

They're here! I'm sure you've noticed them. Evil things in great varieties, like deadly diseases. Crimes against children. Vengeful hatred. AI, altered human genes, strange physics, and other venues created by men's imaginations to alter humanity and become like gods. And great, unstoppable *natural* disasters, which ought to tip some off that we aren't doing very well in the 'playing god' department.

These now are just the beginning of sorrows – the “intolerable anguish” – that Jesus prophesied because He said that before He returned, it would be as it was *before* the great flood. (Yes, strange, terrible things were happening then.) Man has always had free will which he used to let the liar in with all his stuff (how evil got here in the first place), see Genesis 1-3.

WHY DO HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN? WHERE IS OUR LOVING GOD IN ALL THIS?

Answers to these and other questions that have plagued mankind throughout our history are posited here in:

A CHRISTIAN STUDY OF EVIL

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This is a Scriptural Study with explanation from The Word of God using KJV (unless otherwise noted). Numerous references are provided, but the greatest joy comes in searching for your own!

The answers have been in the Bible all along, but they have to be dug out (like a detective gathering evidence). Evils *yet* to come are accelerating at a rapid-fire pace. Jesus said in Matthew 24:22, “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

Through the unlimited power of Holy Spirit, God has provided us every means necessary to understand and overcome evil by coming to know Him and who we are in Christ, implementing His authority in the name of Jesus, and living the abundant life He referenced in John 10:10: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” We are those ‘theys.’



(Back cover)

Why is there evil?

What's God's got to do with it?

What are we supposed to do about it?

Let's find out!

After grieving through the deaths of many family members and my husband Mick (whose death spiral lasted ten years), I began to realize a common denominator. An accumulation of bad choices – or, more explicitly, various sorts of sins (some overt; some inadvertent) – lurked behind each of their deaths. It's called life. We people mess up and things go south where there are consequences for the mess ups. I began to hate those evil results of sin with all of my heart, seek God, and ask Him boatloads of questions while digging deeply into His Word. I pored over this subject for many years. Whatever I would ask, God would show me answers.

This is not a blame game. Jesus stated clearly that our Father “maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45b) so, yes, bad things happen. They are often human caused, yet sometimes they are divine. Regarding the man born blind whom Jesus healed, He said, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3). GOD knows the end from the beginning. He will often use that which was against you for ultimate good for you and others (see Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28).

While evil things are the antithesis to everything God wants for us, evil itself is an essential part of life, increasing exponentially now in these last days. Our ignorance of its depth and nature may be the greatest danger to life, and our lack of understanding about what God has said about it and how He has used it causes us to be deceived by it, submit to it, and sin. Learn how knowledge of *God's* perspective empowers *us* and works to *our greater benefit* for He provides every means for us to understand and overcome evil, and exercise our Christian authority over it in the name of Jesus. Yes, more than ever before, *now* is the time to know Jesus, understand what is going on, and learn what you can do about it.

PREFACE

What do you know about evil? Well, look around you. We all certainly should be well versed enough in it – there's more than ever before. Or maybe it's not really more prolific, but simply more evident because there are more mediums (hmmm) to do, view, and pursue evil given today's advanced technologies. For instance, do you ever watch the news and see the disgusting, deviant, deadly things people are doing to one another? (And those are just a few of the "Ds." How about the "ABCs"? Abhorrent, bloodthirsty, corrupt?...') Just when you think you've heard it all, another story comes along more gruesome than the last.

You could weep... or, actually... what *do* you do? Not to lay a guilt trip on you but do you simply gloss over them and say, like Scarlett O'Hara, "After all, tomorrow is another day," then not give them another thought? Or, do you think something like, "Oh, that's awful!" and then go work out at the gym or make your conference call or change the baby's diaper? Or, perhaps you might close your eyes and sing "lalalalala" out loud so you don't have to think about them. (I've actually seen those done.) (Fine, those fingers are pointing back at me lol.)

What if you realized some type of evil things were closer to home, like just down the block? Next door? Inside *your* door? Maybe they're not as bad as what makes news, but they're bad enough to give you pause and recognize them as evil.

Now, what might happen if people – if YOU – started **realizing the TRUTH** about what was going on and began to be a part of intervention to help to curb evil doings, evil things? I don't mean to go out and physically get the bad guys, but what if you began to **pray with greater knowledge and understanding** than ever before?

Jesus said something quite relevant to this present time. Well, actually, *everything* He said is relevant, but this one is particularly so to this book and this age in which we find ourselves: "And as it was in the days of Noe (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

Now, that might make you go, "Hmmm." And you might add, "What *is* He doing? Why is all this awful stuff happening? What's it all about, Alfie?" Let me ask *you* this: IF YOU DON'T "GET IT" HOW ARE YOU GOING TO "HANDLE IT?" God would not have us to be deceived or ignorant, or just sit back and be a whipping post.

“Handling it” is pretty much what this book is about. **1) Understanding God’s *purpose* for evil’s allowance on earth** (hint: a primary reason why it’s here is largely to test the hearts of God’s most cherished creation) (us); **2) learning about our role in it;** and, **3) through understanding, overcoming it all. All.**

Chapter 1

IN THE BEGINNING (mine)

When I was a little girl, I dreamed of becoming an expert on evil.

Nah, I wanted to be an actress, and while my older brother became a celebrated horror novelist (whose life evolved into his own worst nightmare – and, let me tell you, he had *and* wrote some pretty horrific ones), *I* wanted to go to Hollywood and star in love stories with Cary Grant. But God – Who is Love Himself – had a different path for me. He wanted me to love *Him*. (I think I could have loved God *and* Cary...)

Over the years, considerable evil has come my way both as victim of it and sinner (perpetuator of it) myself, so delving into the darkside (*supernatural's* darkside) to acquire understanding is quite the obvious (*natural*) result. I became determined to know why Hell seemed to be such a busy and popular place here on Earth. You might be wondering the same thing.

Led by the Holy Spirit, I have searched and researched this matter and prayed to God relentlessly for many years. He has helped my fingers do the walking through the holy pages, showing me Scripture after Scripture about evil and its offspring, sin, and then opening my understanding to them (you'll see reference to this wonderful learning device He employs twice in Luke 24). It is in – throughout, actually – the Bible that we learn EVIL HAS ALWAYS BEEN ESSENTIAL ON EARTH; that, overall, evil is CENTRAL TO PROVING THE HEARTS OF GOD'S CREATED BEINGS.

Before knowledge of the reason for and depths of evil became such a pursuit of mine, my actual call to be a minister of the Word came as a result of the aftermath challenges of my teenage son Greg's critical closed head injuries from a moped accident on the last day of his high school freshman year in 1984.

The week before, Greg's father (my first husband) and I'd decided to get rid of the moped because there'd been an incident with it the previous fall and we didn't want another summer of worries about it. But we didn't do it. That was Big Mistake #1. Greg and a buddy took it out unbeknownst to us and they made two more critical mistakes: Greg let his friend trail him and they left the helmets hanging in the garage. They crashed into a fence on a river road, catapulting Greg headfirst onto the pavement.

The other boy, Marty, was more imminently critical with wounds to his throat, but he was well attended to and on the mend almost right away.

Attending physicians hadn't realized Greg had a massive skull fracture. It was the following night that they rushed him into intensive care with severe bilateral brain contusions that were hemorrhaging and he coded, requiring an emergency bilateral frontal craniotomy (removal of the damaged areas of both frontal lobes of his brain). That Greg lived at all was a recorded miracle; how much more so is it that he would come to be well. He was comatose, on a respirator, and they had to put an inner cranial pressure monitor in his head (oh, that was something). He had dials for every process going on in his body. Then, he took a turn for the worse. Sepsis (the head of ICU told me it killed more of his patients than any other single cause) set in and he almost died again, his fever soaring beyond 105. I saw some people praying in the intensive care waiting room and asked for one of them to come and pray for Greg to be healed of the infection. Sister Denzil Totman (who would become my mentor and has since gone to be with the LORD at the wonderful age of 95) came and laid hands on him and his temperature returned to normal. To this day, I wonder what would have happened if I'd asked her to pray for his brain to be healed, but I didn't know of such faith then.

Greg had to relearn how to walk, talk, sit up, and feed himself which he did and did competently. Other aftermath challenges, though, were considerable including grand mal seizure. This began my recognition of evil forces of which I'd previously been unaware. On September 25, 1998, Greg was comatose when a beastlike creature growled from within him, snarling like an animal. Greg *isn't* an animal; he is my son and when a mother learns **something other** than her son is *in* her son – and its purpose is to kill him – you awaken to new possibilities you'd never before begun to fathom. My husband, Mick, Greg's stepdad who was there, and I, not to mention Greg, were forever changed. You realize how little you know. You set out to learn more. **Only TRUTH matters.**

(While challenges remain, Greg is now a college graduate, having received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting – a genuine miracle.)

Furthermore, here is a brief overview with other of *my* credentials in this matter of evil:

My personal tests and trials began early when I was a victim of alcoholic physical, verbal, and mental abuse. I was repeatedly choked, beaten, and cursed during my teens. This had a profoundly negative effect on my education, socialization, self-esteem, and emotional wellbeing.

At 17, I ran away with my boyfriend. We hitchhiked 1,200 miles to Hollywood, Florida (how about that? I made it to Hollywood – just the wrong one) so I could escape the abuse; instead,

I encountered other difficulties. The police ultimately found us and we were trotted home where a continuation of alcoholic trials (not mine; I've never drunk or done drugs) awaited me.

I'll not mention anything about my first marriage other than to say my husband and I gave our two children, Jenny and Greg, a wholesome and loving upbringing. We divorced not too long after Greg's accident.

As a businesswoman and divorcee, I was defrauded, bankrupted, and kidnapped; I was molested and raped on several occasions.

I have had numerous, inexplicable (except by the power of God) supernatural experiences including a dark presence coming over me as though to rape me in my bed in the night, and a cohort literally coming upon me to force himself on me. Each time I prayed and they were stopped: the former simply dissipated; the latter was more spectacular for his 220 pounds was picked up off of me and thrown through the air several feet, giving me ample time to escape.

I have actually lost track of how many times I was molested and abused or misused. Furthermore, but for the grace of God, I'd have been murdered on two occasions.

Nothing to compare to Greg's physiological challenges, I myself had a terribly botched surgery that left effects with which I continue to deal daily.

I've buried Mother, Daddy, my cousin Patty, and my brother Jerry.

I met and married Mick in the 1990s who became my husband and best friend for 14 years. He struggled in unrelenting agony from severe congestive heart failure and tried to die for over half of our marriage (ha, but I wouldn't let him). A mere 14% of his heart was all that functioned throughout that time, yet he worked daily with perpetual joy and faith. His doctors and I were continually dumbfounded at his true grit.

Through the power of the name of Jesus, I brought Mick back from death from cardiac arrest twice in the middle of the night.

No career ever seemed to work right for Mick, including a sub shop – failed; motel restoration business – failed; a rat and evil spirit-infested decrepit former mortuary that we tried to convert to a dinner theatre (we slept where the caskets had stood during construction) – failed; selling barns – failed (even the company went under); and the last job, painting a building full of toxic material (chicken poop), slowly took his life. There is an irony – a real joke – in this last one somewhere, but I've not arrived there yet.

Finally, all of this was not without our considerable sins that I have conveniently left unstated to protect the innocent (okay, and the guilty. Mick and I both were a piece of work), and I am still a work in progress.

Mick escaped one day in the spring of 2010 and went to Heaven when I was at the store, and he refused all medical and spiritual efforts to come back again. He'd had enough.

