batter, cast off, corrupt (-er, thing), destroy (-er, -uction), lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, X utterly, waste (-r).

This same word is used in the verses just prior to verse thirteen:

Genesis 6:11-12 The earth also was corrupt [H7843] before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; [H7843] for all flesh had corrupted [H7843] his way upon the earth.

If we apply the English word *destroy*, which is what the translators used for the same Hebrew word in *Genesis 6:13*, it reads as follows:

Genesis 6:11-12 The earth also was *destroyed* before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was *destroyed*; for all flesh had *destroyed* his way upon the earth.

The reason that the earth was considered destroyed was because man had corrupted or destroyed his way of thinking; he had become full of violence.

Filled with Violence

At this time the world was fully manifesting the mind of Satan. The Scriptures tell us the source of this violence. Although the 28th chapter of the book of *Ezekiel* is focused upon the character of “the king of Tyre,” we are prophetically given a glimpse into the character of Satan – the fallen cherub:

Ezekiel 28:12-16 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus [Tyre], and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;** every precious stone was thy covering ... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth;** and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, **till iniquity was found in thee.** By the

multitude of thy merchandise they have **FILLED THE MIDST OF THEE WITH VIOLENCE**, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

This is in complete contrast to Christ who, the prophet Isaiah says, does no violence:

Isaiah 53:2-3, 7-9 For he [the Messiah] shall grow up before him as a **tender plant**, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not ... He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth**: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so **he openeth not his mouth**. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; **BECAUSE HE HAD DONE NO VIOLENCE**, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

In speaking of the King's Son, the psalmist declared:

Psalms 72:14 He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

So the Son of God does no violence, and those He redeems He saves from engaging in violence and from being treated violently. Satan is filled with violence and he filled the world with this spirit. What is the main point at issue that causes Satan to have a spirit of violence? – His envy toward the Son of God.

Isaiah 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Satan's desire is to "be like the Most High." He began to despise his position of a covering cherub and envied the intimate divine councils where only the Son of God could enter.

Zechariah 6:12-13 ... Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man [the Messiah] whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and **the counsel of peace shall be between them both [i.e. the Father and the Son].**

Satan desiring to be "like" God does not mean in character, but speaks to his fallen attitude of envying the Son of God who is "the brightness of his [God's] glory, and the express image of his person"; and who is "upholding all things by the word of his power." (Hebrews 1:3). On earth Christ told His disciples, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18).

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.

No created being has life in themselves, including Satan. All life comes from God through His uncreated Son "who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [preeminent] of every creature: For by him [the Son] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by [or, in] him all things consist." (Colossians 1:15-17).

Because of all this "God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).

These are the things Satan envies. He wants all this glory but for selfish reasons. He despises the Son and has vowed never to submit to His loving authority.

The hatred of Satan became so great towards Christ that he planned to kill the Son of God from the very beginning. The crucifixion of Christ revealed to the Universe the true intentions of Satan which took root before the creation of this world.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth...

Satan's murderous design is what fuelled his spirit of violence. This world was created in the image of God and His Son, so when Satan beheld the innocent pair in the garden (Adam and Eve), he was filled with envy and determined to destroy them. Moved by envy he determined to change their love into distrust. He caused sin to cloud God's merciful face from them. They had enjoyed intimate fellowship with their Creator. Now, because of sin, their love turned to fear and they hid themselves from His presence.

Genesis 3:8-10 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God** amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and **I was afraid**, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

When Adam and Eve sinned they invited this spirit of hatred and envy into their hearts. They became united with Satan against God.

Genesis 3:11-13 And he [God] said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me**, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, **The serpent beguiled me**, and I did eat.

Both Adam and Eve cast the blame onto someone else. Surely, they reasoned, if anyone was to die it should be someone else besides them. Adam blamed his wife while Eve blamed the serpent. They both, however, blamed God – the Creator of both Eve and the serpent.

But have we not learned that all things were created through the Son? Is He not the Word (voice) of God? (John 1:1). After sin entered the holy pair the Son became the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), and it was He standing before them. Thus in their condemnation towards others they united with Satan in condemning the Son of God to death!

This is the spirit that filled almost the entire human race. It is a spirit of hatred towards the Son of God. The source of this hatred is not easily perceived and understood, but the natural human heart will instinctively act with resistance leading to violence against the Spirit of Christ.

The only way for man to continue to live was for Christ to continue to supply the power of His life to the human race. This is why Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). Christ has been wounded for our transgressions from the foundation of the world. He has been bruised for our iniquities from the beginning. Yet in order for man to live, Christ had to continue to carry each person despite this hatred inspired by Satan.

Isaiah 63:9 **In all their affliction he was afflicted**, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and **carried them all the days of old.**

Acts 17:28 For in him [God] we live, and move, and have our being ...

The natural enmity of man for the Spirit of Christ would cause them to suppress the promptings of His Spirit and react with hatred and violence towards those around them.

Matthew 25:40 Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

This point is critical to understand. All violence in this world is inspired by the original hatred, and feelings of hatred, that Satan has for the Son of God. Therefore all violence is a partaking of this hatred towards Christ, even if the origin is completely unknown, and this hatred in the world pierces Christ every day.

All of the violence described in Genesis Six is a manifestation of Satan's hatred for Christ through men and women. As Christ is the only source of life, the final result of all such hatred can only be self-destruction.

John 14:6-10 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and **the life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also**: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believeest thou not that **I am in the Father, and the Father in me**? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life**. 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.

The Path to Corruption/Destruction

The apostle Paul gives us a description of this destruction process in Romans:

Romans 1:21-28 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **Wherefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **For this cause God gave them up** unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman,

burned in their lust one toward another; men with men **working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet** [they reaped what they sowed]. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate [worthless, castaway] mind**, to do those things which are not convenient.

The process of corruption begins with refusing to glorify the true God of heaven and remaining darkened in the mind by introducing false worship. Corruption increases, allowing the natural hatred for Christ within to grow and manifest like cancer. For the first inhabitants of this world this began a series of steps whereby God gave them up, or over, to the things that they desired to do. He let them enter into vile affections because they wished to rebel against the order that Christ had created. This process ends with God giving them up completely to a worthless mind.

This is a mind that no longer cares for life. It is a mind that thinks nothing of death and destruction and is so paralysed that it is unable to repent. Sexual perversion, killing and devastation become normal for the reprobate mind. Yet in this process Christ is rejected, despised and tortured in His Spirit. The violence of humans towards each other was simply an expression of their hatred and violence towards the Son of God.

So we see that the world had already destroyed itself through a process of allowing the spirit of Satan to fully rule them and manifest his hatred and envy towards Christ. The only thing left was for this worthless mind to manifest itself completely in the earth through a rejection of its Creator. The invisible seed planted in the hearts of men would certainly bear its fruit in the visible world due to man having dominion over the earth (seen most clearly in the thorns and thistles after Adam sinned). This is represented by the crown of thorns that Jesus wears, which is part of the cross that He carries.

