

## The Love of God; (Part 3)

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### The woman caught in adultery.

#### John 7:53 - 8:1-11(NIV)

<sup>53</sup> Then they all went home, <sup>1</sup> but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

<sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

<sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

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- Note how Jesus gives time for each member of the crowd to personally reflect.



- What do you think Jesus wrote in the sand?

*Jeremiah 13. LORD, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water.*

- This nature of God, to love and forgive, is more important than Justice and Purity.

If you don't think so, then consider this parody.

*Jesus said to them, "...The law is clear. We'll have to kill her."*

*And saying that, he picked up a rock and threw it at her, striking her in the head.*

*The scribes and Pharisees joined in with great enthusiasm, throwing stones at the woman until she was dead.*

*Then Jesus turned to them and said, "Let she who is with sin be stoned."*

*And the scribes and Pharisees marvelled at his devotion to purity.*

## Our Great Salvation

### Hebrews 2:2-18 (Good News)

<sup>2</sup> The message given to our ancestors by the angels was shown to be true, and those who did not follow it or obey it received the punishment they deserved.

<sup>3</sup> How, then, shall we escape if we pay no attention to such a great salvation? The Lord himself first announced this salvation, and those who heard him proved to us that it is true. <sup>4</sup> At the same time God added his witness to theirs by performing all kinds of miracles and wonders and by distributing the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

<sup>5</sup> God has not placed the angels as rulers over the new world to come—the world of which we speak.

<sup>6</sup> Instead, as it is said somewhere in the Scriptures:

What are human beings, O God, that you should think of them; mere human beings, that you should care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You made them for a little while lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour, <sup>8</sup> and made them rulers over all things.

It says that God made them rulers over all things; this clearly includes everything. We do not, however, see human beings ruling over all things now.

<sup>9</sup> But we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, so that through God's grace he should die for everyone. We see him now crowned with glory and honour because of the death he suffered. <sup>10</sup> It was only right that God, who creates and preserves all things, should make Jesus perfect through suffering, in order to bring many children to share his glory. For Jesus is the one who leads them to salvation.

<sup>11</sup> He purifies people from their sins, and both he and those who are made pure all have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his family.

<sup>12</sup> He says to God, “I will tell my people what you have done; I will praise you in their meeting.”

<sup>13</sup> He also says, “I will put my trust in God.”

And he also says, “Here I am with the children that God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, <sup>15</sup> and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death.

<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that it is not the angels that he helps. Instead, he helps the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup> This means that he had to become like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High Priest in his service to God, so that the people's sins would be forgiven. <sup>18</sup> And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself was tempted and suffered.

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- Discuss your understanding of “the message given to our ancestors”, in verse 1?
  - How do you think it has been “shown to be true”?
  - When do you think the “Lord himself announced this salvation”, in verse 3?
  - Do you think we are more fortunate than the angels in heaven?



The Angel in “The Virgin of the Rocks”, Leonardo da Vinci

## Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour.

<sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,



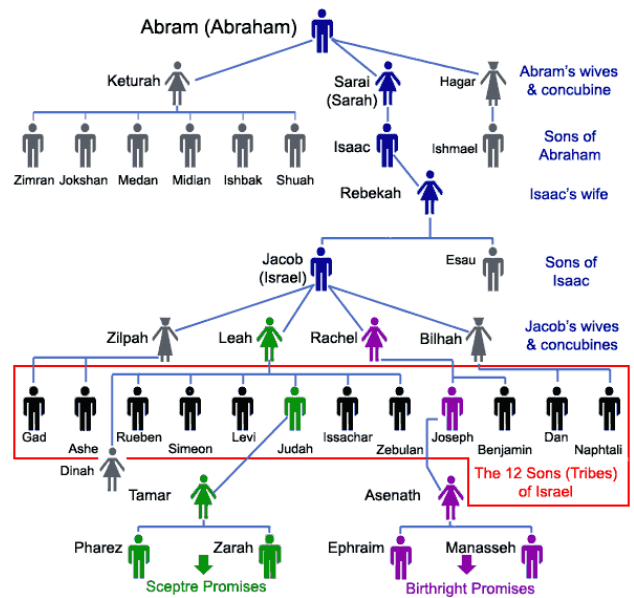
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Ps 144

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? <sup>4</sup> Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

## The Descendants of Abraham



A former inmate of a Nazi concentration camp was visiting a friend who had shared the ordeal with him. "Have you forgiven the Nazis?" he asked his friend. "Yes." "Well, I haven't. I'm still consumed with hatred for them."

"In that case," said his friend gently, "they still have you in prison." (From Anthony de Mello)

## The Grace

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen**