

Come to Understanding

**They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding,
and they that murmured shall learn doctrine. — Isaiah 29:24**

December 14, 2011

Volume 10 Number 24

The Savior of the World

The following short verse has ignited a firestorm of global controversy:

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
-Genesis 1

If it is true that the heaven and the earth were created by God, then we, and all of the rest of creation, are subject to Him. If, as many hope, this is not true, then He cannot claim us as His own and we would not be subject to His dominion and control.

In order to reject Him as the Creator, we must also reject Yahweh and His Word:

18 For thus says Yahweh that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* Yahweh; and *there is none else*. -Isaiah 45

He formed the earth to be inhabited by those that are called by His name for His glory:

7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yes, I have made him. -Isaiah 43

He created all things for His pleasure:

11 You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created. -Revelation 4

All of the heavens are to praise Him:

1 Praise you Yah. Praise you Yahweh from the heavens: praise him in the heights. -Psalms 148

He created them. Therefore, they are to praise His name:

5 Let them praise the name of Yahweh: for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He has also established them forever and ever: he has made a decree which shall not pass. -Psalms 148

Likewise all of the earth is to praise His name, which is the only one that is excellent:

13 Let them praise the name of Yahweh: for his name alone is excellent; his glory *is* above the earth and heaven.

14 He also exalts the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; *even* of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise you Yah. -Psalms 148

Praises are the freewill offerings of our mouths. As such, they are offered from love and not from obligation:

108 Accept, I beseech you, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Yahweh, and teach me your judgments.
-Psalms 119

He wants us to love Him from the depths of our hearts, with everything that is within us:

5 And you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.
-Deuteronomy 6

That is also how He wants us to praise Him:

1 Bless Yahweh, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name. -Psalms 103

How can we, however, know if we are blessing Him with praises from the depths of all that is within us unless we know that we love Him with all of our hearts? David asked Yahweh to search his heart and his thoughts to find out if there was any “wicked way” in him:

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. -Psalms 139

Yahweh uses trials to reveal the contents of our hearts. He created Satan, whose name means “Adversary,” and allows him to tempt and try us. Our response to Satan’s devices helps us to see more clearly our need for repentance.

The Adversary began his work disguised as a beguiling serpent in the Garden of Eden, where he tested the hearts of Adam and Eve. They failed the test. However, instead of accepting responsibility for their sin and coming to repentance, each of them sought to cover it up, to hide from Yahweh’s presence, and even to shift the blame onto someone else:

12 And the man said, The woman whom you gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And Yahweh God said unto the woman, What *is this that* you have done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. -Genesis 3

Therefore, Yahweh sent them away from His presence, away from the “Tree of Life:”

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. -Genesis 3

**So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense,
and caused them to understand the reading. — Nehemiah 8:8**

Come to Understanding

Sadly, through the unrepented sin of Adam, and his wife, Eve, we all became sinners. Without access to the “Tree of Life,” we were not only destined for physical death, but also for spiritual death, as well, by separation from Yahweh. Paul explains:

12 Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: -Romans 5

Therefore, we are born as children of the flesh, in the sin that we inherited from Adam. When we try to convince ourselves of our sinlessness, we fail to recognize the truth that we are all sinners:

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. -1 John 1

Job is a good example of someone that struggled because he was unable to see that which was in his heart. Unknown to him was a seed of prideful self-righteousness which he believed he had attained because of his goodness. Therefore, he seemed to be sharing in the glory that only belonged to Yahweh. To help Job to refocus his life, Yahweh allowed Satan to put him through many trials and afflictions:

6 And Yahweh said to Satan, Behold, he *is* in your hand; but save his life. -Job 2

The trials that Yahweh allowed Satan to put Job through were successful! After his afflictions, Job saw more clearly the glory of Yahweh and repented of his own self-righteousness:

6 Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes. -Job 42

Likewise, David often found himself overcome with pride. Therefore, Yahweh allowed Satan to put many temptations before him. In one example of a trial of his pride, Satan tempted David to number Israel:

1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. -1 Chronicles 21

In another account of the same event, we realize that it was Yahweh that had allowed Satan to tempt David:

1 And again the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. -2 Samuel 24

David failed the test and numbered Israel. Once he yielded to the temptation of Satan and sinned, he could more clearly

see his prideful heart. David was tested many times and he failed many of those tests. Each time, however, he was able to see more clearly his sinful heart, for which he repented.

We are certainly no better than Job or David. The sin of Adam is part of our nature. Our condition is so pitiful that Isaiah describes us as an “unclean *thing*.” Our righteousness is as nothing, even being called “as filthy rags:”

6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. -Isaiah 64

Regardless of what some may teach, we are unable to remove our own sins. Even the Jewish scribes and Pharisees recognized that only God can forgive sins:

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? -Luke 5

Our only hope is for God to miraculously intervene to save us from our sins. Therefore, Yahweh declares that He is our Savior!

11 I, *even* I, *am* Yahweh; and besides me *there is* no savior. -Isaiah 43

For this cause, He offered a miraculous sign, revealing that He would come as “Immanuel,” meaning “God with us:”

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. -Isaiah 7

He was born as a child by the Spirit of God through the flesh of man. Therefore, He was both the Son of God and the Son of Man. He came as Yahweh the Savior (Yahshua, which has been traditionally translated as Jesus) in the form of a man to save us from our sins:

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name YAHSHUA: for he shall save his people from their sins. -Matthew 1

As we believe that He paid for our sins with His blood, He who created all things also forgives us of our sins:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they are* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. -Colossians 1

Through Him, we have regained access to the “Tree of Life” and now have the promise of eternal life!

21 That as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Yahshua the Messiah our Lord. -Romans 5

John declares Him to be “the Savior of the world:”

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. -1 John 4

As His creation, we give Him glory. Praise you Yah!

Come to Understanding is sent out twice per month free of charge. To add someone to our list of readers, please contact us at:

Institute for Biblical and Historical Studies
P.O. Box 12, 114 East Main Street
Addison, Michigan 49220 U.S.A.
biblical@ibiblical.org

You may view this and past editions online at: www.ibiblical.org
Scriptures are from the:
Proper Name Version of the King James Bible.



©2011 Institute for Biblical and Historical Studies. All rights reserved.
You may freely copy this publication, provided you acknowledge its source and inform us of your use.