Throughout history Satan has been at work trying to abort the promised Seed (Messiah) who would bring salvation (Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:1-5). By destroying mankind Satan would destroy all hopes of the birth of Christ. Under the hateful influence of Satan, the world participated in this

attempted abortion of Christ. The words of Peter find clarity in the light of the antediluvian cross:

1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison [the prison house of sin, Psalm 142:7]; **Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing,** wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

We see here that the Spirit of Christ bore long as He pleaded with the people, through Noah, to enter the Ark. As inanimate nature bore witness to the death of Christ 2,000 years ago (Sun went dark at midday and the earth quaked; Matthew 27:45,51), it also bore witness to the antediluvian crucifixion. When the waters of that apostate woman (violent earth) broke, it was the manifestation of their own destruction of the still-born experience of the Seed (Christ) which they had drowned out in their immoral violent behaviour.

Job 22:15-17 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood: **Which said unto God, Depart from us:** and what can the Almighty do for them?

It is in this context that the story of Noah can be understood as a message of mercy. The only possible way that God's message to the world through Noah could be considered merciful was for the inevitable destruction to be a result of what they had done to Christ. This whole creation is held together *in* Him.

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (NKJV)

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (NKJV)

As the leaves began to fall from the trees in Eden as a testimony to the sufferings of Christ when Adam sinned, so in the flood creation would groan with labour pains due to the antediluvians' rejection and violence.

Isaiah 24:4-6 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. **The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof;** because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. **Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth ...**

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. (CSB)

If God was the one who violently destroyed the antediluvians, then He would be displaying the very spirit of Satan. The message of Noah was not a gospel of coercion and therefore was not an extortion racket. The flood was caused by man's sinfulness, because sin has an effect on the earth.

Leviticus 18:25-28 And **the land is defiled:** therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and **the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.** Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and **the land is defiled;**) **That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.**

Please notice the causes that we have listed for the flood:

1. Man's natural hatred and violence towards the Son of God.
2. Due to the violence of its sinful inhabitants the earth itself was also corrupt (in a state of destruction) and full of violence.
3. God sends a merciful warning message (not a message of coercion).
4. Man rejected the merciful pleadings of the Spirit of Christ.
5. Man cries out to God "Depart from us!"
6. God, without coercion nor force, gives man over to a reprobate mind and man is left to his own desolation.
7. "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man." (Genesis 6:3), and thus His Spirit was withdrawn from the sinful race.
8. Man receives the consequences of his own choices.

9. “The land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants” as it naturally reacts to its own state of defilement and violence.

Satan had led the human race into rebellion against its Creator. His temptations caused them to “crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” in their daily self-indulgence (Hebrews 6:6). This is what caused the withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the earth and led to the flood. Man’s condemning and judgmental attitude towards others, including the Son of God, brought self-condemnation, self-judgment, and therefore self-destruction.

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Psalms 7:14-16 See the one who is pregnant with wickedness, who conceives destructive plans, and gives birth to harmful lies – he digs a pit and then falls into the hole he has made. **He becomes the victim of his own destructive plans and the violence he intended for others falls on his own head.** (NET)

Poverbs 1:29-31 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke. **Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.** (NKJV)

In both the Old and New Testaments Satan is the destroyer while God is the Restorer.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I [Jesus] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Like His Father His methods of dealing with men do not change. “Because I the LORD don’t change; therefore you children of Jacob aren’t destroyed.” (Malachi 3:6; ISV).

This same process is carried out over and over again throughout Scripture. A few examples that follow this process are:

1. The destruction by the flood during Noah's time.
2. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. The destruction of Egypt during the Exodus.
4. Israel's rejection of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem.
5. The destruction of the last days.

All of these examples follow the same process.

A. The Destruction of Sodom and Egypt

Concerning the destruction of both Sodom and Egypt John writes:

Revelation 11:8 And their [the two witnesses'] dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Although Jesus was physically crucified in Judea, the inhabitants of both Sodom and Egypt rejected the last message of mercy by spiritually crucifying the Son of God afresh. Let's look at these one at a time.

The Destruction of Egypt

In Exodus 12:12 we read: "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD." But is God the one who will directly kill all the firstborn sons throughout Egypt? Let's look at verse 23:

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer **the destroyer** to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Clearly it is not God who's doing the killing. They had spiritually crucified Christ, "the **Firstborn** [preeminent One] of all creation" (Colossians 1:15) meaning He is the One by whom God created all things (Verses 16-17). Their rejection of Christ (the Firstborn of all creation) backfired upon them and

opened the way for destructive **evil angels** to enter and kill all their firstborn sons. How do we know it was evil angels and not God's angels?

Psalm 78:41-49 Yea, they turned back and **tempted God**, and **limited the Holy One of Israel**. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from **the enemy**. How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan: And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink. He sent [permitted] divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust. [By the absence of His presence] He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble [the removing of His presence], **by sending [letting loose] EVIL ANGELS among them.**

Soon after Israel left Egypt, we read that they constantly murmured and complained, believing that God had led them out into the wilderness to kill them. Being brainwashed into the religion of the Egyptians for hundreds of years their perceptions of the one true God were distorted, and they viewed Him as acting no differently than the gods of Egypt. Because of their murmuring Numbers 21:6 says, "And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." But did God really "send" these fiery serpents as we, in our natural minds, would interpret the word "send"?

By reading Deuteronomy 8:15 we see that the fiery serpents were already in the land as the Israelites passed through unharmed. But once they stepped out from under God's protective hedge the fiery serpents were "sent" (permitted) to bite; not out of spite, but according to the inherent consequence of crucifying Christ afresh and unplugging themselves from the only Source of life and protection.

Ecclesiastes 10:8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and **whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.**

1 Corinthians 10:9-11 **Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were **destroyed of the destroyer**. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

The Greek word for “destroyer” here is ὀλοθρευτής (*olothreutés*) which means “venomous serpent.” And who is this venomous serpent who destroys? He is “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.” (Revelation 12:9). Please see the booklet called *The Egyptian Golgotha* for a full explanation of this.

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:24-25 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

God will interfere to try to save us and turn us from the self-destructive consequences of our own deeds and thoughts. He doesn't “interfere” by killing us, for He need not do that – our own carnal nature inevitably leads us to ruin, it needs no active interference from God. He interferes to save us, and the closer we come to our destruction, the more dramatically He will try to interpose to save us. But God will respect our decision in regards to the destiny of our own soul, though it breaks His heart.

Ezekiel 16:49-50 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit. (NKJV)

These were some of the abominations in Sodom, and we have seen that the abominations of man have an inherent consequence upon the elements of earth itself (Leviticus 25; Isaiah 24:4-6).

But what does God mean by saying “I took them away”? Regarding Israel wanting an earthly king like the other nations God said:

Hosea 13:9-11 O Israel, **thou hast destroyed thyself**; but in me is thine help. I will be thy king; where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes? **I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.**

How did God take away king Saul? 1 Chronicles chapter 10 tells us “Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD ... therefore he [God] slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.” (Verses 13-14). But did God really kill Saul? Not according to verses 3-6 which clearly tell us Saul committed suicide:

And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers. Then said Saul to his armourbearer, **Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith**; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. **So Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.** And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died. So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.

Like Israel and Saul, Sodom and Gomorrah had “destroyed themselves” (Hosea 13:9). By the removing of God’s presence from the two cities, at their own request, they suffered self-destruction as they committed spiritual suicide.

