

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-27 God the Judge

In our last lesson we learned that the wages of sin is death and that before Jesus came, the grave was divided into two places. Paradise was for the righteous, and hell for the wicked. We also discovered that Satan must obey God's laws or he too will come under a severe judgment.

How does this fit into God's plan for having children? It would seem that God's plan has fallen apart and that His children have come under the oppression of Satan and that they have all become subject to severe punishment. We know that eventually Jesus will come and deliver those who believe from their sin. But in the days before Jesus, mankind seemed destined for death and the grave.

What was God trying to accomplish? We know that God does not make mistakes and that everything that He does is for a purpose. Thus there must be a purpose for all of these hundreds of years and generations of people.

When Adam and Eve were created, they were innocent like newborn babies. They had a Father who deeply loved them and wanted them to grow up and become like Him. This desire was not just for Adam and Eve, but for all of mankind. Now, humans will never be all powerful like God, but we were created in God's image and likeness. We do have the potential—like every child—to learn to become like our parents. But the process of becoming an adult is long and often painful. Over time we experience various life situations with our parents that reveal to us their nature, their character, their ethics, and personalities. One does not learn these things by being told, but rather through experience.

All of the thousands of years, from the creation of Adam and Eve until the time of Jesus, revealed God's character to mankind. We learned of His unlimited power and intellect when we looked into the sky and marveled at the vastness of His creation. But His absolute holiness would only be revealed in His relationship with us. We learned that there was God's holiness and that there was sin. There is nothing in between.

The Old Testament also reveals that God is the righteous and fair Judge. King David wrote a song which said:

The LORD reigns forever;
He has established his throne for judgment.
He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity (Psa 9:7).

God's holy nature defines what is law. God is the judge of that law. He is the one who judges the deeds and thoughts of every created being. He is not capricious nor does he play favorites or accept bribes. God is fair and treats everyone; man, woman, or child, equally. It is God's righteous and holy nature that demands fairness. And thus, mankind learns of God's nature and the requirement of punishment for the breaking of God's law. He established in the Garden of Eden that disobedience would result in the punishment of death. The first

disobedience was the breaking of God's command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Some might argue that God was too severe in His judgment upon Adam and Eve. But God is the righteous and fair God. He cannot arbitrarily decide what law He will enforce and which laws He will ignore. God's very nature compels Him to judge and to do so fairly. Thus, the soul that sins shall die and the entire history of the Old Testament has a purpose. It reveals to the children the absolute nature of God's holiness and how His nature demands that He judge all people fairly and equally.

This lesson is **important** because it reveals that God's holy nature defines what law is. He is the one who judges the deeds and thoughts of every created being and He shows no favoritism.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God's holiness demands that He judge all people fairly and equally.

Let's **review** what you learned in this lesson.

1. The Old Testament was the time between the creation of Adam and Eve and the coming of whom? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said, "The coming of Jesus," you are correct.
2. King David wrote a song which described God as what? [Pause]
 - A. If you said, "David wrote a song describing God as the righteous and fair judge," then you answered correctly.
3. This lesson is very important for understanding God and His nature. We know that God can do anything because He is all powerful. If this is indeed true, why must God judge everyone equally and fairly? Can't God just do whatever He wants? Pause this lesson and think about this question for a few minutes before restarting the lesson and hearing the answer to this question. [Place "pause" graphic on screen.]

God is holy and righteous. To be righteous means that you do the right thing no matter what. God's nature is to be holy and righteous. He must do the right thing. His very nature demands this. To do the wrong thing would be unholy and thus sin. God can do anything but sin. Thus we discover that God's nature and character demand that He punishes sin. God is the righteous judge and always judges correctly and with fairness.

Your **assignment** is to listen to this lesson as many times as is necessary to understand the holiness of God, the righteous Judge. Consider the kinds of decisions human judges render. Discuss with a friend the contrast between God's justice and human justice.