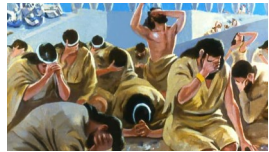


rulers of creation as His children.

God revealed His true nature by how He reacted to and disciplined a stiff-necked and rebellious people. This was no easy task considering they were stubborn, stiff-necked and rebellious due to their fallen nature (they were acting like their father the devil). Nehemiah chapter 9 and Psalm 78 record a pattern of how God showed His true nature to His fallen family: Prosperity, followed by Rebellion, followed by Trouble at the hands of their enemies, followed by Repentance,



followed by God's Unlimited Love and Unconditional Forgiveness. Not once did God count their

sins against them! Each time they repented He acted as though they had never sinned and blessed them enormously.

5. Build a Body of Proof. People needed to know what it could cost God to redeem His children. They needed a body of proof, of teachings and prophecies telling what God was going to do, why He was going to do it, and when He was going to do it.



Men needed a time table, a list of signs by which they could know the identity of the Messiah when He came because Satan would send many false Messiahs to mislead the people (Mat. 24:6; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:8; I John 2:22; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).



They needed to have absolute proof of His identity, of how He could be identified. They needed to know that the Saviour would come first as the kinsman redeemer, and then return as the King of Kings to rule.



This body of evidence will be there for all time for all men to know that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9), and that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This Is What a Father Does

Have you made Him your father yet? Romans 10:9 -11 tells you how.

#1028



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**GOD DOES NOT
COUNT OUR SINS
AGAINST US!**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.

George Beverly Shea

The story of God's
Unconditional Love &
Unlimited Forgiveness

God Created a Family

God created us to be a family on whom He could pour out His love and blessings and do and give us things to make us supremely happy! This fact is emphasized over and over again as you will read in the following verses: John 1:12; Ro 8:14 ; Ro 8:19; Php 2:15 ; 1Jo 3:1 ; 1Jo 3:2.

We must understand this truth and pound it into our heads. The Bible begins to make a lot more sense when we understand that God created us to be a family.

Begin at the beginning where it started. Genesis, chapter 1, verses 26-31 and chapter 2, verses 7, 21-25. What did God create? Luke states it boldly in chapter 3, verse 38. Jesus was the son of ... *Adam, the son of God.*

God's Family Got Stolen



**Tricked
Deceived**

**Their
Kingdom
Lost**



Adam and Eve transferred themselves out of God's family and into Satan's, becoming Satan's property, and giving Satan the rulership of the earth. They literally died that day, destined to suffer forever in the lake of fire that had been prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

God Wants His Family Back And He's Got a Secret Plan

That's what the Bible is all about. That is what redemption is all about. God wants His family back!



It's a law of science: "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction." If I do something bad I'll end up paying for it. If I sass my dad I'm going to get a spanking. If I talk back to a teacher I'm going to detention. If I do the crime I'm going to have to do the time.

God doesn't go by that law! In Numbers chapters 22 to 24 King Balak hires a prophet named Balaam to curse the Israelites. But every time Balaam opens his mouth he blesses Israel instead!

The Plan

God had laid down a plan before the beginning of time because He knew what Satan would do (Eph. 1:4). Logic helps us see the logical parts of God's plan.

1. Expose evil for what it is. Evil



is a destroyer of lives. Evil destroys all it touches. The wage evil pays is death (Romans 6:23). It must be exposed in all its ugliness. It destroys lives. It destroys all that is beautiful, pleasant and worthwhile.

2. Choose a family (Abraham) through whom God can reveal Himself in His true nature as a God of unlimited love and unconditional forgiveness. God is not evil and does not bring evil on anyone for the simple logical reason that good and evil cannot exist in the same person. They would cancel each other out—God and all He created would cease to exist.



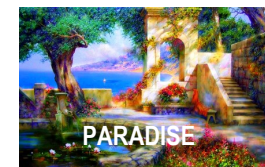
3. God Disciplines His Children.

Like any good parent, God disciplines those whom He loves (Job 36:10). Discipline is needed because all men, due to their corrupted blood line, are children of disobedience. Satan, who became our "father" at the Fall, was disobedient from the beginning (Eph. 2:2; 5:6; Col. 3:6; John 8:44; I John 3:8). Unfortunately we now have his nature. When a family grows into a nation of millions then discipline changes from individual to corporate.



4. Educate His Children. Rituals,

feasts, miracles and expectations teach the people about what evil does and the wages evil pays. They had to learn



how and why they got into the mess they were in and what it would cost God to get them out of it and restore them to their original purpose and destiny as