God’s angels were not sent to personally destroy the city themselves, but the reaction of the inhabitants of Sodom to those angels shut the door of mercy in their own faces because they did not believe in mercy. Like Jesus who “came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11), these angels went to try to move upon the hearts of the straying inhabitants of Sodom and bring them back into the fold. Instead they hardened their hearts and thus through the work of the angels who intended to save them, the inhabitants of these cities were destroyed – even as Pharaoh destroyed Egypt by resisting the appeals of Moses to let Israel go.

God was feeling the defiled earth's vibrations, and this explains why He heard a cry coming from the land of Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities and sought after their rescue:

Genesis 18:20-21 And the Lord said, Because **the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous**; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether **according to the cry of it**, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

The vibrations that were coming from the transgressions of Sodom and Gomorrah turned into a great cry. Through the drastically changed vibrations of the earth under those cities, God could feel that something very disturbing was taking place and that those people were about to bring upon themselves their end through their lawlessness, without even suspecting it. The resonance of that cry violently hurt our Father's heart.

How terrible must have been that cry of Sodom and Gomorrah's corruption and iniquity for our Father's tender heart, when the murder of only one righteous man, Abel, that caused the earth to echo, led to this saying by God to Cain:

Genesis 4:10-12 And he said, What hast thou done? **the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground**. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, **it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength**; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Take note how the cry of Abel's blood affected the earth itself. Can we feel the suffering of the Father and His Son in these words? The vibrations caused by one man's iniquity arrived painfully to Their hearts, so what might the accumulated and concentrated iniquitous cries of a great mass of people cause? Through the means of the intimate connection between man and the earth, a storm could be brought about even through several men's restless thoughts and feelings. "Because they sow the wind, they will reap the wind storm." (Hosea 8:7; ISV).

Indeed nothing can happen without God’s allowance, yet it does not mean that the blow comes directly from Him. Let us now look more carefully at the word “overthrow”:

Deuteronomy 29:23 And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the **overthrow** מִהִפְכָּה [H4114] of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD **overthrew** הִפָּךְ [H2015] in his anger, and in his wrath.

When Moses describes the destiny of those cities, he uses two verbs which are both translated here as overthrow. While the first one [H4114] tends more to mean destruction, the second means something different:

#H2015 *Strong’s Concordance*

הִפָּךְ

hâphak

haw-vak’

A primitive root; to *turn* about or over; by implication to {change} *overturn* {return} *pervert*: - X {become} {change} {come} be {converted} {give} make [a {bed}] *overthrow* ({-turn}) {perverse} {retire} {tumble} *turn* ({again} {aside} {back} to the {contrary} every way).

Since this could not be a mere redundant expression on the part of Scripture, the second word throws light upon the method of destruction – some kind of overturning. The most common usage of this word is to *turn*. In the following verse the same word is used to show God turning a curse into a blessing:

Nehemiah 13:2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water; but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God **turned** [H2015] the curse into a blessing.

The same word is used to describe the conversion of Saul to God:

1 Samuel 10:9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God **gave** [H2015] him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

The same word is used to describe how the Egyptians were turned against the Israelites.

Psalm 105:23-25 Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies. He **turned** [H2015] their heart to hate his people, to deal subtly with his servants.

How did God turn the Egyptians against the Israelites? He sent them Joseph to bless them and through Joseph made them a rich and strong nation, however as time passed “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8); and he said to his people ...

Exodus 1:9-11 ... “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens ... (NKJV)

The providence of God that was designed to turn the hearts of the Egyptians to the true God resulted in turning them against Him. Rather than feel a debt of gratitude to the God of Heaven, they chose to suspect that Israel would seek to overthrow them and take control of the nation. The following archaeological information, found at biblearchaeology.org, might give us more of a clue on how the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown, or “turned”, by their own iniquities and not directly from the Lord:

The Bible provides a detailed description of the calamity that befell the Cities of the Plain. In that description are two Hebrew phrases and a Hebrew word that must be examined in order to understand the event: [1] *goprit wa es*, the material that fell on the cities (Gn 19:24), [2] *hapak*, what happened to the cities (Gn 19:25), and [3] *kqitor hakkibsan*,

what Abraham observed (Gn 19:28). The word *goprit* is a foreign loan word, most likely derived from Akkadian *ki/ubritu*, which means sulfurous oil (black sulfur) (Gentry 1999). The word accompanying *goprit*, *wa es*, simply means “and fire.” In other words, the material that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah and the Cities of the Plain (except Zoar) was a burning petroleum product. The term *hapak* means to overturn, or overthrow. When Abraham looked down upon the scene of devastation, he observed smoke rising from the land of the plain, *keqitor hakkibsan*, “like smoke from a furnace.” A *kibsan* is a pottery kiln (Wood 1992). Air passing through a pottery kiln does so by means of a forced draft resulting from the heating of the air. The smoke exiting from a kiln is forced out of the exit flue and pushed upward into the air. That is what Abraham observed—smoke from the land of the plain being forced upwards. The word used for smoke, *qitor*, is not the word used for smoke from an ordinary fire. Rather, it is a thick smoke, the smoke that comes from sacrifices. It is clear that something unnatural or extraordinary is recorded here. (post/2008/04/The-Discovery-of-the-sin-of-Sodom-and-Gomorrah.aspx)

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were situated in the plain of Siddim and, just as the fiery serpents were already in the wilderness being kept back by God’s protection, Genesis 14:10 tells us “the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits.” (ISV). The NKJV says “asphalt pits.” This explains why Amos and Peter said the Lord overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah:

Amos 4:11 I have **overthrown** some of you, as God **overthrew** Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not **returned** unto me, saith the LORD.

2 Peter 2:6 And **turning** the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes **condemned them with an overthrow**, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.

The overthrow took place as the Son of God could no longer groan in travail under the burden that was inflicted upon the creation by the Sodomites. What happened to Sodom was not done by force nor by the hand of anyone.

Lamentations 4:6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, **that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.**

(The Darby Bible) And the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the reward of the sin of Sodom, **which was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands were violently laid upon her.**

The earth itself was broken down by the tar that was bursting out of it. God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah by giving them up to their own reprobate minds. This is exactly what the Lord said concerning Admah and Zeboim – two other cities nearby that were destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah:

Hosea 11:8 How shall **I give thee up**, Ephraim? how shall **I deliver thee**, Israel? how shall I make thee **as Admah**? how shall I set thee **as Zeboim**? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

The provision of this example shows that the Lord left them to the consequences of their own choice – something very painful for Him as their Father:

Isaiah 3:9 “The expressions on their faces give them away. **They parade their sin around like Sodom**; they don't even try to hide it. How horrible it will be for them, because **they have brought disaster on themselves!**” (ISV)

The most amazing thing about this Hebrew word for “overthrow” or “turning” is that it is used to describe the work in the *conversion* of the nations to the truth.

Isaiah 60:1-5 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: **but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.** Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow

together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be **converted** [H2015] unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

So, in this sense, when you were converted to the truth God “overthrew” you. It all comes down to how you react to God’s compassion to save you from self-destruction. But how can we understand what the angels said to Lot?

Genesis 19:13 For **we will destroy this place**, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and **the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.**

The soul’s destruction always comes as a result of the rejection of timely light. The light the Lord was giving to the inhabitants of Sodom by Lot was to a great degree eclipsed by his compromising and adaptation to those people’s culture. For instance, in his attempt to save his guests, it appears that he was ready to sacrifice his daughters by giving them to those wicked men.

