



## PREFACE

You hold in your hands the result of an adventure that began many years ago and I joyfully say, continues on today. Coming to an understanding of who God says I am and all that means for my life today has been an incredible journey. My life has been forever changed because of this understanding. I have REST – the kind of rest God intended for me to have all along. My prayer for each of you is that you too will learn to experience this same kind of rest.

As you read and study, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you, remember to never be at the mercy of an individual's teaching but to only rely on His wisdom and knowledge. Approaching this study (*and any other study*) with that attitude will ensure that your understanding of the Truth comes from your own time with the Lord.

**Believe what you believe because you believe it – not because someone said it!**

## RESOURCES USED IN THE FORMATION OF THIS STUDY MATERIAL

*Ryrie Study Bible (New American Standard)*, Moody Press, 1995 Update  
*The Rest of the Gospel*, Dan Stone & David Gregory, One Press, 2000  
*Victory Over the Darkness*, Neil Anderson, Regal Books, 1990  
*Bible Doctrine*, Wayne Grudem, Zondervan, 1999  
*Romans 1-8*, The Hill Ministries, 1991  
*The Indwelling Life of Christ*, Major Ian Thomas, Multnomah, 2006  
*Romans Expository Commentary*, D Martin Lloyd Jones, Zondervan, 1971-1973  
*The Gospels From a Jewish Perspective*, The Hill Ministries, 2004  
*LOGOS Bible Software v. 4*, Logos, 2001-2010



# IDENTITY

## WHO I AM IN CHRIST: WEEKS 1-9

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Do you realize the man you will someday be you are now becoming?**

As I heard that statement it smacked me in the face, and I felt God press upon me this question, *“Don’t You Know Who You Are?”*

This is the most perplexing and profound question any man can continually ask himself. How we answer that question and how well we understand the answer is the foundation upon which our identity is built. Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinks within himself, so he is.”

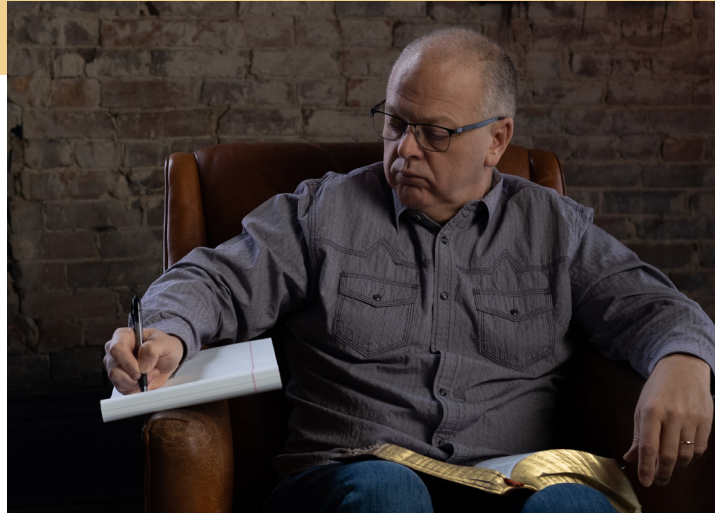
#### **Is What Men Do, Who They Know And What They Have, WHO THEY ARE?**

If men think the answer is yes, they set themselves up for chaos and failure when a major crisis occurs. It is said that a person gets his identity in life based on how the most important person in his life sees him. Shouldn’t the most important person be the ONE who created everything? The one who supremely reigns over the universe?

Questioning our identity in Christ is Satan’s biggest ploy and is the first domino he wants to fall. He even tried to get Jesus to question who He was in Matthew 4:3: “if you are the Son of God...” We let Satan’s accusations of our behavior influence our perception of identity instead of letting our identity – as a child of God in Christ – influence our behavior. We have been tricked into believing that what we do, how much money we make, what we look like, makes us what we are in this world.

Being able to answer the question, *“Don’t You Know Who You Are?”* is the catalyst for us to have the life that Jesus died for us to have.

