

The Cross and the Flood

The Cross is the Key

The story of the worldwide flood is troubling to many. Would God truly drown 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. Note carefully the following words for they hold the key to understanding this mystery:

The mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries. In the light that streams from Calvary the attributes of God which had filled us with fear and awe appear beautiful and attractive. Mercy, tenderness, and parental love are seen to blend with holiness, justice, and power. While we behold the majesty of His throne, high and lifted up, we see His character in its gracious manifestations, and comprehend, as never before, the significance of that endearing title, "Our Father." GC 652.1

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 informs him that he has come on a mission of mercy to save the shop owner from certain destruction. By turning to the help of this man and providing him support, the shop owner will be spared this coming destruction that will fall upon all the shop owners 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 man is offering protection from another threat separate from himself then he would be engaged in the criminal offense called a protection racket. 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?

Gen 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. (14) 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:

Gen 6:11-12 The earth also was corrupt [H7843] before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) 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 Gen 6:13, it reads as follows:

Gen 6:11-12 The earth also was *destroyed* before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) 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:

Eze 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned:

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

Isa 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.

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

Psa 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?

The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. **Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was [37] a strange, fierce conflict.** Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against **envy and jealousy.** PP 36,37

"Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?"

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, **Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels.** He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor. PP 37

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 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 and when Satan beheld the innocent pair in the garden, he was filled with envy and determined to destroy them.

No longer free to stir up rebellion in heaven, **Satan's enmity against God found a new field in plotting the ruin of the human race**. In the happiness and peace of the holy pair in Eden he beheld a vision of the bliss that to him was forever lost. **Moved by envy, he determined to incite them to disobedience**, and bring upon them the guilt and penalty of sin. **He would change their love to distrust and their songs of praise to reproaches against their Maker**. Thus he would not only plunge these innocent beings into the same misery which he was himself enduring, but would cast dishonor upon God, and cause grief in heaven. PP 52.1

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

There exists naturally no enmity between sinful man and the originator of sin. Both became evil through apostasy. The apostate is never at rest, except as he obtains sympathy and support by inducing others to follow his example. For this reason **fallen angels and wicked men unite in desperate companionship**. Had not God specially interposed, Satan and man would have entered into an alliance against Heaven; and instead of cherishing enmity against Satan, the whole human family would have been united in opposition to God. GC 505.2

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. (Rev 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.

Isa 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**.

The natural enmity of man for the Spirit of Christ would cause him to suppress the promptings of the Spirit and react with hatred and violence towards those around him. The expression of violence in this world is the expression of the original hatred and feelings of hatred that Satan had for Christ.

Matt 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 is inspired by a spirit that is fuelled by envy and hatred for the Son of God. Therefore all violence is a partaking of this hatred towards Christ even if the original reason is completely unknown. Expressions of hatred towards our neighbour and acts of violence towards our enemies are fuelled by Satan's hatred towards Christ. This is the origin of all violence and hatred.

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 we have the final result of all such hatred can only be self-destruction.

The Path to Corruption/Destruction

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

Rom 1:21-25 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. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (23) 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. (24) **Wherefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: (25) 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. (26) **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: (27) 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.** (28) 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 grows through 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 corrupt their own minds because they wished to hold onto their hatred towards the Son of God. He let them enter into vile affections because they wished to rebel against the order that Christ had created. God then gave 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. Sexual perversion, killing and devastation become normal for the reprobate or worthless mind. Yet in this process Christ is rejected, despised and tortured in His Spirit. The violence of the world 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. In the fullness of antediluvian time God sent forth His Son that He might be born of this antediluvian woman who was the seed carrier from Eden. Under the hateful influence of Satan, the world had aborted Christ and so the world would have to miscarry his corpse into the toilet bowl of human misery. The words of Peter find clarity in the light of the antediluvian cross.

1 Pet 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: (19) By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; (20) **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.

As inanimate nature bore witness to the death of Christ 2000 years ago, it also bore witness to the antediluvian crucifixion. When the waters of that apostate woman broke, it was manifested in their own destruction of the still-born experience of the Seed which they had drowned out in their immoral violent behaviour.