Genesis 19:4-8 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know [in a sexual way] them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, **I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes:** only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

The very next verse gives us a clue as to Lot’s true motives here:

Genesis 19:9 And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; **now we will deal worse with you than with them.**” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. (NKJV)

Lot’s motives here may have been to divert the crowd’s violence from the two angels and turn it upon himself in an act of hospitality. This would reveal, like any loving father, that he had no real intentions of giving them his daughters.

However, living in that wicked city so many years in the midst of unbelief, his faith had grown dim. The angels had to finish the work which Lot was not able to do in a more complete presentation of God's righteousness, holiness and love that exposes sin. This testimony would act as fire for their souls, and if they repented in the face of this revelation of God's glory, the judgment upon those cities would have been canceled. But instead of repentance their rage became like the roaring of a tempest.

Genesis 19:10-11 But the men [angels] reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. **And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness**, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

We notice that because the angels came into the city of Sodom in the form of men, the men of Sodom, inflamed by the vilest passions, revealed the perversity of their evil hearts in seeking to have sexual relations with them. For the same reason God removed the wheels from the Egyptian chariots (Exodus 14:23-25), the blindness that came upon these men was a pleading warning to repent and cease what they were doing. But this act was like oil upon the flames and their refusal to repent led these men to the climax of their guilt and this is what doomed that city. No hand was laid upon the city, the defilement of the city itself destroyed them.

The angels knew that their merciful invitation towards the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah would turn [Strong's H2015] and completely harden them and thus lead to their destruction. The inhabitants' response to the angels caused them to pass the boundary in their conscience being fully seared (1 Timothy 4:2) and their ability to repent totally lost.

The Lord was waiting in anguish for them until the last occasion for repentance faded away; for He is "longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

The destruction came, not because there wasn't anyone who *would* repent, but that no one *could* repent due to their reprobate mind. Like the Ark, the door was then shut.

B. The Destruction of Jerusalem

Acts 13:27-28, 42, 44-46 “For those who dwell in **Jerusalem**, and their rulers, because they did not know Him [Jesus], nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in **condemning Him**. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that **He should be put to death ...**” So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath ... On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, **they were filled with envy**; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life**, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.” (NKJV)

Matthew 23:37-39 “**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you!** How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you would have none of it! Look, your house is left to you desolate!** For I tell you, you will not see me from now until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (NET)

The destruction of Jerusalem is a demonstration of Satan’s condemning, envious, and vindictive power. By placing themselves beyond the protection of God’s Spirit (presence) they opened the gate for the destroyer (Satan) to enter in unto their own destruction. Like their forefathers before them they walked out from within the hedge allowing the venomous serpent (the destroyer) to bite them.

Yes, many times Scripture is written in a way that seems to reveal God Himself is causing the destruction. Genesis 6:7 states, “And the LORD said, **I will destroy** man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me [brings me intense sorrow/compassion] that I have made them.”

Please consider that this is all in line with their own choice to crucify the Son of God afresh and grieve His merciful Spirit. They are crying out, “Depart from us! ... Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” The natural effect of God’s presence departing from them “causes” or better yet, “permits” the destruction. God never acts by coercion or against our free-will. He gives man over to their own desires. During the time of the flood the earth was not so corrupt that it *had* to be destroyed, it was so corrupt that self-destruction was *inevitable* and the Spirit of Christ, through Noah, who was “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), gave the merciful warning for 120 years while the Ark was being built. (Genesis 6:3).

Another great example of this is found in 2 Samuel 24:1 which says, “And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.” However, when we read about this same incident in 1 Chronicles 21:1 it says, “And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.” Here we learn two very important truths. **1.** As Adam Clarke writes in his classic commentary, “The Scriptures repeatedly represent God as *doing* what, in the course of his providence, He only *permits* or suffers to be done.” **2.** God’s anger is not displayed by violently attacking His enemies, but by tearfully removing His presence at their request thus permitting the adversary (Satan) to take over. God reminds us that His ways are not our ways and thus His wrath (anger) is not like ours:

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

James 1:19-20 You must understand this, my dear brothers. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. **For human anger [wrath] does not produce the righteousness that God desires.** (ISV)

Of interest at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem is that the Roman leader Titus wanted to preserve the temple in Jerusalem. Yet his army was

overrun with a spirit of chaos and disorder, and Titus lost control of the situation.

The difference between the destruction of Jerusalem and destruction of the flood is found in the difference between the unrestrained Roman army and the unrestrained natural elements and possibly unrestrained evil angels as in the case of the destruction of Egypt.

It is easy to see that Roman soldiers under the control of Satan destroyed Jerusalem. It is not so clear to see the violent principles of Satan being allowed to manifest themselves in nature or possibly in his own followers. In the case of the flood Satan did not have control of nature but rather nature was allowed to reflect his image as opposed to the image of Christ. Like a mad scientist Satan's malicious and violent "experiments" blew up in his face. Christ does all things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40) whereas Satan has a chaotic and violent nature. Satan is possessed with a warring spirit and this spirit was allowed to manifest itself in the elements.

It is easy for us to say that a person who acts violently and chaotically is under the influence of Satan, but when nature itself is allowed to reflect this mind, we are tempted to attribute this to God, calling it "acts of God." Yet our Father is not a chaotic, disordered being (1 Corinthians 14:33). When nature becomes disordered, it is because it has been allowed to reflect the mind and spirit of chaos due to the fact that its Creator has been finally and completely evicted. Man was given dominion over the earth:

Psalm 8:4-6 **What is man, that thou art mindful of him?** and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. **Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;** thou hast put all things under his feet.

When Christ is finally and completely rejected, the dominion that was given to man is given over to reflect the mind of the one chosen by its inhabitants – "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee" (Genesis 3:18). When a father gives a car to his son, and his son keeps company with

reckless and chaotic friends, is the father accused of killing his son when the car is involved in a reckless accident? These examples give us a prophetic look at what takes place in the last days.

C. The Destruction of the Last Days

Jesus said:

Luke 17:26-30 **And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man [Jesus]:** They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. **Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot:** They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man [Jesus] is revealed.** (NKJV)

Jude echoes this saying:

Jude 7 ... **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, **are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.** (NKJV)

This “eternal fire” is yet another result of the land being defiled:

Isaiah 24:5-6 **The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof ...** Therefore hath **the curse devoured the earth**, and they that dwell therein are desolate: **therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned**, and few men left.

As in the days of Noah, and as in the days of Lot, mankind in the last days will crucify the Son of God afresh from their midst. In Revelation 19 John sees a vision of the second coming and Jesus riding on a white horse “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:16). In verse 19 we read how the leaders of the earth seek to kill Jesus once again:

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together **to make war against him that sat on the horse**, and against his army.

However, upon that day “when the Son of Man [Jesus] is revealed” they will be destroyed by “the brightness of His coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8). Again, this is not Jesus directly destroying those who reject Him. The destruction comes as a result of *how* the unrepentant sinner *reacts* to the loving presence of our holy Saviour. John says, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” (Revelation 19:15).