There's a lot more, but that's enough; this is just a snapshot of my difficult testimony that I have provided *not* so you'll go "O poor her," but so you'll know I'm not coming to you from an ivory tower, oblivious to sin, pain, and suffering. No, rather, I finally got to the point where

I had to know WHY all this evil happened.

And I am, today, what I am – yes, and I am actually grateful, too – **because** of these things that caused great evils to come upon me **and** me to sin against God and others. (I didn't say I was happy about or proud of them, but grateful. Oh, how I hate my former self and the evil things I did. The old girl no longer lives but Christ in me.) I finally awoke from this lifelong stupor of ignorance, sin, and helplessness.

I came to abhor evil with all of my heart.

I realized who and what the Enemies were – me **and** **THE ENEMY**, working in concert with one another – and that I needed a true Friend and Confidante, **THE** One and Only Who could free me from Satan and my desire for evil stuff: JESUS, God above all.

One wonderful side effect of all this hatred of evil is love. The more you hate evil, the greater you love. Period.

Through His Spirit and the sound doctrine of His Word, God has used these evils from my personal life to teach me His great Love and the purpose evil serves in our lives. It is my sincere desire for Christians to walk in knowledge, Truth, and Perfect Soundness through faith in Jesus' name. We pray we are on our way, Father. And, we pray you open our understanding so we comprehend this, A Christian Study of Evil, discerning Truth and growing in wisdom and spiritual understanding, Amen in Jesus' name.

One more thing about my husband. Forgive me for my bias in this remark: Michael Stults (Mick always performed under his given name) was the greatest male singer I've ever heard and he became a joy beyond measure, both in my life and others. You can link to his wonderful music on my website, www.achristianstudy.com. The LORD has spoken to my heart that Mick shall still win souls to Him.

Chapter 2

IN THE BEGINNING (yours)

Only God and you know your beginnings, but perhaps you, too, were less than perfect when you were young like me; ha, maybe you still *are (like me)* continuing to miss the mark, but genuinely striving for it and getting a little better at it with the passage of time and experience. One way God gets to us is by allowing evil to run its course until we've had enough and cry "Uncle" (or, more accurately, "JESUS"). Perhaps and hopefully for you, you got a hold of how stinking evil is and desired greatly to receive Jesus and good before I did rather late in my life. I have paid a price for this education, a small bit of which you've read; I call the result my true "Master's Degree." Get ready for some instruction from the Master that is fascinating, helpful, informative and, quite possibly, life changing depending upon what you want to make of it.

Chapter 3

BASICS OF EVIL AND ITS OFFSPRING, SIN

As we begin, we must define EVIL and SIN and clarify the difference between them.

EVIL is the **supernatural** force in **nature** (the BEYOND the natural force) that governs and gives rise to wickedness and sin.

SIN is a **natural** and **willful** (chosen, in other words) act of evil, whether by commission (act of doing it) or omission. Sin powers and perpetuates evil (manifesting in the flesh as suffering, destruction, and death; these are the consequences of evil) and more sin, creating a literal vicious circle. We shall see how.

God did not create – nor can He commit – sin.

God *did* create evil according to His Word, and this study explains how and why. Again, it is in the Bible that we learn that EVIL WAS ESSENTIAL ON EARTH; that, overall, it is CENTRAL TO PROVING THE HEARTS OF GOD'S CREATED BEINGS. Evil's creation and purpose, therefore, began long before Planet Earth as we know it began.

This is **A Christian Study of Evil** in which we probe the Word of God to learn **why evil had to be** from the very beginning to the present time and learn to make sense of things that don't seem to make any. Ultimately, we will see how to conquer fear and enjoy the Abundant Life of which Jesus provided for us.

One of the few questions ever posed that is common without variation between a variety of cultures, races, and ages from teens to life's conclusion is: **If God is so loving, why is there evil?** Perhaps even angels asked that question before God ever created man as we know us because they certainly experienced their fair share of evil.

God's Word *answers* this question, *clarifies the answers* to it in great detail, and *demonstrates* His great hope that we – *unlike* Satan who was the original sinner – reject evil, and choose Life.

Unfortunately and instead, though, man, as a general rule **CHOOSES to FEAR** things evil and to be **IGNORANT** of evil; but, worst of all, **MAN JUST FLAT OUT WANTS** some of it,

People play with evil, bow to it, flee *from* it, scurry *to do* it, make movies about it, and philosophize it, yet ignorance of its purpose for being here on Earth – the reason why we struggle with sin, pain, and suffering – is arguably the greatest danger to life. Did you catch that? It is **not the evil *itself*** (which is certainly bad enough), but **our naiveté that endangers us**; it is our *ignorance* of evil itself that weakens our lives. God purposes us to learn and grow from the terrible things that happen to us *and* those which we do to others, as well, once we realize what we've done, stop doing it, and seek His forgiveness

You will see that the fundamental function of evil is the testing of hearts. Just in case you think you've read this here before, you have. Three other times. (Aren't you relieved? You're not losing it.) (I'm not either. It's purposeful. It's essential. Now we have that part down.)

Chapter 4

THE POTENTIAL OF SONS OF GOD

The Bible teaches us to exercise power and authority over evil and live *in* perfect love and *without* fear in the name of Jesus. Sounds like a pretty tall order, but God would never ask us to do something we could not do; and He did not leave us ill-equipped, but has provided us with all the tools we need to accomplish His high goals for us.

We begin when we shun things that are evil, stop acting on our wrong desires, and become sons of God. Yup, being a “son of God” is not automatic. The Book of John tells us in 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to *them* gave He power to **become** the sons of God even to them that believe on His name.” (Emphasis is mine.) To believe is to become a child of God at the time of our new birth; it is then that God (the fullness of the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; see Ephesians 3 through 5; Colossians 2, and more) enters into our hearts and we *begin* to receive Him; this receipt, however, is an ongoing process as we grow in maturity, just as we grow from infancy to adulthood as a mortal. It is a continual and ongoing journey, only the destination is never accomplished as long as we’re in our flesh suit. We certainly can go a long way in the right (or wrong) direction, though. By the way, 1 John 2:12-14 from the Amplified Version of the Bible gives distinction between the different stages of Christian development.