Over twenty years ago, my mom and dad gave my wife and myself a study of the book of Romans. They also gave us a letter they had written and I want to share with you an excerpt from that letter:



**“Because we love you so deeply, we want to share with you the most exciting truth we have ever experienced. This study has opened our eyes to the knowledge of what a walk (*life*) with Jesus Christ is all about. John 8:32 has truly come alive to us “and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” For years, we could not accept and understand the theology, we had been taught. As the writer of this study says, “it was like trying to put a square peg in a round hole and it didn’t fit.” But the answers (*the truth*) are truly there in the Book, if we will search. There we will find the “heart of God.” I know this is a long study, and takes some time. We have never asked much of you, but this we beg of you.”**

I was exactly like most of you and the last thing I wanted to do was study the Bible everyday! But due to the emotion in the letter and my respect for my parents – I did it. I had many questions, but after a few months, I started to experience something I had never experienced before, true peace and freedom! That peace and freedom has led me to His Life, not to being a guy trying to do the right things only because I am a Christian and that is what I was supposed to do. Other than the gift of salvation, that plea from my parents gave me the greatest gift I have ever received, an understanding of **HIM** and **WHO I AM**.

I decided that if I was going to hook my wagon up to Jesus that I needed a few questions answered. This study is based on my journey of getting these questions answered:

- **What is God's plan?**
- **Who is Satan?**
- **What happened in the garden, and how did it affect me?**
- **How was my problem going to get fixed?**
- **So after my problem got fixed, who did I become?**
- **What is going on with the new me?**

I have always preferred information dispensed and explained in simple, straightforward terms, and that is the way it is presented in this study. I simply ask you very direct, basic questions (*the same questions I had*) and provide scripture references to help you discover the answers for yourself. While I could have made it even simpler and provided the answers for you, I feel very strongly that you should never believe what I say, just because I say it, no matter how much legwork of prayer and Bible research on which I base my beliefs. Rather, you need to believe what you believe based on the prayer and Bible study you have done yourself. The counsel of Godly men is certainly a valuable resource, but men are fallible at best. You should always prove to yourself whether a certain statement is true by finding out for yourself from the primary source: GOD.

I am praying for each of you as you start this adventure! I am asking the Father to meet you wherever you are, to take you to the feet of Jesus Christ and for the Holy Spirit to reveal everything that needs to be revealed to you. As you turn to our Lord for the answer to ***"Don't You Know Who You Are?"*** I pray that you will clearly see Him and hear His voice over the enemy. I thank God now for the victory He will bring in your life and the freedom – true freedom – that comes from knowing who you are as a child of His. Amen.

***God is about to take you on an unbelievable adventure!***

- Tim Brown

THE FIRST QUESTION I HAD:

# “WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?”

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This first week we will be studying Genesis 2 to discover God’s plan for each of us. If you’re anything like me, you enjoy seeing a task or a project come to a successful completion. There is nothing more rewarding than to witness the launch of a final product – to experience the end results of many hours of planning and execution. This was surely how God must have felt when he created the heavens and the earth.

## DAY 1 — READ GENESIS 2

After God completed all His work, what did He do?

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Do the scriptures say that God ever stopped that rest?

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Could it be that this state of rest was what all mankind was to have?

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Hebrews 4 helps us to understand that true spiritual rest only comes from hearing the word of God and believing it. God offers his rest to each of us even today through his son, Jesus.

In verses 9–11 Paul says:

*<sup>9</sup> There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their work, just as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.*

Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## DAY 2 — READ GENESIS 2

What was missing to cultivate the ground?

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How did God form man?

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Where did God place man?

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What two specific trees were placed in the midst of the garden?

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In your own words, write out what you think was the difference between the two trees given the description in scripture?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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For generations, families have made a living from farming. Producing crops has always been dictated by the seasons. A typical crop can take hundreds of hours of labor per acre. That labor includes many steps and often a lot of workers to eventually take the final product to market. While modern techniques have lessened some of the more laborious tasks, most crops still require many hands and a lot of time. In today's lesson we learn how all these cultivating practices first emerged.

We find in the scripture that creator God made quick work of fashioning the earth and the necessary water sources to help the vegetation grow. He even planted a garden in the east, in a land called Eden. Knowing the beauty of our lands today, can you visualize the lush green plants and the abundance of flowers in full bloom that he surely made for his own enjoyment?

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# “WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?”

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The word “Eden” (edhen) means paradise. It was a place of unimaginable beauty and a place of bliss. The garden was an area that was set aside to protect, feed, and sustain the man. The garden in Eden was different than the rest of the earth. God fashioned an unnamed river that flowed from Eden and from there it was separated into four headwaters.

## DAY 3 — READ GENESIS 2

What was the man’s responsibility?

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What was the command God gave man?

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What would happen if he broke that command?

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Do you think the death was physical death?