It is in this context that the story of Noah can be understood as a message of mercy.

Men cannot with impunity reject **the warning which God in mercy sends them.** A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. GC 431

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.

Col 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 and travail in antediluvian rejection and violence.

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.

Jesus told us:

Matt 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Please notice the causes listed for the flood in these inspired words:

Because they rejected the warning, **the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race**, and they perished in the waters of the Flood. GC 431

Filled with the keenest remorse for his own sin, and doubly bereaved in the death of Abel and the rejection of Cain, Adam was bowed down with anguish. **He witnessed the wide-spreading corruption that was finally to cause the destruction of the world by a flood...** PP 82

It was the wide-spreading corruption or destruction caused by man's hatred and violence towards Christ that caused the destruction of the world by a flood that reacted in violence and destruction towards them.

Matt 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.

Psa_7:15 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.

Satan had led the human race into rebellion against its Creator. His temptations caused them to crucify Christ afresh in their daily self-indulgence. This is what caused the withdrawal of the Spirit of God from the earth and led to the flood. Listen carefully to the following quote. Follow the logic sequence carefully.

Satan is the [389] destroyer. God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work. We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? **The Lord's restraining power is not exercised. The world has disregarded the word of God. They live as though there were no God. Like the inhabitants of the Noachic world, they refuse to have any thought of God.** Wickedness prevails to an alarming extent, and the earth is ripe for the harvest. 6T 388,389

1. Ellen White tells us who the destroyer is:

Satan is the destroyer. 6T 388.

2. We are then told how the destroyer is allowed to do his work:

God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work. 6T 389

3. We are then told about the calamities that occur everywhere today and why they come. The same process that is mentioned in Romans chapter one is mentioned here. God is forgotten.

We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? The Lord's restraining power is not exercised. The world has disregarded the word of God. They live as though there were no God. 6T 389

4. The example given of how this process works is the story of Noah's flood

Like the inhabitants of the Noachic world, they refuse to have any thought of God. Wickedness prevails to an alarming extent, and the earth is ripe for the harvest. 6T389

Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. His methods of dealing with men do not change. This same process is given again in *Great Controversy*. A number of Bible examples are given to explain the process.

Men cannot with impunity reject **the warning which God in mercy sends them**. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, **the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood**. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. **So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: "Your house is left unto you desolate."** Matthew 23:38. Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning those who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved": "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. **As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love.** GC 431

Here is the process given again:

1. God sends a merciful warning message (not a message of coercion.)
2. When the message is rejected completely, the Spirit of God withdraws.
3. Man is left to his own desolation.
4. Man receives the consequences of his own choices.

The examples given that follow this process are:

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

All of these examples follow the same process. That is why they are listed in the quote. Concerning the destruction of Jerusalem we are given an even clearer sequence.

In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished; the survivors were carried away as captives, sold as slaves, dragged to Rome to grace the conqueror's triumph, thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheatres, or scattered as homeless wanderers throughout the earth.

The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. **In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown.** Says the prophet: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;" "for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9; 14:1. **Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work.** By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the [36] destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control. GC 35.3

The destruction of Jerusalem is a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power. This example was listed alongside the worldwide flood, the fire in Sodom and the last days.

Ellen White was clearly shown how this process works:

I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproveth, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.
14MR 3

We note again how Satan works:

Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. GC 35

It is true that Satan experiments with nature, and when allowed he will use it in his work of destruction.

Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. GC 589

The Spirit of Prophecy makes it clear that those who believe that God destroyed the antediluvians are aligned with the spirit of Cain.

The dwellers on the plain of Shinar disbelieved God's covenant that He would not again bring a flood upon the earth. Many of them denied the existence of God and attributed the Flood to the operation of natural causes. **Others believed in a Supreme Being, and that it was He who had destroyed the antediluvian world; and their hearts, like that of Cain, rose up in rebellion against Him.** PP 119

So we see that it is Satan who uses the power of nature to destroy, but the story of the flood is more complex because Satan was not in control of the elements during this time.