As God’s children, Christians could – should – be living in victory as NEW creatures in Christ (Romans 6:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5:30+) with a NEW heart and spirit (Romans 6:6; Ezekiel 36:26; Matthew 9:17; Philippians 4:7), NEW blood (Ezekiel 16:6 and, again, Matthew 9:17), NEW mind (the mind of Christ) (1 Corinthians 2:16 and Philippians 2:5), and the KINGDOM with all the fullness of God indwelling us (Ephesians 3:19; Romans 8:11). This is Salvation by Jesus NOW for sons of God.

I always thought repentance was the foundation or first step of our Salvation walk. But, I’ve come to realize something very important comes before: FEAR. We seem to fear EVERYthing *but* God when we should fear NOTHING *but* God. I’m talking about a healthy fear, like we have when we’re children for our parents or authority figures (if they were Just and excellent disciplinarians) because we know they know what’s best for us. This is not a quaking fear or dread of them; this is reverence, respect, and awe for their greatness and knowledge.

Lately, though, some in the religious community are so busy teaching about God’s great Love, they seem to ignore His requisite Just nature. How could we count on Him if He simply ignored – turned a blind eye to – sin? went back on His Word? didn’t punish evil choices?

Everyone could run helter-skelter and do whatever to one another *without consequence*. That is what man would – and does at times – do. But God is a Just God – righteous and moral; concerned with justice – as well as all loving; furthermore, His Just nature is integral to His being all Loving.

The ignorance of His Just nature is a result of *not* fearing Him. Jesus stated in Matthew 10:28: “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.” God our Father is the “Him” Jesus was talking about. And, don’t just catch the part about our soul and body going – ambling along and deciding to head south and God accommodating our desire – to Hell; no, see what preceded that: God the Father is “ABLE TO DESTROY.” Look at this companion Scripture, Luke 12:5: “But I will forewarn you Whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.” Such confirmation states the case unmistakably clearly: **God can kill us and cast us into Hell**. He’d rather not (John 3:14-21). Hell is not His plan for man. 2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” He wants us to LIVE eternally – forevermore and now – with Him, but it is ultimately up to us and He does provide alternative accommodations without the accouterments of which we’ve grown so fond.

I’m going to stick two Scriptures about Moses in here. They are relevant but I’m citing them because I LOVE them so much.

God’s set of standards is so opposite the world’s as to be almost humorous if it weren’t so hazardous to our health. The first is found in Numbers 12. Moses’ sister Miriam and brother Aaron spoke against Moses because he’d married an Ethiopian woman. (This is an excellent Scriptural example showing, in part, that God hates racism) God comes down to talk to them in a pillar of cloud and tells them off. He struck Miriam with leprosy right then and there. (Wonder why Aaron escaped punishment???) Moses cried to the LORD for her healing and He agreed, but He made the plague last seven days and the entire Israelite camp couldn’t continue their journey until she was well. That said, here is the particularly interesting Scripture, Verse 3. It’s even written parenthetically: “**(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)**” Look at that. The person God chose to be His right-hand man – arguably the one to be assigned the greatest Old Testament mission – was the MEEKEST man of all. That ought to knock the pride right out of someone; the wind out of some blowhard’s sails. I believe Moses genuinely feared God. He truly knew Him, too, as we can, thanks to Jesus.

That said, this next Scripture shows an area in which Moses may have acquiesced to his wife's wishes rather than obey God's command to circumcise their son (not unlike another man's disobedience which we shall see later in this Study), thus effectually getting in a whole heap of trouble with God.

In Exodus 4, Moses is in training, getting his initial instructions from the LORD. He's already ticked God off because he's trying to get out of his assignment due to his speech defect. The LORD tells him He'll give him the words to say which he can convey to his brother, Aaron, who'll be his mouthpiece since he speaks fine. He gives Moses the rod that he'll be using to do great signs and tells him what to say when he goes before Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, to seek the Israelites freedom. After all that, look what happens: "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that **the LORD met him (Moses), and sought to kill him.** Then Zipporah (Moses' wife) took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her (and Moses') son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. So He let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision" (verses 24-26). Wow. Think God likes our sloughing off His commands? I think He means business. A little fear might go a long way.

Chapter 5

JESUS DEFROCKS THE CHIEF SINNER

While Jesus is our Advocate Who is ever ready to help us to *not* sin, Satan is our evil sidekick ever ready to encourage us to make wrong decisions. Misery loves company. Jesus – Who *is* God – is now omnipresent, always here for us; Satan can only be one place at a time, so he relies on a slew of evil spirits and demons to accompany us. Their assignments are to try to trip us up. They're very good at what they do, but sometimes we make it sooooo easy for them. We not only don't even put up a fight, we encourage them (albeit generally unwittingly).

Since Jesus came and performed all of His works of Salvation for us, Satan's true history and actual authority – before and after being defeated – have been revealed. The Bible makes it clear that death and the devil are defeated NOW. “**Now** is the judgment of this world: **now** shall the prince of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). “Now” was **then** by the works of Jesus; it's a done deal. “He (Jesus) spoiled principalities and powers and made an open show of them” Paul wrote, now recorded in [Colossians 2:15](#), Amplified. The Message Bible puts it this way: “He (Jesus) stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.”

So here is the Million \$\$ question: if Jesus finished everything for us – and, He did; on the Cross, He stated, “It is finished” (John 19:30) – then why are we still dealing with evil? In fact, *how* is evil still here? We shall answer these questions and more in this study.

