

What is Man? *Part 1*

We will write a freepaper about man. To start out with, let's look at Ps 8:4. It asks a question in amazement, because he sensed that our Father appreciated man more than he thought. "What is man that You think so highly of him? What is man, that You are so mindful of him? Your thoughts are continually on him without stopping."

He doesn't think about anything else except man. He can't rest until man is restored and redeemed. He can't rest. He rested once, and then man fell, and He hasn't rested since — He is listening to every word that man speaks. And He is looking, just as He found Noah and Abraham.

"What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? For You have made him a little lower than Elohim [not angels — we will go into that] You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over all the works of Your hands. You have put all things under his feet."

"All things" means the universe — all that His hands have made. "You look upon man with awe," it says. Man was created to rule over all that God has made. That is what man is. All God ever desired, and all that He has ever needed is man. That is why the redeemed man will be called *Derushah*, the wife of our Master. "You will be called *Derushah*, a new name." We were not just *wanted*, but *needed*. When we have children, our children should be wanted children, as we spoke about last week. They are not just wanted; they are desperately needed.

We have the natural man, the spiritual man, and the carnal man. Those are the three types of people on the Earth: the natural, spiritual, and carnal. The spiritual and the carnal are redeemed man, but the natural man is not. They don't understand the things of the Spirit. The spiritual and the carnal are the believers. The carnal live in the flesh and are being foolish, not setting their mind on the Spirit. They are more concerned about doing their own pleasures than our Father's will.

They are both forgiven of their original sin. They are forgiven of the sin that Adam passed on to mankind, and the sins they committed, but they are not now forsaking their sins. They are not admitting and forsaking them. You can see in Pr 28:13 why some of us do not prosper. If you see a brother who is not prospering, it is because of Pr 28:13. It is like those who serve in the flesh. They are carnal. Our Master said, "Whoever serves Me My Father will honor. They will prosper and find mercy."

We will find mercy if we forsake our sins. The carnal man just doesn't know how to forsake his sins like the spiritual man does. We were all distorted human beings before we found Messiah, and now we are still distorted in many ways. We revert back to not depending upon our Savior. The carnal don't progress as Pr 28:13 says. That means they are not prospering in Messiah. They are not walking worthily of Him, as Col 1:10 says. We are as worthy as Messiah, if we walk worthy of Him.

Natural man is not in Messiah, nor has he ever heard of — in most cases — of the True One. They have heard of a Jesus, but he is not the True One. He is the one they are depicting in this movie coming out. This natural man can't convey the True One, even though certain people will think they are saved through that movie. Some people, if they are willing to do our Father's will, will see it and be attracted even to us.

The True One is in 1 Jn 5:20. There are false ones and true ones. Paul spoke of many Jesuses, many spirits, and many gospels, and they are all false except the one he preached, the one he espoused. John said "true one" for a purpose, for he was writing about the false ones, about Gnosticism, and then he says, "the True One, I have written these things that you might know you have eternal life." If you are not living up to what is written in First John, the five chapters of that book, then you don't have eternal life. So, we can read First John and find out whether we have eternal life or not, as 1 Jn 5:13 says.

If you ever want to know whether you have eternal life, just read First John. Then, if you come to the conclusion that you don't have eternal life, you can call upon our Master. Fear can reach your heart. Anyone who wants to be saved can be saved any time they want to. The natural man who rejects the True One falls into total worthlessness after that.

Natural man has worth. They have worth and value. They have a conscience and know how to do well. They know what evil is and what good is. They have a choice, but once they have rejected Messiah, all their worth disappears. No matter what they do, our Father doesn't look at them anymore as a person with worth because they have rejected our Master as Paul said in Acts 13:46,

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."

The wrath of God remains upon a person who does not obey the gospel, as in Jn 3:36 and Jn 3:18, which says you are judged already, and Acts 5:32. They fall into total worthlessness as far as being recognized by our Father to enter the Holy City or even the nations. They are rejected for the nations, for they have rejected the True One who has been communicated to them by a righteous disciple.

The only problem with Pr 28:13 is that the natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit, as Paul said in 1 Cor 2:14. The spiritual man understands all things. He has the mind of Messiah. The carnal man does not know, either, how to forsake that sin that keeps him from prospering in Messiah. Somehow they don't know how — they are in a trap. So many times we get in a trap. 2 Tim 2:25-26 talks about that, and also Jms 5:19-20 — they are in a trap. They don't know how to forsake their sin. Someone has to go to them to help them prosper. That is why it says if they *forsake* their sin, not just confess it, then they will find mercy. That means grace has to come to them.

What is Man?