Above the roar of the tempest was heard the wailing of a people that had despised the authority of God. **Satan himself, who was compelled to remain in the midst of the warring elements,** feared for his own existence. PP 99.

The Spirit of Prophecy does use this term *warring elements* in parallel with the work of evil angels:

When you have placed yourselves in the right relation to God, then, if you are **compelled to go among the warring elements,** Christ will give you his spirit, and will work with your efforts. **When brought in contact with the powers of darkness,** angels of God will be right by your side, and will preserve you from the wrath of men. RH June 29, 1886

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.

Titus rushed to the place, followed by his generals and legionaries, and commanded the soldiers to quench the flames. **His words were unheeded. In their fury the soldiers hurled blazing brands into the chambers adjoining the temple,** and then with their swords they slaughtered in great numbers those who had found shelter there. GC 33

Did Satan lose control of his army? Did the rebellious spirit of Satan contained within all his legions manifest completely in a display of chaos and disorder? In the same manner did creation that Satan tried to control also rebel against order and reflect his own image?

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. 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 this case Satan did not have control of nature but rather nature was allowed to reflect his image as opposed to the image of Christ. Christ does all things decently and in order 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. We see this same principle occurring at the Second Coming of Christ.

And now there rises a cry of mortal agony. Louder than the shout, "Crucify Him, crucify Him," which rang through the streets of Jerusalem, swells the awful, [644] despairing wail, "He is the Son of God! He is the true Messiah!" They seek to flee from the presence of the King of kings. **In the deep caverns of the earth, rent asunder by the warring of the elements,** they vainly attempt to hide. GC 643.4

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. Yet our Father is not a chaotic, disordered being. 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.

Psa 8:4-6 **What is man, that thou art mindful of him?** and the son of man, that thou visitest him? (5) For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. (6) **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. 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?

Death is Caused by Sin, Not by God

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

Gen 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:

Rom 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. (15) 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 running an extortion racket. It is like saying "If you don't worship me then I will kill you and your family."

What is sin then?

Rom 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?

Rom 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." Lev 19:2
2. Just: "a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deut 32:4
3. Good: "Why callest thou me 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. It embodies the principles of His kingdom. COL 306

God requires perfection of His children. **His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character.** COL 315

Do you love to keep the commandments of God, because **the commandments of God are God's precepts, the transcript of His character, and can no more be altered than can the character of God?** FLB 130.

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?

The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God's law... COL 315

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, Shew us the Father?

What does the law tell us?

Exo 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.

Matt 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, (28) Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Mat 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. (40) 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:

Matt 23:2-3 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: (3) **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 which is clearly transcribed into the law which says thou shalt not kill. Be ye Holy because I am Holy. Be free from violence because I am free from violence. When Isaiah spoke of Christ, He said:

Isa 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.

Rom 3:3-6 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? (4) God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (5) But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) (6) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

How does God take vengeance?

Rom 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. (20) **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. (21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

God's thoughts are not our thoughts. God's vengeance is not our vengeance. This is how the character of God operates. Read carefully every part for it is a complete revelation of the Father.

Exo 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, (7) 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.

Psa 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.

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 if he chose to decide for himself what is good and evil that this 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.

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

Satan painted God as one that used manipulation and force to keep Adam in line through fear of death. It was a masterful stroke 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. Adam feared God as a killer and this placed him in bondage. It is this bondage from which Christ came to set us free:

Heb 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; (15) **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; (72) To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; (73) The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, (74) **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?

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

Where did this fear originate?

Gen 3:9-10 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? (10) 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.

Exo 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, **Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children** and our cattle with thirst?

Num 14:2-3 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! (3) **And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword**, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Num 21:5 **And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?** for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

What caused the Israelites to die in the wilderness? It was their own belief that God wanted to kill them. Where did this belief come from? It 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. (18) 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. The death of the cross reveals that sin causes death; God does not cause it.

The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. **He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.** DA 753.2

Sin 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.

Isa 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 [turn aside] work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

Eze 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.

Deu_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.

Psa 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.