Chapter 6

A KODAK MOMENT

Let's start with this snapshot of our beginning on earth recorded in Genesis Chapters 1 through 3; in short: God made everything; He gave us dominion; Satan tempted; the woman bit and shared with the man who, defying God's command, received from her (sinned), thereby effectively selling us out to Satan. Therefore, Romans 8 in the New Living Translation states, "Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse." Whose curse? Yes, God's.

Evil (while itself NEVER good) has great purpose to God and for us which is holy. His objective is that we hate evil (Proverbs 8:13) and quit receiving and perpetuating it by sinning. Sin's ongoing natural consequence is *more* sin: "...Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap," (Galatians 6:7, NKJV), so evil – dire – things happen here and keep on happening here **NATURALLY**. Evil was ignited and began its reign here **because man CHOSE – we have free will** – to sin: Consequences – **reactions** – for **every** action. All sin – which includes the original *and* ongoing – **therefore has consequences**.

In His Story (the Bible and the Autobiography of Creation), God is Supreme. In His kingdom, God is on the throne (always has been) and Satan – who is Lucifer, the devil, and the chief purveyor of evil – has been cast out of heaven (Hebrews 1:8; Luke 10:20). Satan is neither God's alter ego nor His evil counterpart, but a fallen angel which now serves a purpose (see, for example, Job chapters 1 and 2 and other scriptures which will be revealed throughout this study).

For thousands of years, Satan has been on earth seeking to devour man, with permission. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent... upon thy belly shalt thou go, and DUST shalt thou eat all the days of thy life" (Genesis 3:14); then, just 5 short verses later, to man, He said, "...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return..." (Genesis 3:19). Hello, Satan's dinner. We can just gloss over this or learn what God is doing. I prefer the latter. Here's further proof: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8); and, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Timothy 2:26).

From the fall until Jesus came, therefore, the world was in Satan's hands; UNTIL: "The prince of this world IS judged" (John 16:11); and, remember "NOW is the judgment of this world: NOW shall the prince of this world be cast out" (John 12:31). Both were remarks about Satan BY JESUS, so Satan *has been* judged, and *cast out...* **yet he remains**. WHY? This is a multiple

answer question that we shall cover in more detail throughout this study, but initially consider this: **WE STILL WANT HIS STUFF**. Satan can yet do anything at all only because we keep ourselves plugged into him (he is our POWER SOURCE and, amazingly, WE ARE HIS.) **until** we unplug him and seek God to help keep him unplugged because we cannot do it – we cannot be good – on our own.

Picture it: Jesus is telling Satan, “You’re outta here, devil.” but countless people have tethered themselves to him, holding onto him for dear life (death, actually), so that he couldn’t even go if he wanted to. God is accommodating; He gives us what we want. (And it serves His continual purpose.)

(See scads of other Scripture about Satan/Lucifer including 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:3-4, 9; Ezekiel 28:12-24.)

Here’s the problem put simply: **Man cannot have dominion over someone who controls something he wants**. God wrote it into His Word this way in 2 Peter 2:19b CEV, “...people are slaves of whatever controls them.” Think he doesn’t have something you want? Here are some of Satan’s things: Unbelief. Greed. Pride. Worry. Unrepentance. Sexual sin. Gossip. Fear. Anger. Doubt. Bitterness. Addictions. Unbelief. Envy. Arrogance. Gluttony. Jealousy. Control. Lying. Oh, and Unbelief, just to name a few. (Did I mention Unbelief?) So, think again. We’re slaves of the evil desires that control us. Anything sound familiar to you?

Jesus, when He was here put it this way: “I tell you the truth. People who do wrong things are not free. They become a slave of the wrong things they do” (John 8:34 WE).

Chapter 7

THIS IS A SUPERNATURAL WORLD

If you think the Word of God is just a book written by people like any other and you don't know what you can do with it, then that's exactly what you have – just another book. That would be a shame because there *is* supernatural power in God's Word (Ephesians 6:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12, 11:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 2:5, 14).

Both our allies and adversaries are supernatural beings invisible to the human eye (see Ephesians 6:12). Since battles with forces of darkness are commonly called "Spiritual Warfare," many perceive we're engaged in a battle helping God defeat the evil enemy. But, isn't that at a cross purpose to our LORD's Cross and the holy precious blood He shed for us, as well as to God's own stated power and authority? Didn't we see that Satan was **already judged and cast out?** (John 12:31, 16:11; Colossians 2:15). We must walk by faith, not by appearances (2 Corinthians 5:7)... and this explains why God taught me to **quit** waging spiritual warfare and **take** spiritual authority in the name of Jesus. In Luke 10:19, Jesus gave me – and, yes, you, too – all power and authority to crush all the enemy's power and nothing shall be any means hurt us.

These battle terms help us understand: When the devil tried to overthrow God, the winner was never in doubt. God is Lord over **ALL; ALL INCLUDES EVIL**. Holy angels we can't see are His warriors. God has never been engaged in a battle (except in the devil's mind). Satan was overthrown – booted out of heaven – (in Luke 10:18, Jesus said He saw him as lightning fall from heaven, and the Word of the LORD said in Ezekiel 28:16, "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee..."). In the meantime, then, since Satan was kicked out of heaven, and judged and cast out of Earth, it would seem he has nowhere to go were it not for the assignments we give him. We keep him employed.

In heaven, the devil was defeated before he ever began. Jesus (the Man) defeated him to restore our dominion here before the devil ever began. And they'll again "do battle" when Jesus sets up His Kingdom, yet Satan is already defeated before he ever begins. (See, for example, Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-; Romans 6:14; Revelation.)

To be sure, those fierce heavenly battles rage on. Temptations abound as never before given today's technological advancements; and, man continues to give place to evil... SO why are we here? What exactly is the purpose of our human lives here on earth, from God's perspective (which ideally is ours, as well)?

We're HERE to become like Jesus HERE as it says in Ephesians 1:4: Holy and without blame in Christ. (Holy means clean, set apart, pure from every fault, pure from carnality; a cut above the rest.)