Notice the sharp sword is coming out of Jesus’ mouth and is not in His hand ready to hack in pieces those who reject Him. This sword is His word of truth:

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

He will smite the nations with His sword – His word of truth – and this will convict them and cause self-condemnation and self-judgment because they do not believe in God’s everlasting mercy. Because they have rejected His indwelling presence they will not be able to stand in that “brightness” of His love. Remember, the removal of God’s presence is His wrath and anger. They will be left to their own destruction by fire. What is this fire? God’s consuming love:

Song of Songs 8:6 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for **love is strong as death**; jealousy is cruel as the grave: **the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.**

Romans 12:17-21 **Recompense to no man evil for evil.** Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Clearly God's way of "vengeance" is loving others with an everlasting love! This selfless love heaps coals of fire upon His enemies which will result in one of two things. **1.** It will consume the dross of sin and convert the enemy into a friend. **2.** It will consume the enemy who wilfully rejects God's mercy and clings to his darling little sins that are being consumed. Like Pharaoh who hardened his heart towards the mercy of God (Exodus 8:31-32), people react differently to a gospel of selfless love:

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour [fragrance] of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: **To the one [the unbeliever] we are the savour [fragrance] of death unto death; and to the other [the believer] the savour [fragrance] of life unto life.** And who is sufficient for these things?

In the last days, although many will be converted or turned to the truth, the majority of the world will have their hearts turned against the truth and against God's people thus they will seek to destroy them (John 16:2; Revelation 13). This is why only those who accept God's unconditional love and mercy will be able to live eternally in the devouring fire.

Isaiah 33:11-15 Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: **your breath, as fire, shall devour you.** And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting**

burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil.

Those who reject the Son of God and His truth concerning the character of His Father will not live eternally in fire to experience everlasting torture. Peter and Jude said that Sodom and Gomorrah were turned to “ashes” by “eternal fire” as an example of those who live ungodly (2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7) and Malachi clearly says the ungodly “shall be ashes under the soles of your feet.” (Malachi 4:3).

We have seen that God created all things through His Son and in Christ “all things consist” (Colossians 1:15-17). Psalm 33:6, 9 tells us:

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Scripture tells us that Jesus is “the Word of God” in the flesh (John 1:1; Revelation 19:13). This is why the sword is seen coming from His mouth. The people before the flood did not recognize that the power of Christ was that which rallied the elements of the world. Peter shows that the same process that led to a flood of water will also lead to the fiery flood after the millennium, and as the former was caused by the crucifixion of the living Word of God (Jesus), so the latter will be caused by a similar process.

2 Peter 3:3-7 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days **scoffers**, walking after their own **lusts**, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that **by the word of God [Christ] the heavens were of old**, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with WATER, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same word [Christ]** are kept in store, reserved unto FIRE against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Jeremiah 23:29 **Is not my word like as a fire?** saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

The death that results from “the fire from heaven” is due to man’s own self-condemnation in not believing in God’s everlasting mercy. Like Ananias and Sapphira they judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life and the intense self-guilt consumes them to eternal death (Acts 5:1-11). Jesus said people will faint due to “men’s hearts failing them for fear.” (Luke 21:26).

Hosea 7:6 For they [the unbelievers] have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it [their heart/guilt] burneth as a flaming fire.

They will not be able to stand in the presence of God who *is* love (1 John 4:8) – an eternal love which is “a consuming fire” for those who hate God’s loving and selfless character (Deuteronomy 4:24; Isaiah 10:17-18; Hebrews 12:29). Please see the booklet called *Consuming Fire, Fragrance of Life or Fiery Torment?* for a full explanation of this.

Death is Caused by Sin, Not by God

It has been this way from the beginning. God told Adam in the garden:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

We are told clearly what caused this death:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

Eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil meant that Adam would now decide for himself what was good and what was evil. He presumed to know better than God what was best for his welfare. This mind follows a clearly defined process:

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Temptation leads to lust which leads to sin which leads to death. God is not the author of sin, and therefore, He cannot pay its wages to people. If God pays the wages of sin, then He can be accused of extortion. It is like saying “If you don’t worship Me then I will kill you and your family.”

What is sin then?

Romans 14:23 ...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

What is the law?

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is **holy**, and the commandment holy, and **just**, and **good**.

What is God?

1. **Holy:** “Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.” Leviticus 19:2
2. **Just:** “a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” Deuteronomy 32:4
3. **Good:** “Why callest thou me [Jesus] good? none is good, save one, that is, God.” Luke 18:19

If God and His law are holy, just, and good, then what is the law in relation to God? God's law is the transcript of His character. John says, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8); and Paul says, “Love never does anything that is harmful to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the Law.” (Romans 13:10; ISV).

The law can no more be altered than can the character of God:

Isaiah 51:6-7 ...my salvation shall be for ever, and **my righteousness shall not be abolished**. Harken unto me, ye that know righteousness, **the people in whose heart is my law**; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Christ the Perfect Expression of the Father

Who is the One who has perfectly demonstrated the law which is a transcript of the character of God?

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as **I [Jesus] have kept my Father's commandments**, and abide in his love.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Peter 2:21-22 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **Who did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth.

What did Christ say of Himself?

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

What does the law tell us?

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill. [H7523 – dash to pieces]

Did Christ perfectly reflect the law of His Father?

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

Matthew 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Luke 6:27-28 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Matthew 5:39-40 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

If Christ is a perfect reflection of His Father, and Christ's ministry on earth was also a perfect expression of the law, and the law is a transcript of God's character, then it is inescapable that when God says "Do not kill," it is because He does not kill. Otherwise God must be considered like the Pharisees:

Matthew 23:2-3 ...The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: **All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**

Does God say and do not? Does sweet and bitter water come from the same fountain? Does He tell us not to kill and then turn around and wipe out billions of people, thus becoming the greatest slaughterer in the Universe? Jesus never killed anybody and Jesus is the perfect expression of His Father and His law, which says "thou shalt not kill." "Be ye Holy because I am Holy." Be free from violence because I am free from violence. Remember, when Isaiah spoke of Christ, He said:

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; **because he had done no violence**, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Christ has done no violence. Christ is the perfect reflection of His Father. Therefore the Father has done no violence. He is innocent of the charges laid against him by millions of Christians.

Romans 3:3-6 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou [God] mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou [God] art judged. But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

Do you remember how God takes vengeance?

Romans 12:19-21 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **Therefore** if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

God's vengeance is not our vengeance. In Isaiah 61:1-2 it tells us that God's vengeance is, "to bring good news to the oppressed and to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners [of sin] ... to comfort all who mourn."

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Psalms 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

God is ever merciful and freedom-loving, and therefore He allows men to receive the consequences of their own actions. He visits their own iniquities upon their heads. As a man sows, so shall he also reap.

Proverbs 8:35-36 "... those who find me find life and gain favor from the LORD. But whoever sins against me **destroys himself**; everyone who hates me loves death." (ISV)

Psalms 34:21 **Evil shall slay the wicked**: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

Galatians 6:7-8 ...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

The Great Lie That Caused Fear of Death

Satan changed the meaning of the first instructions given to Adam by God. God told Adam that choosing to decide for himself what is good and evil

would cause his own destruction. When Adam ate the fruit, Satan told Adam that God would seek to kill him. God's words were changed from a message of mercy into a coercion gospel. Adam and Eve feared God was now a condemning accuser, so they hid themselves from Him in the trees.