So, what we want to talk about today is man. We want to unravel the haywireness in the natural man, and even in the carnal man. Remember, the spiritual man understands all things; they have the mind of Messiah. Paul exhorts us again in Phil 2:5 to have the mind of Messiah: to be humble and have the attitude of Messiah.

Man, what is man? The word *human beings* in the Old Testament is in Hebrew, it says *Adam*, which is man, *Adam*, the name of the first man. The second man is our Master Yahshua. The first man fell and the second man came to redeem man who fell. That is why His name is salvation. He is YHWH's Salvation coming down in order to save fallen man from his haywireness. If you don't think man is haywire, just look at everything going on today.

The basic Hebrew words for humanity, or mankind, are *ish*, man, and *ishah*, woman. They view each person as an individual who is a human being who has worth or value (Ps 8:4-6). What is man that You are mindful of him? Man is in our Father's mind continually. That is what the word *mindful* means. Every second that goes by He is always thinking about man and redeeming man, to have a new man on the Earth that will bring redemption to as many people as possible in the world. That is why our Master came to seek and save the lost.

There is never a moment that He is not thinking about us. He has no rest until He has Redeemed Man in order that He can get on with His ultimate intentions for the universe. He can't go on. He is stopped. Our Father is in a trap that He can't get out of to continue on with creation, His ultimate intentions for the universe, until He has Redeemed Man, and then He can have Restored Man.

Man was made a little lower than his Creator, God. We know man in Gen 5:1-2 is male and female. He called them *mankind* as Gen 1:26-28 says, and Gen 5:1-2. Man was made a little lower than his Creator. He was made in His image. They weren't made in the image of angels. They weren't made lower than angels, for angels didn't make them. They were a little lower than *Elohim*, which is the *us* in Gen 1:26. The *us* there is *Elohim*, which is plural.

Then it says in Gen 1:26, "Our image." *Theus* there can't refer to angels, for man is made in the image and likeness of *Elohim*. He calls Himself *us*, and we are made in His image, not angels, as the Septuagint says in Ps 8:4. In the Hebrew it says *Elohim*. It is certain types of perverted men who put these corruptions in the Bible translations.

We are created in the image of Elohim. Man is God's highest creation. What is the image of God in man? It says in some translations, "Let us make man as our image." So God placed mankind as living representations, or living symbols, which express His nature. They are representatives expressing His character, goodness, and likeness. That is why it says that mankind is created in His likeness and image, so that our Father, who can't be seen, can be seen in man's likeness. They are living symbols of Himself on Earth to represent Him and His reign to be rulers for Him, who was always looking forward, from the beginning, to Rev 21:3. That is His end purpose, and it goes on into the universe after that.

Our Father didn't make the universe for nothing. He didn't make all the planets, stars, and galaxies — trillions of them — for nothing. We are the only ones who are going to find them, and go to the whole extent of the universe, which is never-ending. So, Rev 21:3 is the very reason why He made man. He made Redeemed Man to rule over Restored Man. Redeemed men are the sons of God who rule and reign as a corporate body over the whole universe. Rev 22:5 says they will reign forever and ever over the whole universe. They will reign over all things, all creation.

Corporate, of course, means, formed into a unified body. Our Master and we make up a corporate body. We will always be Messiah. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Messiah and His brothers, or let's say, His wife. We will be the corporate Body that God finds a dwelling place in. God will not be seen anywhere else, ever, except in men — Redeemed Man. He will not be separate from Redeemed Man, because Redeemed Man will be everywhere, and will be seen everywhere. God doesn't need to be anywhere He can't be seen. So, He wants to be seen now, and in the eternal age, through Redeemed Man ruling over Restored Man. Restored Man will continue to populate the universe, which is never-ending.

The corporate man is formed into a unified body, which is Messiah's Body, which is the dwelling place of Elohim, the Godhead. As Col 1:18 says, the Body is the church — not the Christian church, but the Body of Messiah, the Community that is expressed as a corporate whole, as a witness of unity and oneness, as God and our Master are one. Therefore, that is what the *Church* means. The Church is the Body; the Body is the Church (Eph 1:22-23). The Church is defined in Rev 21:9 as the wife of the Lamb, which is, as it says in verse 12, the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Rev 21:9 — "Behold, the wife of the Lamb," and it goes on to describe the wife as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. They will rule the world, in twelve ever-increasing tribes. They will reign over all things, it says, all creation — all that His hands have made.

Gen 9:5-6 speaks of His image. So, we understand that even after the Fall, man still bore the image of Elohim — that is, all who kept the second covenant our Father made with man after they fell, who retained His image and likeness.