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Why do you think God gave Adam the choice rather than preventing him from eating from the tree of knowledge?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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In the case of Adam, God gave the man a great deal of freedom. He could eat freely from everything in the garden with one exception. God spelled out the rules and clearly stated the penalty for breaking those rules. Just as a parent warns a child not to touch the burner on a hot stove, God warned Adam of resulting consequences should he not follow God's command. In this situation, there was a dire cost, he would surely die.

## DAY 4 — READ GENESIS 2

What did God decide about the man?

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How did the dilemma get fixed?

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Why do you think God made woman out of the man rather than the earth?

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What kind of state were Adam and Eve in at the time?

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Why do you think they were not embarrassed or ashamed?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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# “WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?”

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God forms the woman then gives her to Adam. This incredible new creation of God’s is yet another gift to the man. God calls the woman ezer, which in Hebrew means “help.” Adam names the woman Eve, meaning “life,” referring to her role in the procreation of humans. What I really love about this passage is that God makes the woman to be a helper for Adam. They were to work together to care for God’s creations. Their responsibilities were shared.

## DAY 5 — READ GENESIS 2; GENESIS 3:22-24

Was the Tree of Life just named “Life” or did it have life in it?

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How can we confirm your answer?

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To fully grasp what verse 24 is telling us, it is good to have a further understanding of the cherubim. This mention in Genesis is the first time they are named and recognized as angels. Cherubim are supernatural beings that serve God and carry out his plans in heaven and earth. While cherubim are mentioned nearly one-hundred times in the Bible, there is a lot we do not understand about them.

While the cherubs had many purposes, it seems they almost always guard or protect God’s presence or his creations. In Genesis 3:24, the cherubim guard the way to the Tree of Life. In addition to their presence, God also placed a flaming sword that turns in all directions. The Hebrew word for flaming is lahat which can mean both burning and consuming. The sword is often associated with God’s anger and judgement. For me, the interesting aspect of the sword is that it seems to be activated or animated in and of itself as the scripture does not say the angels wielded it.

Write out your answer to the basic question... **“WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?”**

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## DAY 6

Starting in Genesis 1:3 God created a wonderful and beautiful heavens and earth (after the cursing of earth we will talk about later). He then rested from all His work (Genesis 2:3). What is interesting is that it does not say He ever discontinued that “rest.” Therefore, in God’s plan He and man (human race) were to be in union in an ongoing state of rest. After first creating the earth there was no plant or vegetation due to God not yet sending rain and no man to cultivate the ground. So God created man from the dust of the ground and man became a living being.

Man was the totality of human nature. This man was the father of all mankind. God placed man (Adam) in the garden He planted called Eden and gave him dominion over it. Within that garden, there were two trees that God gave special significance, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He then set up the necessity of choice through commanding Adam (not Eve) to not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or he would surely die, referring to a death from the Tree of Life (God’s life that was in the tree).

God decided Adam needed a suitable helper so He formed woman from Adam’s rib and proclaimed that for this cause they were to become one flesh and live forever in a “not ashamed” (innocent) state. Adam and Eve were to live in rest, eating from the Tree of Life in that perfect and holy state and reproducing others to live the same life because God’s life was in that tree.

*Continued...*

# “WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?”

God created each of us to be in relationship with Him. But, when mankind sinned, we became alienated from God and no longer able to be in a state of peace (at rest) with Him. We have ungodly minds, rebellious will, and sinful emotions. To bring us back into a close personal relationship, God sent his own son, Jesus, to earth in human form. It is through our belief that Jesus was crucified to take on our sin that we can become blameless and return to a personal relationship with God. At rest, at peace with the creator, our Lord.

Thus, we can answer the question, “**WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?**”

## THE THREE PART BEING

THE ORIGINAL MAN (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*)



**SOUL** → Houses the mind (*thinking*), emotions (*feeling*), will (*choice*)

**SPIRIT** → The core of man that was in union with God (*ZOE*)

**BODY** → In union with soul and spirit (*BIOS*)

Share your thoughts and any praises to Him (*be prepared to share with your Fire Team*):

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# “WHO IS SATAN?”

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Being a former football player, I like to look at things from a football thought process. Before we went into a battle (game) against any opponent, we would always try to know as much about them as possible; to learn their tendencies, their strengths, their schemes, etc. I am in a battle with my enemy each day of my existence so it is important for me to know as much about him as possible.

## DAY 1 — READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19

Based on the description in v. 14 (*anointed cherub*), was the King of Tyre in v. 12 a man or an angelic being?

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Who do you think this angelic being was?

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What was Satan “full of” and “perfected in”?

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Where did Satan originally reside?