Satan painted God as one that used manipulation and force to keep Adam in line through fear of death. It was a masterful move; for when Adam believed the lie of the serpent then the new god that Adam worshiped was a manipulator that used fear of death to keep him in line. We see this scheme in the book of Job where God permits Satan to cast down fire, but Satan deceives the people to believe it was "the fire of God" (Job 1:1-6, 16).

Who really is the condemning deceiver and accuser?

Revelation 12:9-10 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called **the Devil, and Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

However, Adam feared God as a killer and this placed him (us) in bondage. It is this bondage from which Christ came to set us free:

Hebrews 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Luke 1:71-74 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, **That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear...**

How are we delivered out of the hands of our enemies?

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Again, what is the fear which keeps us all in bondage?

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through **fear of death** were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Again, where did this fear originate?

Genesis 3:9-10 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, **I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid**, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

What was Adam afraid of? Let Adam's descendants answer.

Exodus 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "**Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children** and our livestock with thirst?" (NKJV)

Numbers 14:2-3 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! **Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword**, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" (NKJV)

Numbers 21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "**Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?** For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." (NKJV)

What caused the Israelites to die in the wilderness? It was their own belief that God wanted to kill them. This belief came from Satan who gave it to Adam and Eve. It is the most wicked, evil lie against our loving, gentle and merciful Father. It keeps the human race enslaved to bondage because it creates fear, and fear breeds rebellion, which leads to sin, which leads to death.

Christ Has Abolished Death

This is why Jesus requested the Father that He could come to this world and show us the process of death. Christ would reveal the serpent hiding in the shadows accusing God of being a killer and a murderer and covering up his own wicked deeds.

How does the death of Christ reveal that God is not a killer?

- It was not God who stirred up the Pharisees to seek the death of Christ; it was Satan. (John 8:37-44).
- It was not God who caused the disciples to slumber and sleep; it was Satan.
- It was not God who moved Judas to betray Christ; it was Satan. (John 13:27).
- It was not God who caused the disciples to flee; it was Satan.
- It was not God who inspired the Pharisees to seek the crucifixion of Christ; it was Satan. (Luke 22:52-53).
- It was not God who manipulated Pilate through the crowd; it was Satan.
- It was not God who inspired men to beat Christ, spit on Him and pull out His beard; it was Satan.
- It was not God who inspired the Roman soldiers to crucify Christ; it was Satan.

Even at this point God could have delivered His Son from all that Satan was doing. Yet Christ told us:

John 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

The Father would never have let His precious Son die without the appeal from Christ to His Father to let Him reveal to the Universe what causes death. In Colossians 2:15 Paul says that Christ “disarmed the rulers and the authorities” and “made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in

the cross.” These “rulers and authorities” whom Christ made a spectacle of are the ruling authorities of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

The death of the cross reveals that sin causes death; God does not cause it. As man’s substitute Christ willingly died as the unbelieving sinner will die. He did this to expose sin; not to appease an angry God.

The sin that Christ took upon Himself caused the separation between God and His Son. The wrath of God was His turning away. The wrath of God is His strange act of turning from the sinner and leaving him to his own decision to disbelieve in God’s everlasting mercy.

Isaiah 28:21 For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange [turning aside] work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

Ezekiel 7:22 **My face will I turn also from them**, and they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.

Deuteronomy 31:17, 18 **Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them**, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? And **I will surely hide my face** in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.

Psalms 27:9 **Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger**: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Micah 3:4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: **he will even hide his face from them** at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Please read the booklets *Acts of Our Gentle God; Agape*; or *Father of Love* for an expanded study of the Biblical view of God’s wrath and vengeance.

When our sins of rejecting God were upon Christ, they caused God to turn His face away. When He turned away His face, then Christ cried out:

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Why did God, as it were, “forsake His Son?” He did this to reveal how He deals with sin; the sin of rejecting Him. He finally lets man have His desire. He does not stand towards the sinner as the executioner. In fact, God never forsook His Son, but sin clouded His merciful face so that the Son could not see it just as an unbelieving sinner cannot see it. Christ did not reach out and grasp God’s merciful hand because the unbelieving sinner would not do that, and Christ had to die as an unbelieving sinner will die.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden [clouded] His face from you, So that He will not hear. (NKJV)

Psalms 22:1, 24 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ... For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

God did not send a physical fire from heaven to consume Christ on the cross. He did not strike the cross with lightning and smash His Son to pieces. He did not crush Him to the ground with His fists. He kept His face hidden because of the human will to reject God; to show us what happens when we want nothing to do with Him.

Isaiah 53:3-5 **He was despised and rejected by people.** He was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. He was despised like one from whom people turn their faces, and we didn’t consider him to be worth anything. He certainly has taken upon himself our suffering and carried our sorrows, **but we thought that God had wounded him, beat him, and punished him.** He was wounded for [or, by] our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished [by sin] so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds. (GWT)

Christ was carrying this human will upon Him. He was wounded for our transgression of rejecting the truth. In order to reveal the true nature of death, God had to honour this rejection and keep His face hidden.

When Christ cried in trumpet tones “It is finished,” and then committed His Spirit to His Father and died, death was revealed. The serpent was revealed as the destroyer. Satan and his angels were exposed before the onlooking universe, and the opposing principles of good and evil were more fully revealed (1 Corinthians 4:9). The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. No more could he enter the heavenly courts and accuse us (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7), and thus Satan was confined to this earth.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. (See also, Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-17).

2 Timothy 1:9-10 [God] hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

From the foundation of the world God and His Son decided to reveal the nature of death and its relationship to sin. When Christ died on the cross, the cause of death was revealed and therefore its power was abolished.

Romans 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets,** according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

John 12:32-33 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

This means that through death Christ abolished the idea that God causes death. The power of death is Satan’s lie that God kills those who resist Him. Remember, Christ died “that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14; BSB).

Christ overturned the lie that God's original caution to Adam was a threat to kill him. This is why the cross provides freedom from bondage; the bondage of the fear or power of death. Christ revealed what happens to the sinner when He died. He revealed that the Father did not kill His Son but rather that He turned away according to the will of the sinner. Christ carried our human desire to reject God upon Himself. God honoured that rejection and yielded up His Son. Thus in the final judgment every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth.

The cross brings life and immortality to light through the gospel. It reveals that God is not the author of death and that Satan is a liar and murderer from the beginning. Paul tells us, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:26). This proves there is no death in God. He is not the author of death. If death were an attribute of God, then it cannot be His enemy. It could not be destroyed. God is righteous, therefore "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." (Proverbs 12:28). God cannot pay sin's wages if He does not have death in Him to give!

So if Christ has already abolished the power of death, then why will people die? Because they continue to believe the lie that God kills them for their sins. By beholding this lie they are changed into its image. This also makes them vulnerable to the false idea that every offer of mercy from God is actually a means of manipulation, because if they do not accept the offer He will kill them.