Evil provides choice (free will) to prove us and discipline to mature us in order for us to become holy and to grow and fellowship with God both later and now – yes, even now. – while we're yet in our flesh suit.

Chapter 8

THE HISTORY OF EVIL

God created evil (Isaiah 45:7). God controls evil (examples follow). How can this be when God is Love (1 John 4:8a) and God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5), yet He is Creator and LORD (John 1:3; Acts 10:36) of all which must include Lucifer – Satan; the devil – and his fall.

Lucifer in Ezekiel 28 was the anointed cherub which was created perfect in beauty and full of wisdom. Did God not know his potential for evil? Impossible. God said “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things” (Isaiah 45:7). Evil, you see, didn’t just occur or happen to be the absence of God. It is purposeful. It is a force to be reckoned with. Here is the Instruction the LORD provided on **WHY EVIL HAD TO BE**:

In a dateless past, omniscient (knowing everything) God realized before He created anything the potential EVIL NATURE of created beings (angels; people; who knows what else?); that traits unlike His - opposites - must be contained and harnessed.

God therefore permitted His created beings to be intelligent (having free will). This, by its very nature, necessitates an environment in which potential for sin is present.

By “creating” the environment in which evil could - and did - manifest, He alone had, has, and forever maintains control of and over it.

Evil’s fruit - SIN - manifested in the heart of the archangel Lucifer who would come to be known as SATAN, our adversary.

This is validated throughout Scripture. Here are a few of hundreds of God’s own Biblical examples.

Joel 2:25

The LORD will restore to us the years the locust ate, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, HIS great army which HE sent.

Isaiah 54:16 (NIV)

See, it is I (the LORD) Who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc [to destroy].

Matthew 4:1 and Luke 4:1

The Spirit of the LORD, Himself, led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Yes, our victory is not gained through ignorance.

Job chapters 1 and 2

The LORD suggests to Satan he consider Job for a test. We see:

It is the LORD's idea

He defines exactly how far Satan can go

Satan OBEYS Him (actually, he obeys God better than man)

1 Corinthians 5:5

Paul wrote: "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the LORD Jesus"; and a companion verse but representing an entirely different situation reads in 1 Timothy 1:20b (TLB): And (Paul) said to Timothy of two grave sinners, "I had to give them over to Satan to punish them until they could learn not to bring shame to the name of Christ."

HOW could these situations be if Satan were not subject to God – albeit against his own will – AND to us – to work for us to achieve God's best and for our ultimate betterment?

God in His sovereignty set both good and evil before us SO WE CAN CHOOSE.

Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV)

The Lord never said He and Satan came to a peace accord; no, it is written: "The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom" and

Deuteronomy 30:15 (NKJV)

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil..." but

Verse 19 tells us the best response:

"...therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Sometime after he failed to usurp God's dominion (back in that "dateless past" referenced earlier), Satan *did* usurp *ours* in Eden (about 6 to 10,000 years ago). God commanded the serpent to his belly and prophesied his subsequent defeat.

Chapter 9

THE QUICKEST HISTORY OF THE WORLD

During the first 1,500 years of life on Planet Earth as we know it, mankind became so embroiled in sin, the LORD bailed out only Noah's family and power-washed the planet. It stayed clean for, oh, maybe an hour before even righteous Noah sinned. Soon, God called Abraham and gave him a covenant and a miraculous son, Isaac, whose son, Jacob, wrestled with the Angel of the LORD. He birthed a nation through which God could bless all nations of the earth and named him/them Israel. Sinless? Nope, but God heard their cries. In a tiny ark, He saved the baby, Moses, who would become a great prophet, yet even he was not without sin. As God's chosen leader, he brought Israel out of bondage to receive God's Law, but they barely made it five seconds.

The first time, God washed Earth with water; the final time, with Christ's blood, the atoning sacrifice for our sins. God, our Creator, had *made Himself* One of us – made in EVERY WAY like us (Hebrews 2:14-17 Amp; Philippians 2:6-8) – with but a single exception: No original sin was in His blood as God the Father – no human being – was His literal Father (Luke 1:35 Amp).

Volumes could be written about this Scripture, Hebrews 9:26: "...Now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." The world, as man had known it, effectively ended with Jesus' birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. So, finally a human being – a mortal man – got it right and now we all live a sinless life with the dominion given us in Genesis 1:26-28 restored, right? Yeah, sure. Well, Jesus has done *His* part; it's *our* turn.

That man has not lived in the LORD's victory is clear. Evil? Poverty... failure... crime... death... destruction... you name it, we got it. **Yet, Satan can do nothing God has not allowed.**

God created evil and allowed FREE WILL in His creatures to expose sin, deal with sin and, ultimately, do away with sin. Yes, do away with it and the Chief Sinner, Satan, Ezekiel 28:19: "All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Hallelujah. Here's just one example of our victory, now:

Colossian 1:13: The Father "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." IF. Yes, that is IF we believe and receive His Son Jesus, which includes all that He did for and means to us.

So far in our study, we have learned:

The purpose of life from God's perspective

Evil's necessity from God's perspective

The great deliverance tools (Salvation through Christ Jesus to become sons of God and all that represents) which the LORD has provided for us to overcome evil

Evil tests our hearts

People continue to desire evil so God has allowed it – as well as the purveyor of it – to remain here challenging us.

We shall now see the phenomenal purpose for evil to remain on Planet Earth.

Jesus said He came for us to have ABUNDANT – life beyond measure – life, but for many, life is on life-support; evil is rampant. Earth has become: Crime Scene International. (CSI)

Chapter 10

CSI

Welcome to CSI and the first case of A Christian Study of Evil: **The Mystery of Missing Abundance**. Yes, our abundance is MIA (Missing in Action). Through indifference toward and willy-nilly acceptance of evil, we've let the air right out of our lives. Consider this an APB for Abundance.

