

WHAT MORE COULD GOD DO?

In the first chapter of Genesis we get the story of creation, including the creation of the earth and man. The last verse of that chapter states:

Genesis 1:37—*God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.*

But chapter 3 tells the tale of man's disobedience that polluted God's creation with sin and death.

Still, God did not destroy Adam and Eve and start over, He covered their nakedness and promised that a Savior would come from the woman's seed:

Genes 3:15— *He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

By the sixth chapter of Genesis mankind had become completely steeped in sin:

Genesis 6:5—*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

God destroyed all mankind except righteous Noah's family, cleansing the whole earth with a flood.

You get a glimpse of God's sympathy for the human race in his promise not to flood the earth again:

Genesis 8:21— *I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, (for) the imagination of man's heart is evil from youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.*

By the 11th chapter of Genesis, mankind rebelled against God's command to Noah to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth again. They chose to unite against God and build the Tower of Babel "whose top is in the heavens," and "make a name for ourselves lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the earth."

Instead of destroying them God simply reprogrammed men's language centers so they were divided into language groups with separate agendas so they couldn't unite against Him .

By the 12th chapter of Genesis mankind was so steeped in idolatrous immorality that he gave the majority up to the their wickedness (Romans 1:18-32) and chose Abraham and his descendants to be His special people.

Even then, He promised to bless the rest of the world through Abraham, which has been fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ and will be fulfilled in the Millennial reign of Christ.

Genesis 12:3— *In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

In Genesis 15, God told Abraham that his people would be slaves in Egypt for 400 years before He gave them the promise of the land. God's reason for this was that *"The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."* (**Gen. 15:16**). In other words, He gave the Amorites 400 more years to repent before having His people destroy them.

In Exodus 12, after 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God delivered His people from the slavery of Egypt.

They complained continually on the wilderness journey to the Promised Land, and finally made golden calves, which they proclaimed to be the gods that brought them out of Egypt, and wanted them to take them back to Egypt.

God threatened to destroy them and start over again with Moses, but Moses interceded for them, and God's presence went with them.

When they approached the promised land, Israel's spies reported that the land was everything that God had said it was, but they were not strong enough to expel the heathen and take over the land that God had given them. They refused to trust the Lord and cross the Jordan to start taking over the land.

God made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the adults that refused to go into the land had died, and even then their clothes and sandals did not wear out. (Deuteronomy 29:5)

When they finally came into the promised land, they were not committed enough to drive out the heathen inhabitants as God had told them. Consequently, they fell into idolatry of those they allowed to stay in the land, and God allowed the heathen to enslave them.

When they cried out to the Lord, He sent them deliverers. Seven times over this cycle is repeated in the Book of Judges, and God sent a judge to deliver them every time.

Finally, while Samuel was judging Israel, they rejected God as their leader, and asked for a king. After a disaster with Saul, God gave them David, a man after His own heart.

David wrote in **Psalms 103:13-14**

*As a Father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

Under David and his son, Solomon, God made Israel the strongest and wealthiest nation in the world. But Solomon multiplied many heathen wives to himself, and they turned his heart to idolatry. He even built temples for their gods.

In **1 Kings 11** God tore the kingdom from Solomon's son, nevertheless, He said,

"I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."
1 Kings 11:13)

God gave ten tribes to Jeroboam and promised to establish an enduring kingdom for his descendants if he would keep His commandments. Jeroboam was afraid that the children of Israel would desert him for the Davidic kingdom if they returned to the temple at Jerusalem to worship the Lord, so he made two golden calves and set them up with altars in Samaria and Bethel.

In **1 Kings 13** God sent a man of God to cry out against the altar at Bethel. When Jeroboam pointed his finger at him to have him arrested, the altar split, and his hand withered. Even after the prophet healed his withered hand, he did not repent.

But even the history of the part of Israel that retained the temple under the Davidic line of kings was a steady decline with only a few bright spots, like the revivals in Hezekiah's and Josiah's reigns.

God sent them prophets to try and bring them back to Himself--like Elijah vs Baal (**1 Kings 18**)

Finally God asked through Isaiah the prophet:

What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? (**Isaiah 5:4**)

The spiritual condition of Israel had become so bad in Jeremiah's day that God told him that Judah was to be carried captive to Babylon for seventy years.

Despite the prophecies of doom, God gave brighter and brighter prophecies of blessings to come.

The Messiah and the millennial kingdom (**Isaiah 9:6**):

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:33-34**):

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin shall remember no more."

In Daniel's time God punished His erring people by sending Nebuchadnezzar to carry them away as captives.

Although the majority did not repent, he brought them back to their land after seventy years and helped them rebuild the Temple in Ezra's day and the city wall of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day.

Finally, God sent them the long-promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God partook of human flesh through Mary's DNA. Though He was sinless, He suffered all that the human race suffers because of our sin.

Hebrews 2 17-18 tells us:

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Despite the specific prophecies of the Messiah that He fulfilled and the miracles He did, they refused to acknowledge who He was, and heaped reproach after reproach upon Him until they finally crucified Him.

As He hung on the cross bearing the mockery and spite they heaped on Him, to say nothing of the sins of the whole world, He uttered those gracious words from the bottom of His heart:

"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

God interrupted His special dealings with Israel when they rejected the Messiah even after the resurrection. Romans 9, 10, & 11 tells us that He grafted the Gentiles on to the root of Judaism for the church period.

Still, after the rapture, when the church is removed from the earth, God will resume His special relationship with Israel:

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27)

Meanwhile, from the advent of the Messiah, God introduced the concept of being "Born again" by believing that Christ bore our sins in His own body on the Cross. Here was true victory over sin.

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9) It is a sort of advance on Israel's new covenant for all the children of God.

We get a new nature that abhors sin just like God does. His precepts are imbedded into our spiritual DNA, so to speak.

But we are still in the flesh with Adam's DNA, so we still fall into sin. God has a provision for that too:

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2:1)

Having been born again, Jesus Christ becomes our High Priest, and we are encouraged to draw near to God in holiness (Hebrews 10:19-22):

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

And 1 John 2:1 tells us, *If any man sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

But the fact that Christ is a High Priest implies that there are lesser priest of the same order. I Peter tells us that having come to Christ, also are priests before God:

Holy Priests to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God (1 Peter 2:5-6):

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Royal Priests (Sons of God) to proclaim His praises to the world (1 Peter 2:9-10):

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

SO WHAT'S MY POINT?

If this short trip through the word of God proves anything, it proves what Romans 5:20 says:

"Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."

I just want to ask you today, **"What more could God do for us sinners?"**

And more importantly, **"What are you doing with the grace of God that has abounded to you?"**

My friends,

He sent His own Son down to the cross to die in our place

If, as **Roman 3:23** says, *"The wages of sin is death,"*

Then, as **1 Corinthians 15:3** says, *"Christ died for our sins"*

God has given us the only thing that could cost Him anything, and we either accept His payment for our sins, or we end up trying to pay for them ourselves in the lake of Fire that burns forever.

Look at **Hebrews 10:26-31**:

²⁶ *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

The believer who is purposely living in sin can expect the judgment of Christ in his lifetime

The unbeliever who continues to reject God's plan of salvation will be judged at the Great White Throne as described in **Revelation 20:11-15**:

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Please don't forfeit the gift of God by refusing to repent of your sins, but...

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your soul!