Let us look upon the cross and see that Christ has abolished death for every man, woman, and child. He has exposed the serpent on the pole (see, John 3:14-16) by exposing Satan's justice system, not God's. He has shown the Father truly is love and in Him is no darkness at all (see, 1 John 1:5). Then we are ready to understand the meaning of Christ when He said:

Matthew 9:24 "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. (NKJV)

Satan continues to hide himself in the destructive events that occur in the world. He causes men to believe God is responsible for the very things he

himself is doing. When it is believed that God is actively destroying people, then fear is created and this keeps the soul in bondage. Until the gospel is preached without any threat of death coming directly from God, it must always be understood as an extortion racket. Fear of death will never allow the human soul to rest completely in the hands of God. In this context the cry of mercy can only be understood as a veiled threat of destruction.

A Revelation of the Father's Love

The Bible clearly reveals that we are not saved by works. The story of the prodigal son shows that the father accepted him, not because he was good but because he was his son (see, Luke 15:11-32). The message of the book *Identity Wars* reveals that we are valuable to God not because we perform as He wishes, but rather because we are His children. What we do can never change His love for us. (Download *Identity Wars* for free at fatheroflove.info).

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.

Christ, as our representative, embraced this truth, thus we are also accepted in Him “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved** [Jesus].” (Ephesians 1:6). If we truly believe that we are accepted in the Beloved One, not because we are righteous but because He is love, then we must believe that we will always have value in God’s eyes.

The logical progression of the Identity message of value through relationship to our Father is that nothing can cause us to lose worth in His eyes, and therefore He will never throw away something that is valuable to Him. The notion that God Himself destroys the wicked with His own hand sends the message that the wicked are no longer valuable to Him. When we read these accounts and come to such a conclusion, then we are believing in a God who can completely devalue humans because they won’t do what He asks. The death of the wicked then becomes a grand statement that sinners mean nothing to God.

How many of us are willing to throw away someone that is valuable to us? Even as human beings, if we still see value in someone, we would never

throw them away. If we would not do this, then how can God throw away any of His children? He can never do this; “for He is kind to the unthankful and evil” (Luke 6:35) and “maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45). “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:36). He can only grant those who reject Him the right to die. He can only allow them the freedom to choose death instead of Him. (See again, Proverbs 8:36).

Matthew 7:9-11 “... what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (NKJV)

Christ has abolished death. He did it from the foundation of the world, but it was not fully manifested until the time of the cross. The stories of the plagues in Egypt, the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah and others speak to the cross, but it was not fully revealed. Since the revelation of the cross, there is no excuse for believing that God is the author of death. There is no place for accepting the bondage and fear of God killing those who reject Him. The only way a person can defeat the abolishing of death is to continue to believe that God will kill those who don't act as He wants them to. They continue to believe that God uses coercion to change human behaviour.

The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded. Only Christ who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.

The healing in the wings of Christ, spoken of by Malachi, is that He abolished death (Malachi 4:2). He abolished the idea that God kills His enemies with His own hand. The lie that God kills His enemies is what gave Satan wings to build his kingdom of bondage through fear. When Christ died and revealed how death occurs, Satan's wings were clipped, and he fell to the earth. (Revelation 12:7-13). Those who look to Christ will arise with Him on His healing wings (hem/fringe of His garment; Mark 6:56; Matthew 9:20-21) and will ride upon the high places of the earth. When God made the serpent to go upon his

belly and eat the dust of the earth, He prophesied the destruction of Satan's kingdom by exposing his lie that God manipulates and coerces men through fear of death. (Genesis 3:14; Psalm 72).

Calvary Revealed Through the Flood

As the Lord surveyed the wickedness of the world, He indicated there would be a limit: "And the LORD said, **My spirit shall not always strive with man**, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:3).

The limit was the amount of time that the Spirit of God would strive with man to save him. The Spirit of Christ was pleading day and night with His wayward children. He appealed to them and reached out to them day after day. Yet we read how they reacted to this striving of the Spirit.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [hold down or suppress] the truth in unrighteousness.

The antediluvians were drowning out the voice of conscience. Daily they rejected that gentle, appealing voice, and they continued headlong into their wicked course. This suppression of the Spirit of Christ was like holding Him down in an effort to drown Him. As His Spirit was vexed from day to day, Christ often felt overwhelmed.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned [overturned, given over] to be their enemy, and he fought [strove] against them.

Christ did not change nor turn Himself to be their enemy (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). As men drew nearer to destruction, the pleading of Christ became more urgent, and His voice became as the sound of an enemy in their ears. His witness against them was treated with scorn and hatred, and thus He *appeared* in their mind to be their enemy (See, Psalm 18:26).

Psalm 6:3-8 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

The sufferings of Christ could not be hidden. If men would refuse to accept the cross of Christ, then the inanimate rocks would cry out to bear witness to the sufferings of their Creator (Luke 19:40). As Christ is the Creator of this world, so the physical world responds to His suffering (See again, Romans 8:22). It is also important to see that this response of nature was not due to natural causes, it was a response to the killing of its Creator.

Psalms 18, being a prophecy of the crucifixion, reveals the sufferings of Christ on the cross in the context of a flood.

Psalm 18:4-5 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

Some descriptions in Psalms 18 speak in the language of the flood, while others speak of devouring fire suggesting the events of Sodom and Gomorrah and the final end of the wicked. For example:

Psalm 18:13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

As Christ strove with men to turn from wickedness, He was overwhelmed by the flood of their ungodly behaviour. His heart ached over humanity's suffering:

Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

The antediluvians were putting Christ to an open shame. His soul was tortured and grieved by their wickedness, and finally He cried out upon this antediluvian cross – "I thirst!" The Spirit ceased to plead with man. Having been driven back after hundreds of years, He finally accepted their decision

and withdrew His Spirit from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the flood. Inanimate nature could not be prevented from preaching the gospel through the events of the flood. Notice the connections between the story of the flood and the cross in these passages:

1. Calling/Crying Out:

Psalm 18:6 **In my distress I called upon the LORD**, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Mathew 27:46 And about the ninth hour **Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

2. The Earth Shakes:

Psalm 18:7 **Then the earth shook and trembled;** the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. [grieved].

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; **and the earth did quake**, and the rocks rent.

3. Darkness:

Psalm 18:9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: **and darkness was under his feet.** [Thou shalt bruise his heel; Genesis 3:15].

Psalm 18:11 **He made darkness his secret place;** his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour **there was darkness over all the land** unto the ninth hour.

4. Channels of Water and Foundations Revealed:

Psalm 18:15 **Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered** at thy rebuke ...

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and **forthwith came there out blood and water.**

5. Roaring:

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, **and from the words of my roaring?**

Isaiah 5:30 And in that day they shall roar against them **like the roaring of the sea:** and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; **the sea and the waves roaring.**

1. Salvation:

Psalm 18:16 He sent from above, he took me, **he drew me out of many waters.**

1 Peter 3:20-21 ... In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water. And **this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves you also** ... (BSB)

Nature testified of what had happened to its Creator. As Christ is the light which lights every man that comes into the world, His suffering was manifested in the lives of all those who perished in the flood.

Psalm 33:6-7 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

It is through the power of Christ that the heavens were made. His voice speaks into all creation. It is by the Word of Christ that the waters were gathered together and laid up in storehouses in the earth. When the antediluvians finally and completely rejected Christ, His voice was silenced, and the power that held the waters in their storehouses broke loose as the natural elements were handed over to the principles of chaos.