God gave man a provision to live by, that man wouldn't just fall into the lake of fire. He gave man a conscience so that he could do well. And those who do good will inhabit the universe in the second life. They will not go to the second death.

Isa 24:5-6 — Only a few will be left, just as it says in Gen 6:5; besides Noah and his family none were left. We have to understand this. There will be a *few* people left in the nations that have not violated that covenant, that second covenant. It is the everlasting, or age-lasting covenant that our Father made with man. *Everlasting* means lasting for an age.

At the end of days, there will be a few left on the Earth that are not going to be burned in the fire that is coming in the tribulation period in Rev 16:9. All the people who cursed God, got rid of their conscience, wouldn't receive the truth, wouldn't receive the Male Child, and were burned. Only a few were left. Do you see that in Rev 16:9? That is the burning, the fire, in this age.

Only a few are left, just as only a few were left before the Flood — only eight in all. It will probably be just a few hundred thousand left in the last days, or maybe a few thousand. We don't know how many. How many do you think? Most people are burned in the fire.

And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (Rev 16:9)

They didn't repent or give Him glory. Our Father put into all mankind, as Gen 3:22 says, the knowledge of good and evil. Nobody will have an excuse. No one, according to Rom 1:20, will have an excuse. "Oh, well, I was raised this way. My parents didn't raise me right." It doesn't make any difference. Ezekiel says, regardless of your parents, a child will die for his own sins. Of course, the parents will die for their sins, but you will die, too, because you have no excuse. NO EXCUSE, because you have a conscience. It doesn't matter where you live.

Jn 4:24 says that our Father will finally have a people who worship Him in spirit and truth, and not in distortions. The *truth* means not in distortion. It is not distorted. The religions today are distorted. In man's moral, ethical, and intellectual abilities he is able to have the potential to commune, by the spirit in him, with the Spirit of Elohim. That is what Jn 4:24 says. He has the potential to commune with the spirit world, with Elohim.

Remember, the spirit world is out there, and you can commune with other spirits. You can commune with other spirits if you don't know the True One. The Catholic Church went off into other spirits. The Protestant Church went off into other spirits. They worshipped other spirits, just as Paul said in 2 Cor 11:2-4, by such men as verse 15, who were servants of Satan. They led people to worship other spirits. It is distorted.

We have to worship in spirit and in truth, and not in distortion in any way. Because of man's distorted personality, he sees the Creator in many distorted, different ways — twisted to the point that, in relating to the supernatural, he worships evil spirits, masquerading as good spirits, as 2 Cor 11:14 says. They are masquerading as good spirits or as "gods."

They find expression in philosophies, as in Rom 1:21, ranging from paganism to the most sophisticated, secular humanism. Because of the fall of man's capacity to relate to his own self — being divided in himself — he finds expression in selfishness, pride, mental disorders of all kind. There are multiple mental disorders today because of the fall of man's capacity to relate to others. That capacity has been marred, therefore it finds expression in all sorts of crazy things that are going on today: hostilities, unfaithfulness, oppression, wars, and not caring for

one's neighbor. Those are some of the problems man has today in his haywireness and perverse thinking.

But it is possible that a man can, in a good heart, do the Creator's will, like it says in Acts 17:27, "That they can grope for God and find Him." Our Father sees that man in his desperate need and willingness to do His will, and He sends out walkers. Maybe he goes to one of those Reggae festivals, or one of the markets, where you meet Lazarus. No one can come to our Master unless the Father draws him or her.

Here we are, with the potential to communicate the Spirit of God by the spirit of man. That is an amazing thing, if we could ever understand how great man is, and that he has that potential. God wants His image and likeness to spread over the Earth. That is what He wanted in the beginning, and He has to have it before Messiah can return. His image has to spread over the Earth so that people won't have any excuses. There has to be a people who worship Him in spirit and truth and not in distortions.

Then, after His image goes all over the Earth, it has to go to the universe. That is why the Redeemed Man must reign forever and ever (Rev 22:5). The evil one will be in the lake of fire and unable to tempt man anymore. Still, we have to keep people on the straight and narrow in every way. They have to depend on us. They have to depend upon you.

So there is a lot at stake, and Paul says we have to pay careful attention to ourselves and all the flock. Acts 20:28-30 — "From among your own selves men will arise..." Paul was talking to us here. Such men could arise among us; there is that possibility. He was actually talking to the leaders who met him in Miletus, "Even among your own selves, brethren, men will arise among you, leading people off to follow them." There is a satanic principle there. Satan wasn't satisfied. Something was found in him — and it could be found in one of us — to lead people astray. "I know better; this doesn't sound right. I will do this instead..." and pretty soon you have divisions and denominations. Denominations will start, dividing Messiah. Can Messiah be divided? No.