John wrote in his book, Chapter 1, that Jesus is The Word, so words are powerful; look at this one: **LIVE**. Turn it around, its opposite is **EVIL**. Evil is live's figurative *and* literal opposite (I love words).

Using The Word of God, we shall be Crime Scene Investigators. Each and every one of us is right here at the crime scene – everywhere on Planet Earth – where we shall uncover evidence to locate our missing abundance. Okay, CSI-ers, let's investigate.

Clue #1: Jesus is our abundance; Satan is our destruction. Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not but for to steal and to kill and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Glue this Word to your heart, Saints: Jesus, abundance; Satan, destruction.

Clue #2: Jesus conquered evil to make superior life possible *and* gave us His own power and authority over it in His all-powerful name. In Luke 10:19-20, Jesus said, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing" – which means no one and no thing; not even one – "shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Yet...

Clue #3: God has left evil here allowing sin because we still want to. Though we have the Holy Spirit's guide and a conscience, it's still a daily challenge isn't it? We're in training here for future lives far beyond our present capacity to grasp, but Salvation and Victory in God's kingdom are ours HERE AND NOW (should we CHOOSE...).

Clue #4: Father knows best and we just don't. Romans 8:28: "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His PURPOSE." Father wants us to learn *His* perspective about evil. Here are two great examples in which you begin to see God's uses of evil. In this first example Scripture, Joseph, son of Jacob, had been

elevated to a position in Egypt second only to Pharaoh. He tells his brothers who earlier had tried to murder him why it was not only allowed, but *had* to be.

Genesis 50:20: “*But as for you, ye thought EVIL against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*”

And here, Matthew 26:53-54, Jesus tells His followers as He’s about to be crucified: “*Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?*”

God makes it clear; evil is necessary. It has great purpose.

In Ephesians 3 beginning Verse 1, Paul has been speaking of his knowledge of the mysteries of Christ **hidden from the beginning of the world**; in Verse 11, he concludes, “...according to the **ETERNAL purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord**”...

Clue #5: So, what would be the eternal purpose for Christ Jesus to exist to destroy evil **IF THERE WERE NO EVIL FOR HIM TO DESTROY??**

1 John 3:8 (NIV): “The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared **WAS TO DESTROY THE DEVIL’S WORK.**”

HE DID.

Clue #6: Although it’s completely defeated, God doesn’t stop evil. Luke 22:31-32: And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I (Jesus) have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Jesus didn’t stop Satan or even pray to keep Peter FROM the evil, but only **that HIS FAITH WOULDN’T FAIL**. Jesus **ALLOWS** the test/the evil with its potential for sin to come, for great purpose.

Clue #7: Evil was on earth B.A. (Before Adam :D). We don’t know the half of it until we learn exactly what God said. Here’s what Genesis Chapter 1 Verses 1 – 3 are really saying according to Strong’s Concordance:

“In (a dateless past) Elohim (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) **CREATED** the heavens and the earth.

“And the earth (HAD BECOME) (lying in waste like a desert) and (an undistinguishable ruin) and (literal darkness; figuratively, misery, destruction, death) was (before the abyss). And the Spirit of God moved (before the urine, semen, wasting waters).” The waters were a cesspool. Think God created it that way? Doubtful; more likely, they *became* that way after some pretty heavy pollution.

“And God said, LET (unlike Verse 1, this is a word of permission not command to create) there be (literal) light; and there was (literal) light.” This “light” was apparently not there then like the darkness was in Verse 2, but had to be brought forth. The word “create” as in new “stuff” isn’t used again until God begins to make creatures in Verse 21; then, in Verses 26-28, He “creates” *us* in His own image.

Creation continues here in Genesis 2:9: “And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is PLEASANT (meaning something to delight in; delectable thing) to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” This latter tree is *not* named the tree **OF** good and evil, nor is it the tree of **DOING** good and evil, but it *is* the tree of KNOWLEDGE.

Clue #8: God Himself made the trees to grow, including the delectable tree of the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil.

Yet, He gives Adam rules, Genesis 2:16-17: “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

In Ephesians 3:10 (Amp), we’re told of God’s purpose and complicated wisdom: “[The purpose is] that through the church (us!) the complicated, many-sided (multifaceted) wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.” Now, see how this complements Genesis 3:22: “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of Us (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to know (this speaks of knowledge, not the practice or doing of) good and evil...”

Clue #9: God has complicated, many-sided wisdom and He wants us to have it, as well, according to His eternal purpose we know He accomplished in Jesus. It is safe to infer: Man *had* to eat of the tree of knowledge in order to *have knowledge*. Like Jesus, we must be proven: tempted, tested, and tried.

WE ARE indeed A WIP (WORK IN PROGRESS).

God tempts no one (James 1:13), but there was a job opening for a tempter. As we've learned, Satan is God's instrument, albeit an involuntary one; nowhere is it written that he's excited about his role of subservience.

Genesis - Chapter 3, Verse 1: "Now the serpent" – Satan – "was more subtil (cunning – usually in a bad sense; crafty and prudent) than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

The "Fall" wasn't Plan B. God KNEW it would be.

Clue #10: God used Satan to set the stage to install His plan for man on earth. Consider again that infamous tree. Yes, God not only put those trees there, He put ALL the created things here, including Satan.

Furthermore, that infamous tree had **TWO** parts: evil *and* good so we are capable of knowing good as well as evil; and further-furthermore, we can distinguish between them, and CHOOSE between evil and good (Deuteronomy 30).

Clue #11: Good and evil are *OPPOSITES*; knowing *both* provides **CHOICE**. No CHOICE? no choices. And we can't value one without the other, either. Consider Adam's cluelessness about the consequences of his sin. He had no basis of valuation; *OPPOSITES* are essential (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

Now let's consider Adam's character, Genesis 3:9-12: "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He (the LORD God) said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

Before succumbing to temptation, Adam – lacking knowledge of evil *and* good – was knowledge-free. The only biblical example of Adam having intellect occurred when he named the creatures God brought to him. God put this word on my heart to describe Adam pre-Fall: "Sycophant" – an empty-headed flunky or stooge. You want proof? Yes yes of course you do. This is an investigation. The serpent beguiled *Eve*; but what did Adam who *should* have known better, do?

