

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 5 – So That God Can Be FULLY KNOWN!

October 6, 2026

God created man knowing we would sin. How do we know? Scripture!

In eternity past God the Father and God the Son spoke about God the Son offering Himself as an offering for sin.

Isa. 53:10 - (NASB) - *But the Lord desired to crush (bruise) Him (God the Son), causing Him grief; if He (God the Son) renders Himself (offers Himself) as a guilt offering. Jesus is the substitutionary sacrifice for man's sin.*

Rev. 13:8 - We read of Jesus as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Why did Jesus die? For our sins!

God made man for His glory (Isa. 43:7) so that God's character, His attributes...ALL Who God is – His grace, mercy, holiness, forgiveness, justice, power, love, longsuffering, patience, faithfulness, righteousness, truth, forbearance - could be FULLY known. How can God's grace be fully known if man didn't sin? We would never know grace if we had never NEEDED grace. How can God's mercy shine forth if man didn't sin? God's mercy was immediately displayed in God's not killing Adam. God's grace was immediately evident in the covering He provided for their shame (Gen. 3:21). If man didn't sin, would there be the need for God's justice, His wrath against sin to be exercised? And, God's love...how would that be SO MAGNIFIED if there was no sin?

For God to fully manifest Who He is...IS BEYOND what we can ask for or comprehend! God has so fully demonstrated the ultimate depths of His love (redemption/restoration) that we know full well through Jesus and His death on the cross, that sin must exist. And we thank God for His unfathomable love (Rom. 8:35-39). How often have we sung, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me." And, we sing that hymn REJOICING!

God's patience and forbearance (Rom 3:25) were later on display as man fell deeper and deeper into sin.

We read of God's justice and wrath when He sent the flood. God's mercy and grace were known throughout the globe when He saved Noah and his family.

The gifts of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, love, faithfulness....ALL His attributes...ALL exist and operate simultaneously at ALL times...at every moment...throughout eternity!

ALL His attributes must shine forth to fully demonstrate the ultimate depths of Who God is. To reconcile man's sin – to bring us back into a relationship with God – no longer alienated from God...that loving, overwhelming reconciliation could not exist if man didn't sin!

Let's visit Moses and the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai...

Ex. 20:18-21 - *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. (God's power) ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.' ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.* The children of Israel decided they didn't need to meet with God! And YET, in spite of the people's not desiring to be with God, God told Moses... Ex. 25:8 - *And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell*

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among them. ⁹ According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. This is where God DESIRED TO DWELL with the people and where the children of Israel were to worship Him. God was conveying how the people could approach Him.

While Moses was meeting with God on Mt. Sinai, what were the children of Israel engaged in down below – in the camp? The people were unrestrained! They were worshipping a golden calf...an idol! Moses came down, witnessed the perversion and said, *Whoever is on the LORD'S side, come to me* (Ex. 32:26). The Levites came forward...Moses instructed them to put on their swords and move through the camp and kill their brethren...(Ex. 32:27). WHY? What was God's first commandment? Ex. 20:2-5 - *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.*

God's directive to Moses occurred at the giving of the law. We need to remember that the law reflects the holiness of God. Psa. 19:7 - *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;*

Ex. 32:28 - *...about three thousand men of the people fell that day* – at the giving of the law.

Ex. 32:31-32 - *Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."* Moses was the mediator. Moses represented the people to God and God to the people. Moses petitioned God to

forgive the people for their great sin. But God cannot set aside sin. God is JUST. His holiness demands that He must deal with sin.

Ex. 33:1-3 – Then the Lord said to Moses, *Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.'* ² *And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.* ³ *Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.*

What are we understanding? God's overwhelming grace, mercy and love! ...*I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people...*because of your sin! God is declaring His holiness. Because God is holy, God MUST deal with sin.

In Ex. 33:1-3 we are reading of the promises God had made to His people. God is reminding them of WHO HE IS:

- I swore an oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- I will give you the land – and it's a good land – flowing with milk and honey
- I will send My Angel before you and I...
- I will defeat your enemies (since the Angel is God the Son)
- I will protect you
- I will NOT annihilate you (Mal. 3:3) – *I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob*). Israel's existence IS due only to the Lord's

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unchanging character to His covenant promises with Abraham (Heb. 6:13 – God has obligated Himself to deliver on His promises to a national ethnic people group – Israel!)

While displaying His holiness and justice, God extends mercy, grace, love, faithfulness, patience, longsuffering....

Ex. 33:4-6 – when the people heard that God would not go up in their midst, they mourned...they lamented...they grieved. *Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you. So, the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb* (desert/ desolate; another name for Mt. Sinai). The people took off their ornaments in obedience to God.

Ex. 33:7-11 - *Moses took his tent* (this was Moses' personal tent) *and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp* (far from the sinfulness that was in the camp where the Israelites had worshipped the golden calf. The camp had been defiled. The people disobeyed God's first commandment. God's presence could not dwell among them without bringing judgment.

Moving the meeting place away from the camp was an act of mercy, protecting the children of Israel from being consumed by God's uncompromised holiness and justice), *and Moses called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD* (those who repented of their sin) *went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.* (Those within the camp needed to separate from the uncleanness in the camp – they needed to separate from their sin and go outside the camp and draw near to God). ⁸ *So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.* (What a beautiful picture of longing after God)
⁹ *And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.* (Moses entered the tabernacle and the LORD talked with Moses) ¹⁰ *All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.* ¹¹ *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.* (Joshua's Hebrew name is Yeshua!)

Exodus 33:1-11 encompasses God's judgment and His amazing grace. The GRACE of God is seen more POWERFULLY as God removes Himself from the midst of the camp of Israel. At the very point of Israel's great sin, when the judgment of God falls upon them, God's GRACE is POURED OUT! God's GRACE is visible in the warnings which God gave them. We need to grasp that God did not warn the Israelites to torment them. He warned them to TURN THEM from their sin to repentance.

NOTE: Ex. 32:28 – at the giving of the law...about three thousand men of the people feel that day.... Acts. 2:41 – on the day of Pentecost (Jewish Feast of Weeks) *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* ONE STORY!

NOTE: Hebrews 13:11-12 - *For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.* ¹² *Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.* Jesus, at His crucifixion gloriously demonstrated God's glory in redemption through judgment...taking upon

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Himself the judgment for our sins...dying for our sins...and bestowing upon us God's righteousness...His redemption – freedom from bondage to sin through the price Jesus paid for us ...for all eternity!!!

NOTE: Romans 11:22 – *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God.* All God's attributes work in harmony. Those who accept His gracious offer of salvation experience His goodness; those who reject it experience His severity.

Ex. 33:18-23 – Moses asked of God, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ ¹⁹ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ ²⁰ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ ²¹ And the Lord said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.’ (I Tim. 6:16)

Ex. 34:4-8 - So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone. ⁵ Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.’ ⁸ So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped

QUESTIONS

How has this lesson impacted you?

What do you understand from God’s actions based on ALL His attributes?

What do you understand from the children of Israel’s actions?

What do you understand from Moses’ responses?

Has this lesson changed your thinking about God?

Do you better understand how ALL God’s attributes exist and operate simultaneously at all times?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 5 and make observations and ask questions.

Cross reference to find answers.

Pray about sharing this lesson.

Journal the impact of this lesson on your life.

Do you know God more fully? WHY?

Read Week 6 when you receive it.