God wants His likeness and image to spread over the Earth. To what extent I don't know, but I know He has to be in twelve geographical areas, as one whole people without any divisions between them. They will be one just as Messiah and the Father are one. That is what He prayed for before He died. That has to happen. If it doesn't happen then we are not real.

That is what He has to have in order for Him to come back, for the world to know that God sent His Son, the True One. They don't know yet. They don't know who in the world we are. But pretty soon, in every place that unity is going to be expressed, in all those geographical locations — even in way-out houses. So, we see the predetermined purpose of God's eternal plan. This is controversial. We have to see the predetermined purpose of the Creator's eternal plan and ultimate purpose, which necessitated the temptation of the evil one, which brought about redemption.

Man was led astray, but he had to be tested. He had to be tested. After the Fall of man, the plan of redemption would be brought into focus, but only in Messiah, the spiritual man — not the natural man. The natural man has to have a will to do our Father's will so he can start seeing the ultimate purpose of our Father and why He even allowed the evil one to come and tempt man and deceive Eve. And now throughout the last six thousand years we see what is happening.

Our Father is testing man. If you don't like it, there is nothing you can do about it. You have to submit to the good you know to do. If you have a problem with God, then you will always have one. That is how you will be for eternity, according to Rev 22:11. We see His eternal plan and ultimate purpose, which necessitated the serpent of old. He has to be put into the abyss for a thousand years, and it is going to take YOU to do it — all of us together to do it. That is why He looks at Redeemed Man and even looks at unredeemed man that lives by His

conscience and respects it.

The plan of redemption has to come into focus. It can only be in Messiah. In Eph 3:9 it speaks about a mystery that has been hidden for six thousand years. Paul understood it. Hardly anyone else in the first church understood it. Only we can understand it. It is a revelation from our Master. As it says in Heb 2:5-9, “A little lower He made man than Elohim.”

“And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Yahshua ha-Mashiyach.” (Eph 3:9)

That is the mystery, which has to be revealed. The natural man can't understand it. The spiritual man can. The carnal man doesn't think too much of it. It is only revealed to the spiritual-minded. In Heb 2:5-9 you will see that he is made a little lower than Elohim. Man is in the image of God after the Fall. Is that right or wrong? Right. Fallen to what? To certain degrees. Everyone is fallen, but to certain degrees. Some people are fallen more than others. Each individual is fallen, some more and some less than others, all according to Gen 3:22. That is the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 3:22 and then Gen 9:1-7 — You see verse 1 and verse 7 where God says, “I want you, absolutely and totally depraved man, to populate the Earth, just so you can go to hell.” Is that what He said? Well, that is what some people think. Why would He want man, after the Fall, to populate, multiply, and fill the Earth? He said it twice. You can see what He thinks of man.

Shemuel — Man was created with potential. He didn't live up to it when he fell. But he still had the same potential. He just had to live up to it.

That is right. That was after the Fall. Man is destined to be crowned with glory and honor, and to rule over all creation — the entire universe. There will be kings in the nations, it says, over the natural man, the Restored Man you can call him. You see in Rev 21:24 there are the Redeemed Man and the Restored Man. Redeemed Man will rule over all things, and with them will be the kings of the nations. Now, in the fallen state, man is disfigured to a certain degree. In certain degrees he has been corrupted. He is perverted — and I am not talking about perverts — but he is perverted in certain ways, off the course.

God has given him Gen 3:22 to keep him on this course. As long as they stay on this course, they are going to be in the nations. All men have sinned and fallen short of that. They have fallen short, but not so far short they are over the waterfall. The righteous man sins, but he is not destroying other people's lives. He is not perverting them, not molesting them. He is not making perverts out of them. He is staying within the designated realm of conscience. Our Father didn't give Gen 3:22 expecting man to be perfect. He gave our Master for that — for man to have a way to confess his sins and be forgiven, forsaking their sins.

Man is disfigured somewhat. In certain degrees he is fallen from the way God intends man to be. *Corruption* and *perverted* does not mean entirely of a depraved nature, as certain theologians have said, without the ability to do good, or else God was wrong to give Gen 3:22, if man is incapable of doing good.

Heb 9:27 says it is appointed for man to die once and then the judgment. It is not talking about us, but the nations, people who aren't of the Redeemed. It is appointed for them to die *once*, and then the judgment when they are resurrected to stand before God in judgment, to stand before us in judgment (1 Cor 6:2). We will be judging them to see whether they have a second death, which is eternal, or a second life, which is eternal, in the nations.