Mic 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 booklet *God's Strange Act* for an expanded view of the Biblical view of God's wrath.

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:

Matt 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. 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 walked away because of the human will to reject God and the want of nothing to do with Him.

Isa 53:3-5 **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. (4) **Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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.

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 turn away. Christ had to

get permission from His Father to show that sin causes death, not God.

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 universe, and the questions that had remained in the minds of the good angels and unfallen worlds ceased. Satan fell as lightning from heaven to the earth.

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

2 Tim 1:9-10 Who 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, (10) 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.

Rom 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,** (26) **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. (33) 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.

Heb 2:14 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;

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.

In the day of final judgment, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth. The cross will be presented, and its real bearing will be seen by every mind that has been blinded by transgression. Before the vision of Calvary with its mysterious Victim, sinners will stand condemned. Every lying excuse will be swept away. Human apostasy will appear in its heinous character. Men will see what their choice has been. Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy will then have been made plain. DA 58

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.

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 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. He has shown the Father truly is love and in Him is no darkness at all.

Then we are ready to understand the meaning of Christ when He said:

Matt 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

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. 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.

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

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

And the word that was spoken to Jesus at the Jordan, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," embraces humanity. God spoke to Jesus as our representative. With all our sins and weaknesses, we are not cast aside as worthless. "He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6. The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. DA 113

If we truly believe that we are accepted in the Beloved 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 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. 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.

Prov 8:36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

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; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love

awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. DA 22.1

The healing in the wings of Christ is that He abolished death. 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. Those who look to Christ will arise with Him on His healing wings 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.

Calvary Revealed Through the Flood.

As the Lord surveyed the wickedness of the world He indicated there would be a limit.

Gen 6:3 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.

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.

Rom 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.

Isa 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.

As men drew nearer to destruction the pleading of Christ became more urgent and His voice became the sound of the enemy. His witness against them was treated with scorn and hatred.

Psa 6:3-8 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? (4) Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. (5) For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? (6) I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. (7) Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. (8) 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. As Christ is the Creator of this world so the physical world responds to His suffering.

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

With amazement angels witnessed the Saviour's despairing agony. The hosts of heaven veiled their faces from the fearful sight. **Inanimate nature expressed sympathy with its insulted and dying Author.** The sun refused to look upon the awful scene. Its full, bright rays were illuminating the earth at midday, when suddenly it seemed to be blotted out. Complete darkness, like a funeral pall, enveloped the cross. "There was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour." **There was no eclipse or other natural cause for**

this darkness, which was as deep as midnight without moon or stars. DA 753

Note carefully the response of nature to Christ's suffering. 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. We repeat for emphasis:

Inanimate **nature expressed sympathy** with its insulted and dying Author...There was **no eclipse or other natural cause** for this darkness. DA 753

Psalms 18 reveals the sufferings of Christ on the cross in the context of a flood.

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

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that Psalm 18 is a prophecy of the crucifixion.

Christ was "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." By wicked hands he was taken and crucified. Speaking of his death, the psalmist writes: "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." RH, July 17, 1900 par. 11

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. As Christ strove with men to turn from wickedness He was overwhelmed by the flood of their ungodly behaviour :

Gen 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.

Because they rejected the warning, **the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race**, and they perished in the waters of the Flood . GC 431

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

Psa 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.

Mat 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

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

Mat 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

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

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

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

Darker and darker grew the heavens, and faster came the falling rain. PP 99

4. Channels of Water and Foundations Revealed

Psa 18:15 **Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered** at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

Water appeared to come from the clouds in mighty cataracts. Rivers broke away from their boundaries, and overflowed the valleys. Jets of water burst from the earth with indescribable force, throwing massive rocks hundreds of feet into the air, **and these, in falling, buried themselves deep in the ground.** PP 99.1

Gen 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of **the great deep broken up**, and the windows of heaven were opened.

5. Roaring

Psa 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?**

The terror of man and beast was beyond description. **Above the roar of the tempest was heard the wailing of a people** that had despised the authority of God. PP 99

6. Salvation

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

Gen 8:1-3 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; (2) The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, **and the rain from heaven was restrained;** (3) And **the waters returned from off the earth continually:** and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

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.

Psa 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. (7) 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 them – "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 testimony of His tears that He had shed for the fallen children of Adam. The antediluvians refused to acknowledge the sufferings of Christ, but nature testified to the sufferings of its Author and reflected His sorrow and death. Satan had caused this destruction by pressing the antediluvians to reject Christ and His Spirit. When that rejection was complete, then nature bore

witness to that rejection while at the same time reflecting the impress of the spirit of chaos.

We Esteemed His Stricken, Smitten of God

When we see a revelation of the cross in the story of the flood, we can find deeper meaning to our human attitudes towards judgment.

Isa 53:3-4 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. (4) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: **yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

Wherever the story of the cross is revealed, in this very place our natural human hearts esteem that it was the work of God to strike. The Bible clearly reveals the cross in the flood and yet we esteem that this destruction was the punishment of God. The death of Christ was revealed in the death of those who perished in the flood 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

Isa 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 flood. When we say God caused the flood and killed all those people, we repeat the sorrowful principle "we did esteem him 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 warned them, built an ark, pleaded with them 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 the flood nature also groaned under this burden of disorder and chaos.

How often have its [Spirit of Christ's] plaintive, tender tones called them to repentance. How often has it been heard in the touching entreaties of a friend, a brother, a Redeemer. To the rejecters of His grace no other could be so full of condemnation, so burdened with denunciation, as that voice which has so long pleaded: "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11. Oh, that it were to them the voice of a stranger! Says Jesus: "I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof." Proverbs 1:24, 25. That voice awakens memories which they would fain blot out--warnings despised, invitations refused, privileges slighted. GC 642

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 find resolution. In the light of the cross the charge that God is a severe task master is proven false.

All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard master, reaping where He has not sown, is false. COL 362.3

As Christ desperately tried to warn the Jewish nation of the flood of Romans that would overwhelm their city and destroy it, so He tried to warn the men of Noah's day that a flood of sorrow was coming upon the

world. A flood created by the continual suppression and rejection of Christ that caused the removal of His Spirit which then allowed the collapse of the water stores of the earth. 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 will fall upon themselves:

With awful distinctness do priests and rulers recall the events of Calvary. With shuddering horror they remember how, wagging their heads in satanic exultation, they exclaimed: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him." Matthew 27:42, 43.

Vividly they recall the Saviour's parable of the husbandmen who refused to render to their lord the fruit of the vineyard, who abused his servants and slew his son. They remember, too, the sentence which they themselves pronounced: The lord of the vineyard "will miserably destroy those wicked men." **In the sin and punishment of those unfaithful men the priests and elders see their own course and their own just doom.** And now there rises a cry of mortal agony. Louder than the shout, "Crucify Him, crucify Him," which rang through the streets of Jerusalem, swells the awful, [644] despairing wail, "He is the Son of God! He is the true Messiah!" GC 643,644

As the Jews used the Romans to hang Christ on the cross, the Romans returned a generation later and hung tens of thousands of its citizens on crosses after the same order. So also the inhabitants of Noah's day had drowned out the pleading Spirit of Christ, these same people revealed physically in their own lives what they were doing to Him in the Spiritually.

Psa 7:14-16 Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. (15) **He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.** (16) **His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.**

For over 1500 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 miscarriage reveals that a rejection took place for some reason. The church of Noah endured a terrible miscarriage of the seed of Christ.

Isa_13:8,9 And they shall be afraid: **pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth:** they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Isa 21:3-4 Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it. (4) My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.

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 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 from bondage 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. It may very well be that the millions who died in the Second World War reflected the crucifixion of Christ that took place in 1888 when the Adventist pioneers pushed back the truth with determined force and consequently let the world sink down into the darkness of war.

May we consider well the message coming to us at the present hour. Its rejection could trigger the world's final rejection, and once again a flood of ungodly men will overwhelm the world as a reflection of the grief of Christ at His rejection.

For those who have ears to hear, listen to what the Spirit says unto the Church.