It was not Satan who caused the release of the waters, but in torturing Christ to the point of forcing Him to yield up the Spirit, creation no longer heard the

tender voice of its Master who called constantly to it – “Peace be still.” The waters then reflected the turbulence of Satan and wicked men. Satan himself was made to endure the warring elements as the enormity of the cross of Christ was revealed in the waters of the flood.

The convulsions of the deep were a manifestation of the broken heart of Christ. The waters pouring down from the heavens were a testimony of His tears that He has been shedding for the fallen children of Adam (see, Luke 19:41-44). The antediluvians refused to acknowledge the sufferings of Christ, but nature testified to the sufferings of its Author and reflected His sorrow and death. When the rejection of Christ was complete, then nature bore witness to that rejection while at the same time reflecting the impress of the spirit of chaos.

We Esteemed Him Stricken, Smitten of God

When we see a revelation of the cross in the stories of the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we can find deeper meaning to our human attitudes towards judgment.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

(Good News Bible) “But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. **All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God.**”

Wherever the story of the cross is revealed, in this very place our natural human hearts think that it was the work of God to strike. The Bible clearly reveals the crucifixion of Christ in the days of Noah and Lot, yet we esteem that this destruction was the punishment of God. Christ was to “taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9) and He was *not* smitten by God. The death of Christ was revealed in the death of those who perished, and our natural response is to say they were smitten of God and afflicted. This masks the truth of the cross and the real reason for the destruction.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

It is our transgression that caused the cross; it is Satanically inspired human nature that caused the destruction. When we say God caused the flood and fire and brimstone and killed all those people, we repeat the sorrowful principle: “we did esteem him [them] stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.”

Seeking the Father with All Our Hearts

In probing further, we may ask: “Didn’t the Son of God kill the antediluvians by no longer holding up the waters with His voice?” His voice had been silenced and He accepted their verdict. If you shoot the man who holds his finger in the dyke, and the water is then free to pour through the wall, who is it that brought the flood? He had pleaded with them, built an Ark, and warned them that creation was going to reflect His sufferings. At the same time, as Christ bore the sins of the world upon the cross, so nature would bear the sinful chaotic mind of man in its state of disorder. The body of Christ upon the cross was completely disordered through violence, and at the time of Noah and Lot nature also groaned under this burden of disorder and chaos. Ever since sin was conceived in the heart of Satan, Christ’s Spirit has been pleading, “Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

The antediluvian cross of Christ pulls back the mysterious curtain that seems to present God as a killer. The principles of His kingdom of love, His refusal to use force, and the law providing a transcript of His character that states clearly that we should not kill, all witness to us that God is not a killer. Only in the light of the cross of Christ can the story of Noah’s flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah find resolution. In the light of the cross the charge that God is a severe taskmaster is proven false.

As Christ desperately tried to warn the Jewish nation of the flood of Romans that would overwhelm their city and destroy it (Luke 21:20-21), so He tried to warn the men of Noah’s day that a flood of sorrow was coming upon the world. As for the case in Jerusalem, the Spirit of Christ was seeking to hold back Rome from doing its work of destruction under the inspiration of Satan. When the Jews used Rome to seek to destroy Christ, they sealed their doom. At the end of this world, those who crucified Christ will realise that their own

decisions have fallen upon themselves.

As the Jews used the Romans to hang Christ on the cross, the Romans returned a generation later and hung tens of thousands of Jews on crosses after the same order. The inhabitants of Noah's and Lot's day had drowned out the pleading Spirit of Christ, and what they were doing to Him spiritually was physically returned onto them.

For over 1,500 years the antediluvian church had laboured and travailed to respond to the seed that Christ planted in her. The continual rejection of that seed finally caused a miscarriage. When the woman's waters finally broke, she manifested the corpse of Christ in the very lives of those who had rejected that seed. When a mother miscarries, do we charge her with murdering her child? Certainly not! It surely is a sorrowful event, yet it is the testimony of nature that something was not right in the birth process. The church throughout history has endured a terrible miscarriage of the seed of Christ.

Isaiah 13:8,9 They will all be terrified and **overcome with pain, like the pain of a woman in labour**. They will look at each other in fear, and their faces will burn with shame. The day of the LORD is coming—that cruel day of his fierce anger and fury. The earth will be made a wilderness, and [by the rejection of His presence within the unbeliever] every sinner will be destroyed. (GNB; see also Isaiah 21:3-4)

Matthew 24:6-8 “You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See to it that you are not alarmed ... nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. But **all these things are only the beginning of the birth pains.**” (ISV).

If a person has read to this point and is still convinced that God simply decided that He had had enough of sinners and decided to drown and burn them for refusing to comply with His rule of law, then such persons run the risk of seriously misrepresenting the character of God and attributing to Him modes of operation that run completely counter to His law. They also will find it impossible to escape the bondage of the fear of death and find true agape love.

The only path to freedom is to lose the fear of death. Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to life through the gospel. Now is the time to seek for our Father with all our hearts and throw off several thousand years of damning propaganda against our beloved Father, who is ever merciful, tender, gentle, longsuffering and gives to every man the fruit of His own choices. I appeal to you to see the cross of Christ in every major destruction event recorded in history. May we consider well the message coming to us at the present hour:

Revelation 14:6-7 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people**, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God [put all your hope and trust in His loving kindness/mercy, Psalm 147:11], and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come [in which He will be found just and clear, Romans 3:4]: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Will you be His witness? Will you stand for truth and help clear His name? Are you proclaiming “the everlasting gospel,” or are you proclaiming “the everlasting extortion racket”? The everlasting gospel is the Good News about God’s true character. God’s glory is all about His character (Exodus 33:18-19), and giving glory to God is allowing Him to lay your glory in the dust so that His character can grow in you. Will you allow His merciful, non-violent character to live in and through you by the indwelling Spirit of Jesus? “Let your light shine before all men, in order that they may see your holy lives and may give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16; WNT).

Matthew 24:14 And **this gospel** of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Our world is nearing the critical juncture once again just like in the time of Noah and Lot. The final rejection of “this gospel” will trigger the final burst of chaos that will overwhelm our world. Jesus is pleading for us to be reconciled to His Father and receive a true understanding of how He governs and upholds creation.

Top two images - The ashen ruins of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. 2 Peter 2:6.



Bottom two images - Estimated location of Noah's Ark in Eastern Turkey, Agri Province. Noah's Ark National Park. Ararat Mountain. Genesis 8:4.

The Crucifixion of Christ in the Days of Noah and Lot

The story of the worldwide flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are troubling to many. Would God truly drown and burn alive hundreds of thousands of people because His mercy is exhausted and the crushing hand of judgment will no longer be restrained? Would a loving God do such a thing? For many this is a perplexing mystery.

Many have mocked or misunderstood “the everlasting gospel” because of the messages that ring out from church pulpits describing God as being a “don” (boss) of a global Mafia which runs an extortion racket upon the inhabitants of earth in order to receive worship – “Do what I say or I will kill you!”

The true “everlasting gospel” is that our Father in heaven does not use the threat of death to coerce us into obedience. His law is a transcript of His character, and His law says “thou shalt not kill.” In the death of the Cross, Christ has abolished the lie that God threatens to kill the rebellious. The Cross reveals that God leaves those who reject Him to their own choices.