That is Rev 20:12-15, which I am sure everyone here knows (But there are always some people who don't). The first sentence of death is Gen 2:17, "The day you eat of this you will die." That day he died spiritually; nine hundred years later, he died physically. Where is Adam today? He is in death. He will be resurrected at the end of the millennium, and he will stand judgment according to how he lived his life. They will open the "Rolodex" of his life's decisions.

So, in Messiah, those who know Him personally, who are His very own possession (1 Pet 2:9), recovering from all the perversions of his fallen man, becoming like our Master in every aspect (Eph 4:15), growing up in every aspect of his personality, socially, mentally, and in every aspect, spiritually — all of those ways in man's personality — we have the opportunity (even playing volleyball) to grow up in Him. We are recovering from all of our perversions that were passed on to us from our parents, as Ex 20:5 says. We are becoming like Him in every aspect, becoming all that He meant for us to be, reaching our fullest potential as image bearers of Elohim. That is what He wants. He is not going to rest until He gets that.

He is thinking about us continually. Right now He is thinking about each and every one of us. Somehow He can think about us all at the same time. We are to reflect His glorious image and likeness — glory, glory, glory — as Rom 8:17 says, "Those who suffer with Him will reign with Him." They will share His glory. Not only are we to reflect His glory, but also we are to be exactly like what Messiah (the *man*) said in Jn 14:7-10, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father."

You can't see the Father. There is no way you can see the Father except in man. If you have seen our Master, you have seen the Father. That is how the Father is going to be seen throughout eternity. He is in man. He is in all the brothers of our Master. He is not ashamed to call them brothers. So, if anyone wants to see what God is like, they will have to see one of you, somewhere in one of the galaxies on one of the planets that you are visiting, to see how things are going. You are messengers.

When we are in our immortal bodies and when God, Elohim, dwells in us and all of His corporate Body (Rev 21:3), this corporate Body of Elohim will dwell among man — which in the Greek is MAN, meaning two genders male and female. We are not going to be two genders. We will be like God in that sense, not male and female anymore. We will be Man. *Men* here in Rev 21:3 means the dwelling place of God will be among the men of the nations — male and female, propagating life just as they do now.

His corporate Body, His Temple, will dwell among men, both genders. This is in the eternal nations. In Gen 2:24 He was speaking of the human family that would come from this relationship, that would continue on into the eternal age, fulfilling Gen 1:28, not just on the Earth, but filling the universe. Again, in Gen 9:1,7, after the Fall and the Flood, Elohim orders fallen mankind to once again be fruitful and multiply, fill the Earth. They were to fill the face of the Earth with His image by multiplying. He commanded this, which is registered in every man's living soul. Since it is registered in every man's soul, for our Father put it there — all of these things in Gen 9:1-7 — He has put it into man's conscience. Also, it is engendered by the parents as their mentors to confirm what is in them, passing it on from generation to generation to generation. They are to support that instinctive knowledge.

Capital punishment is necessary, essential. That is when good human government came into being, in Gen 9:1-7, to punish murderers, for they destroy the image of God. They didn't respect the image of God. If a person didn't respect the image of God, he was to be executed. If he is not, he is going to become more and more perverted. The instinctive knowledge includes murder, yes, but also, even if you don't respect someone on the highway.

There are a lot of ways we don't respect the image of God in men. It is registered in every man's soul — in every human being on Earth. It speaks of this not only in Gen 9:1, but also in verse 7. Why did He say it twice?

He could have just said it once. He wanted to make a point, which is that He was filling the Earth up with His image. Man was not totally depraved. God saw Noah, and he wasn't depraved. He was off, for he was a sinner. Our Father must have wanted man who was still as Noah, and his wife and sons. The sons were following after their father. There were only eight people on the face of the Earth who were doing this.

The rest of the people were like Gen 6:5. Can you imagine that? That is how it will be at the end of days, when only a few will be left.

Yoceph Rodriguez — You can see He still thought highly of man, who was made in the image of God, that He would make such a severe punishment as the death penalty for the one who murdered his fellow man. If man were depraved, it wouldn't have mattered if he killed him.

The Pope has done away with capital punishment. He has said it is wrong. Remember how he excused that murderer in Missouri, who should have already been executed.

Gen 6:8 — Noah was favorably looked upon, and found mercy to begin a new world, which either would or would not turn out again as Gen 6:5. They were to live by the second law that God has given man in his heart. It is like a law in man's heart, as it says in Rom 2:14-15 — the natural law in man's heart. After the Fall in Gen 3, there is another fall in Gen 6:5, from what our Father gave Adam and Eve to live by, and then there is another fall from Gen 9:1. Man is falling and falling and falling to lower grades.

(To be continued...)