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*In this passage we find God (through Ezekiel) shifts from speaking to the prince of Tyre to now addressing him as the king of Tyre. God looks past the façade of the ruler and calls him out. The prince sees himself as a king among men. God sees the motivation causing his behavior; actions and attitudes that are abhorrent and unacceptable to God. God is speaking to the spirit behind the arrogant leader – the very essence of sin – Satan. As God speaks here, he is reminding Satan of his former position when he lived with God in the Garden of Eden.*

Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## DAY 2 — READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19; GENESIS 1:1-2

What was Satan's role based on v. 12–15?

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The garden of God was actually what?

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Could that possibly have a connection to Genesis 1:1?

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In v.15 what was found in Satan?

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What did this cause him to do?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## ORDER OF ANGELIC BEINGS

**HIGHEST**  
Seraphim  
Cherubim  
Thrones

**MIDDLE**  
Dominions  
Virtues  
Powers

**LOWEST**  
Principalities  
Archangels  
Angels

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<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

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## DAY 3 — READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19; GENESIS 1:1-2; ROMANS 5:12; ISAIAH 14:12

Based on verse 16 of Ezekiel 28, who was the first being to sin?

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Was sin on the earth when Adam sinned?

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What happened to Satan after he sinned?

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What became Satan's domain after his fall?

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### DAY 3

As difficult as it is to believe, Satan was so full of himself, his beauty and position of authority, that he bad-mouthed God in front of the other angels! In essence, he desecrated the heavens which God had so carefully created.

Some Bible scholars believe that the violence mentioned in this passage of scripture was that Satan rejected God's plan to create an order of beings made in His image. In other words, Satan wanted to be the highest among all creatures, equal to God in glory and honor. God's plan to create man would eventually put men above beings like him – the angels. Satan's idea of revenge was plotting and encouraging man to sin and rebel against God.

God punishes Satan by throwing him out of heaven. Satan was banished to crawl upon the earth and was cursed. (Genesis 3:14-15) It surely was a moment of breathtaking high drama when it happened and an incredible site because in Luke 10:18, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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# “WHO IS SATAN?”

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## DAY 4 — READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19; GENESIS 1:1-2; GENESIS 2:15; JOB 1:6-7

Could Genesis 1:2 and what happened to Satan in Ezekiel 28:17 have a connection?

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Even though the earth became Satan’s domain, did he lose his access to heaven and God?

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Whom did God eventually give Satan’s dominion over the garden?

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In our study last week, we learned in Genesis 1:15 that God gave Adam the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. He was to rule over all God’s dominion as the one created in God’s own image. The garden was a space created by God so He could fellowship with his creations and, in turn, they could worship, serve, and rest in God. So now, not only is Satan angry at being expelled in such a dramatic way, but the dominion of the earth is given to Adam. Can you imagine his rage?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## DAY 5 — READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19; I PETER 5:8; REVELATION 12:7-13

What do you think Satan's seeks to do to all of Adam's descendants?

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Will his access to God and heaven someday be done away with?

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Write out your answer to the question, **“WHO IS SATAN?”**

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<sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”

Job 1:6-7

# “WHO IS SATAN?”

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## DAY 6

According to Ezekiel 28, our enemy (Satan) was created full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **He had dominion over the earth, which was a mineral garden full of precious stones.** He was also the anointed cherub that covered (guarded) the holy mountain (throne) of God. In the angelic order, there are three levels – cherubim, seraphim, and angels. Satan was the anointed of the cherubim, the highest order and thus he was second only to God in the original creation.

However, he wanted to be more than that and unrighteousness was found in him. And he sinned. His position in God’s government was terminated and his domain became earth, and God cursed his domain (Genesis 1:2). His act of rebellion was how sin came to reside on earth. When Adam sinned, it (sin) entered into mankind (we will deal with this later). According to Job 1:6-7, Satan did not lose his access to heaven. He will constantly use that access to accuse those that he hates (you and me) before our Holy God.

Therefore, to use my football approach again, we now know a little more about our opponent and can see a little clearer why he does what he does.

Share your thoughts and any praises to Him (*be prepared to share with your Fire Team*):

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# “HOW WAS MY PROBLEM GOING TO GET FIXED?”

## DAY 1 — READ HEBREWS 10:1-18

What is the difference between verses 11 and 12? What is the significance of Christ sitting down?

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What time is He waiting for?

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By this one offering, He has done what?

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How long will this “perfecting” last?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## DAY 2

## READ HEBREWS 10:1-18; JEREMIAH 31:33-34

Hebrews 10:16 is a quote from Jeremiah 33-34. What is the covenant referred to in this passage?

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Is this covenant an unconditional or conditional covenant?

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What does this mean?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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# “HOW WAS MY PROBLEM GOING TO GET FIXED?”

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## DAY 3 — READ HEBREWS 10:1-18

According to Hebrews 10:17, what will be remembered no more?

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What has made that possible?

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According to Hebrews 10:18 is there more that could be offered to deal with my problem?

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So what took care of my problem?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## DAY 4

In the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah foretold that a time would come when he would make a new covenant with his people. When the form of sacrificial atonement no longer suited God, He changed the tradition that He himself had established.

Before moving on, I think it is important for us to summarize the previous nine days. We were by nature a child of wrath because of Adam's disobedience. My problem was – who I was – not my acts of sin. The nation of Israel had been following the Law and sacrificial system, and we have been able to see its lack of finality. Their acts of sin were just being atoned for – not truly forgiven once and for all – because they had to keep coming back to the temple year after year. So what was missing? The death of sin. Hebrews shows us that when Jesus willingly placed Himself on the cross, sin was dealt with in the most final and complete manner. As Jesus stated as He died "It is finished."

Spend your time with Him today in an attitude of thanksgiving and praise for the understanding that He has revealed to you these past nine days.

**DAY 5** READ ROMANS 5:6; MARK 15:25; MATTHEW 27:51-52

Jesus was crucified when?

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What are some of the things that happened when He died?

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Does this say anything to you about God's sovereignty?

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Could we say the perfecting sacrifice occurred at exactly the precise time for all mankind?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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# “HOW WAS MY PROBLEM GOING TO GET FIXED?”

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## DAY 6 — READ LUKE 1:26-35; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

If Christ died as the perfect sacrifice at the precise time, how did He conquer sin?

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Did He have a sinful nature? If no, how can you validate that?

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If Joseph had actually been Jesus’ father, what would He have possessed?

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Could He have taken care of my problem?

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Share your thoughts based on the answers to these questions:

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## SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT ACCOMPANIED THE DEATH OF CHRIST

### **Darkness Over the Whole Earth**

The darkness on the day of Jesus' crucifixion occurred during the time of a full moon, making it impossible to be a natural eclipse. There is no natural explanation for the darkness on that day. I cannot imagine how foreboding those three hours surely seemed.

This darkness that we read about in Mark 15:33 and Mathew 27:45 occurred during the final hours of the crucifixion of Jesus, when he became the living sacrifice for our sins – a sin offering. From nine that morning until the noon hour, all those in attendance could clearly see what was happening to Jesus as he suffered on the cross.

Once the noon hour arrived, a sudden darkness began to cover the scene. This darkness is also mentioned in Acts 2:20 where it says the darkness will foreshadow the coming of the Lord.

In the Old Testament, darkness often preceded death. Recall the story in Exodus 10:21-22 where the land was covered in darkness for three days. That was followed by the death of all firstborn sons in Exodus 11:4-5.

### **The Veil Of The Temple Was Split From Top To Bottom**

In the early days of our study, we learned the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin – to surely die. Death was the penalty from the first covenant relationship of God and man. They were cut off from the garden by an angel guard flashing a flaming sword.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple was split from top to bottom. There was no longer a need for separation – the Holy place that only a high priest could see one time a year, was no more. The veil of severance no longer prevented the people from drawing near to God. No matter if they were Jew or Gentile, the door to heaven is now open.

## SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT ACCOMPANIED THE DEATH OF CHRIST

*continued...*

### **The Middle Lamp of the Menorah Was Mysteriously Extinguished**

The golden lampstand known as the Menorah, was located on the south side of the holy place inside the temple. It had seven branches, each branch holding a lamp. The middle lamp was known as the Lamp of God (also the Western Lamp). According to the Jewish Encyclopedia, the Lamp of God was mysteriously extinguished forty years before the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. The Jewish Talmud also records that the Western Lamp (the middle light of the lampstand) refused to burn the forty years before the temple destruction (30 AD-70 AD). It seems probable that this miracle resulted from Jesus death in 30 AD. Remember, Jesus claimed He was the light of the world on several occasions. (John 8:12; 9:5; etc.)

### **OTHER EVENTS YOU CAN RESEARCH ON YOUR OWN:**

- **Doors of the Temple Mysteriously Opened by Themselves**
- **The Legend of Azazel**
- **Earthquake Accompanied Jesus Death**