He did *what his wife* said, disregarding *God's command*. Aagh!! And to top it *all* off, he BLAMED her!

Is that what Love would do? Could Adam even have known LOVE without knowledge... knowledge of evil and good?

We've seen that to save us from our sins has been Christ Jesus' purpose since the beginning of time, so clearly God had *planned* for Adam to sin and now, *even* now... Rather than *eliminating* evil altogether when Jesus conquered it, Father has *left* the defeated foe and his forces here not only because man still desires to sin, but because:

CLUE #12: Those opposites – good and evil – provide the basis for God's ongoing test of man. Check out Joshua 24:15 and Deuteronomy 30:15, 19.

Now, I hate evil (I bet you do, too). Surely the fruit of evil has affected your life; perhaps poverty, sickness, handicap, abuse, perversion, challenges; maybe negligence, radical Islam, or other desperate circumstances. Some even choose to **serve** evil, but they surely know not what they do for evil doesn't stop like oceans at a shoreline; it knows no bounds.

We have learned Scripturally God's sovereignty and Satan's mandatory submissiveness to Him.

Clue #13: There is not a single instance in the Bible (or in our lives) of God being caught by surprise or of Satan usurping even a portion of heaven. Not One. Yes, God is all-powerful and all-knowing.

Does realization life's trials are ordered by God mean we just roll over and accept every crummy thing that comes our way? No way. Say, pray, seek and speak the LORD's promises of Perfect Soundness and deliverance. Don't wonder "IF" He'll answer; be concerned only with "WHEN," asking "WHAT do You want me to know and do in the meantime, Father?" The Gospel (which simply means Good News) of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the Salvation He has provided (which is what His name means and expresses, specifically: our deliverance, help, victory, prosperity, health, and well-being) is **NOW!**

Consider this from John 16:23-27: "... I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name... Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete... I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed" (have the FAITH) "that I came from God"—

We are approaching the pinnacle of this study. First, read this brief assignment that follows here immediately and envision your scenario as described:

Picture yourself doing something important here on Earth in this present age in which we live. Think of what you might love to do for another – whether it's something you have done or something you've always desired to do; it doesn't matter which – and focus on it. Maybe it is something in which you are productive; perhaps you are helpful and beneficial to a neighbor, friend, companion, or even a large group of people.

Now, factor in this one stipulation to your scenario: This Earth presently has NO evil, sin, or suffering; here, every need is already met. No one is hungry, thirsty, cold, or naked... But...

Ah oh...

Here on Earth we work; maybe you invent, farm, sell, serve, or go to school; but, why?

Isn't the main purpose of our education and professions to meet one another's needs?

Well, here on Earth in this scenario, EVERY NEED IS MET, so there is no need for meeting other's needs any more.

So, what were you **doing without** any needs and evil's consequences? What's our point here on Earth? Are we taking care of one another? ***Why would we do that?*** Who ***needs*** us? **We don't have needs.**

Clue #14: Without any needs, **what do we need each other for?**

Clue #15: Without any needs, **what do we need God for?** Selah (pause and think on that).

Amazing. Mind boggling. Without evil, what would we be doing here? Running around satisfying ourselves, I guess. Not any love or growth in that. Omniscient God would surely have had a *different* plan, but for this present age, the present plan of choice between good and evil is what He's using.

Evil gives purpose to our lives. Evil provides options that God sets before us so we can CHOOSE between good and evil. God is clearly in charge, but He has conveyed His authority and power over all evil to us in the name of Jesus, and shown us the only one to fear is Him. This revelation knowledge teaches us who we are in Christ – a Living Example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – and provides the tools we need to have Abundant Life.

Chapter 11

Case Closed

With this revelation knowledge garnered from A Christian Study of Evil, we more fully realize some of the reasons Christ came – not only to die a brutal death for us in order to destroy evil and impart His Gospel to us so we can be His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) until His return – but as our Example of One making all the wise choices presented by life of good over evil. Name any other god or man who has done this for His creation.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1a).

With this revelation knowledge, it is apparent that evil is our hearts' proving ground. Evil gives purpose to our lives. For God to have such a rigorous training course for us **now**, we can only imagine what an incredible future life He has for us **later** for which life on Earth is preparing us when we choose to assuage the damage done by evil (including our part of stopping it as we spoke at the very beginning) and to be a

Living Example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With this revelation knowledge, you can more fully appreciate and hopefully act upon God's Word that there is nothing and no one to fear but Him. Satan and his army of evildoers are powerless to God and can do nothing God does not permit, a fact that should immediately eliminate all other fears (so long as you are not desirous of being in concert with Satan). Rather, God has great hopes that you choose good and not evil, and to be a

Living Example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With this revelation knowledge about Adam, remember God didn't want sycophants. Rather, He made us with the potential to be intelligent people who could learn to discern and, then, CHOOSE to love and fellowship with Him and with others, and help others and ourselves develop excellent characters, exceptional talents, and productive Abundant Lives, right here and now, through being a

Living Example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You've read the Purpose of Life as the LORD has defined it, Why Evil Had to Be, Evil's Specific Purpose on Earth for our betterment and development, and now you know Where Abundant Life is Found. It is yours in the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

Thank You, Father, in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Visit our website for more exciting teachings: www.achristianstudy.com

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Post Script

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Solomon said that.

And once again, the even greater Wisdom, Jesus, said this: “And as it was in the days of Noe (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:26-30).

Be ready. Pray. Read the Bible. Learn. Fellowship with people of sound doctrine and like faith. And, as God leads, look into free studies about who you are in Christ and the power and authority you have in the name of Jesus, at my website, www.achristianstudy.com. May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen.