

# GOTT IST ANDERS

# GOD IS DIFFERENT 2

Revised and expanded edition of God is different

Peter Huemer, Wolfurt, July 2021

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## Foreword to God is Different 2

More than 40 years ago, I became increasingly aware that the God I experience in my life is much better than the one I believe in theologically. Increasingly, these 2 "gods" drifted apart. And it wasn't that I didn't find both "gods" in the Bible. But one question crystallized more and more: "Why does God need a killed Jesus to forgive us humans". I then faced an intractable issue of God's detached, wounded, super-pure holiness. As if I didn't have enough doubts, I was confronted with a pastor's question that plagued him himself, "Why was Jesus allowed to rise from the dead? " Increasingly, I realized that despite my knowledge of the Bible, I understood almost nothing. This would also have been the appropriate time to throw the theological hat on it. But I didn't want to give up on this God who was so present in my personal life. What followed were intense years of reading and listening to many, many books, papers and lectures. In time, the issues sorted themselves out, the "super right" answers stopped bugging me. I began to understand the theological house of cards of "both gods", but decisively different from the traditional gospel.

In "God is different I" I tried to show that it is time to take a closer look at the Christian message. In the meantime, some time has passed, and a revision has become more and more apparent, especially since several readers asked me to write for people who are not theologically educated, which is not easy with this topic.

Now, God's reputation is as bad as it has ever been. No matter how educated or uneducated, mocking God or simply ignoring him, viewing God as a cultural, mindless relic from old unenlightened times has become the new norm of

thought. After all, we live in the age of evolutionary thinking, and old, supposedly outdated thought patterns are simply disposed of.

At the same time, we are in the midst of a great social, economic, medical, and ideological upheaval that could well use a re-sharpened point of view. We all see how the world is almost falling apart. And yet, as soon as a conversation about God or even Jesus comes up, most of us fall silent or even become dismissive, as if we wanted to protect ourselves from stupidity, sectarianism, outdated fairy tales, as if such a conversation would mean a pure waste of time. All this in the face of the greatest upheavals.

The corona event showed a new form of opinion dominance. Democracy has now clearly outlived its usefulness; this "professional" politics, "I'm for it I'm against it," clearly bypasses the citizens and has produced a great deal of political disaffection. Economically, it is clear to everyone that a shakeout is now needed, and that it will be painful is also clear to everyone. The gender madness, not only in language, the ecological fault lines are alarming extremely loudly, religion against religion, foreigners against natives - everything is crying out for a solution to these problems. It cries out for a strong man, a liberator from this confused situation, a kind of messiah. And these are already ante portas. The Muslims expect their Iman Mahdi, the esoterics the Maitreya Christ, the Jews their people-glorifying Messiah, the Christians expect 2 Christs, the Antichrist, alias Lucifer and Jesus Christ, the Creator of this world, the Lawgiver, the Reconciler and the Judge, who shall be seen by all when he comes again. Because after the return of Jesus, this world is finished.

The apostle Paul writes about this:

*Now to the question of believers who have already died. .... For with a saying of the Lord I can assure you that they will not be at a disadvantage compared to us - as far as we are still alive at the Second Coming of the Lord. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven. A command will be called and the voice of an angelic prince and the sound of God's trumpet will be heard. Then those who have died believing in Christ will be resurrected first. After that, we who are still alive will be carried away with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And then we will be with him forever.* 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 17

*However, immediately after this terrible time, the sun will be eclipsed and the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will become unbalanced. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the nations of the earth will wail and lament, and then they will see the Son of Man coming from the clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels with a mighty sound of a trumpet to gather his elect from all directions and from all ends of the earth.* Matthew 24, 29 - 31

But this God has an imaginably bad reputation. People have become so accustomed to the "blessings" of God-freedom, in other words of self-determined arbitrariness, which assumes ever more grotesque proportions. The famous atheist Richard Dawkins remarked when he realized that evolutionist and agnostic religious liberation of people does not automatically produce a Judeo-Christian humanism, but anarchistic brutalities that are too much even for this atheist. *"If people do not know themselves observed, then they are capable of unbelievable brutalities", so his words.* Only, today this man with these remarks is no longer heard, he has successfully preached in the sense of evolutionist godlessness, *the "Moor has done his duty, he can go now".*

Against this background, I have decided to revise this book "God is different". Of course, this book is also written for Christians who are at home in the theological debate of various points of view, but this 2.edition is mainly intended to appeal to people who dare to venture into the terrain of the Bible for once, in order to see what is supposed to make the God of the Bible so unique and how one faces this God.

The Bible describes a God who, since the beginning, has made a clear offer to human beings - namely - to have a friendly relationship with Him - and that this relationship eclipses everything that wants to compete with this relationship with God.

*Because my plan for you is clear: I want your happiness and not your unhappiness. I have in mind to give you a future as you hope for it. You must turn to me and ask me for help, then I will hear you. You must seek me with all your heart, then I will let you find me... I, the Lord, say this!"* Jer. 29, 11 - 14

In other words, God means very well with us and desires for our benefit His character to be realized in our practical lives.

*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11, 28-30

In this book there are short chapters that are only meant as food for thought and there are longer sections that nevertheless want to show the complexity of this topic. How does God meet and treat us in real life, everyday life, in the intellectual challenge and in the spiritual need for recognition and affection and the deep

longing for the assurance that he has not overlooked us. **How does God manage to explain his trustworthiness to us?**

Wolfurt, April 2021



**Part 1: Is God trustworthy?** Discussion of 2 opposing concepts of reconciliation in Christian theology.

## Today

We all experience, how already our language is verballhornt, with the eternal citizen and citizens and voters and students etc, etc, etc, until one almost already gets a vomit before loud political anti-discrimination correctness. A 6000-year-old family tradition is broken up by making us believe that the standard family with father, mother and children is an outdated relic. One wants to "enrich" us with an *equal social product*, the future gender-neutral relationships. This is by no means being done on a voluntary basis, but is being forced upon the population with brute force, with the political crowbar, starting at kindergarten level. A deviating opinion to this Gender of the entire society is regarded as reactionary, as undemocratic, fascistic, nationalistic and in the highest measure intolerant and discriminating. At the same time, today's vociferous fighters for tolerance themselves take the most intolerant position when people still adhere to the standard family, which has obviously proven itself well over millennia. These are accused of hatred, stupid fundamentalism. Any derailment of the gender advocates is seen as necessary criticism of the patriarchy, whereas even delicate criticism or satire of the gender lifestyle is seen as a severely foreboding affront. In the toughness of the law, the seemingly only way to save this bizarre gender ideology over time is seen. Special hate laws have been enacted to silence factual critics of this ideology. The corona pandemic has once again demonstrated that what is constantly repeated and firmly asserted is true.

Since the French Revolution, God has been increasingly thrown out of schools, out of governments, and out of the general life of people in all countries. Only the blind no longer see the disappearance of morality, with the majority having good reasons for such tendencies. It is the absolute equality of ideologies, sexual

attitudes, types of relationships, life and death decisions, starting from the abortion industry, which according to Gutmacher Institute recorded over billion1,7 abortions in the last 60 years, to the promoted suicide on demand and certainly later **without** demand among the "not financially" expensive elderly in our society.

Because - if there is no God - then there is also no family founded by God, no 10 commandments or what else was seen as binding with a God in former times. The *free total self-determination is the new credo*. But amazingly, we have already become so intolerantly tolerant that no dissenting voice is allowed towards this absolute self-determination. Some taboos still exist, but even these are already crumbling. To mention are, abortion **after** birth and pedophilia. Both are desired or already tolerated in several circles.

We can easily recognize the polarizations in the world. It is not only sociological genderism with its aim to guarantee the evolutionist final goal, total arbitrariness, which will lead directly to total anarchy. There are increasingly loud protests on both sides of the ideological currents. More and more these protest clashes degenerate. The fight with arguments is abandoned and both poles increasingly tend toward violence. This tendency was foreseeable.

We have a large playground with ecology as well. Whereas in the past the Greens were vehement opponents of nuclear power, and people were prepared to be locked up and hurt rather than accommodate the nuclear lobby, this has changed massively today. Until recently, the simple light bulb was a symbol of wasted electricity, and it was moralized that electricity should be used in moderation. Now, with electromobility and 5G information technology, we have an enormous additional electricity load, which now makes "green" nuclear power acceptable

again. Environmental politicians can now claim this without blushing. Again, many see through this insanity and protest against it, and automatically they are in the conspiracy corner and are declared environmental opponents. Obviously, thinking is no longer desired.

This conflict of discrimination has also gained momentum in theology. On the one hand, we have total agnosticism in the schools of the Western world and, at the same time, with dwindling theological and/or spiritual interest, Christian and church communities are diminishing. On the other hand, radical denominational alignments are bringing this world to the religious precipice through the importation of majority non-integrationists. As a professing Christian, I certainly have sympathy to a certain extent for their non-integration, because where are these Muslim people supposed to integrate into - into counter-gendered, sexual amorality, into total godlessness, as central values of today's Occident? Would we want that for our own children?

But not enough with that, even in the religions or even more specifically in the religious currents, different forces are at work to turn everyone against each other. Emotions rule. The more foaming at the mouth, the better this polarization seems to go. Emotions dominate, and what falls by the wayside most is factual discussion. Trenches are opening up, it seems as if everything or all groupings are positioning themselves against each other and yet at the same time longing loudly for peace. Wasn't it nice when people still got along with each other, when they could follow other opinions with interest and learn from each other. That is over and it seems that the rifts will continue to open and deepen. It dawns on one more and more clearly that just such disputes would be desired or even already are.

Already at that time Pilate could do nothing with this term "truth" and asked Jesus disdainfully the rhetorical question "Well, what is truth". However, despite all the increasing atheistic and agnostic tendencies, the world society will not get past God. The wise Solomon puts it in a nutshell.

*He has arranged everything so that it is beautiful in its time. **He has also placed eternity in the heart of man.** But the work of God from the beginning to the end cannot be comprehended by a human being. I realized that they can do no better than to rejoice and enjoy life. When a person eats and drinks and sees something good with all his effort, it is a gift from God. I realized that everything God creates is forever. Man can add nothing to it and take nothing away from it. **God made it so that you look up to Him in awe.***

Ecclesiastes 3, 11 - 14

But the polarization of societies in various spheres is on the verge of slipping into the infamous anarchy, as at the time of the Great Terror during the French Revolution. It seems as if we all want to see the madness of such a development - with the logical line of thought - we need a new morality, a godliness of some kind, a common denominator, a theologically generally acceptable compromise to save mankind and the planet. A world religion, a world government, which certainly has nothing to do with democracy, but aims at an iron regiment under a "charismatic" leader. At least that is what the Christians expect with the wonder-orgiastic Antichrist.

This book will not fill in any ditches either, because today a factual discussion is completely undesirable. Party colors, church and ideological loyalty are desired and no intellectual debate, and certainly not with the outdated concept of "truth".

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who declare darkness to be light and light to be darkness, who make bitter sweet and sweet bitter. Woe to those who think themselves wise and think they are understanding. Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant in mixing strong drink. They make the wicked righteous by a bribe, and the righteous they take away their right.*

Isaiah 5, 22 - 23

Our present time cannot be described better than by the biblical prophet Isaiah. Perhaps we realize that today a clear position is required again, not only in the family and in the circle of friends, but in the whole life in general?

Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet who witnessed the coming and going of godly and godless kings and stood up on God's behalf against the degenerate Israelite religion, writes the following:

*For many times we have transgressed against you, and our sins accuse us! Yes, we are aware of our offenses, we know our guilt: unfaithfulness and denial of Yahweh, turning away from our God, speaking of violent deeds and sedition, getting pregnant with words of lies and then pushing them out of the heart. Thus, justice was suppressed and righteousness withdrew. Truth comes down in the marketplace, probity is no longer in demand. Thus truth is missed among us, and he who shuns evil is robbed. Yahweh has seen all this, and he is displeased that there is no longer any right. He sees that no one stirs, and is surprised that no one intervenes. Then he intervenes with his own hand, supported by his own truthfulness.* Isaiah 59, 12 - 16

Isaiah is surprised at the then rampant arbitrariness and barbaric, almost anarchic violence in the people of Israel, the actual model people of God, that no one is

there to defend the living God, or to stand up for him or his values. Then it is succinctly said that God himself intervenes, he helps himself, if no one in the people of God has the courage to stand up for God.

But why should this book be important for people? From a very simple reason. **The political future is becoming religious.** Whether we like it or not.

## What is the big issue not only in today's world?

Superficially we see Corona, Corona and Corona again in the mainstream media, we hear about a Great Reset, eco-social market economy, common good economy or how conservation of nature is emphasized over and over again. We hear about global warming, anti-racism, anti-discrimination, and human rights. Human rights, which in reality mean a catastrophe and put the mainstream of people after unhindered living out of personal egoism on the highest pedestal. The whole thing is garnished over and over again with proclamations of democratic culture, which we are just now witnessing being carried to its grave. What is the result of this permanent panic and fear mongering? **People lose trust in everything**, in fellow citizens who don't wear masks, who stand too close to each other, who don't yet drive a Co2 neutral (?) electric car, everything is distrusted. In reality, we have an atomization, a pulverization of our relationships, familial, business, political, denominational - simply in every area and there the area with a God relationship is not excluded at all. Who still trusts the parties to live together democratically, who still trusts recently concluded marriages, friendships, business relationships, who still trusts God to have this confusion under control? **Who still trusts God at all?**

Before they decide whether to read on or not, I would like to formulate some fixed points for them:

1. The world as we know it is coming to an end that cannot be brought back.  
God will destroy this world and everything humans have ever built.
2. Until then, we have a communist dictatorship (common good economy) with lies, distortions that will rule with the elements of coercion, duress, bribery, manipulation, etc. etc.



3. All of this is supported by a world-saving ethic.
4. People who do not join in the world salvation hymn, who wait for God and the New Earth that God has promised, they are pressured, criminalized, stigmatized and persecuted.

These above points are a summary of the three chapters of Revelation 12 - 14

Revelation, Chapter **12** :

Persecution of people who, out of respect for the Creator, adhere to God's recommendations for living (commandments and law of love) and, of course, especially for their own benefit.

Revelation, Chapter **13** :

Conspiracy of the religious and political, anti-God powers with the main elements of deception and coercion and the "worship" of creation/nature, the totalitarian world salvation is demanded by force.

Revelation, Chapter **14** :

Last great, threefold warning message to all people to make up their minds. God, the Creator and Judge, has passed judgment on the anti-God powers and will very soon, when people have decided which side they want to be on, close this world chapter. Catastrophes will accelerate these decisions. If you have nothing at all to do with these points, then please put the book aside and observe the future carefully. They will recognize that these 4 points become reality. (But before you put the book aside, read at the end of the book "The 3 last great warnings of God to mankind", especially what I have written about the 13th chapter of Revelation). But when you realize that the above points are coming

true, then please pick up this book again, because then you will surely understand what I am writing about in this book.

With all the discussion about God, it all distills down to one question: **Can we trust God across the way?**

If, from God's side, the ultimate goal for us human beings is to live eternally with God, then it should at least be possible to like such a God. Normally, a couple does not get married even if they do not like each other, leaving aside the former arranged marriages. If we do not like a partner, why should we enter into a decades-long marriage? How much more should we be able to or should we like the God in heaven if we are or would be connected to Him for an eternity?

Of course, I know that many Christians don't think about it, they have a theological construct in their head which they have stopped questioning. And with some simple minds, God doesn't expect that either. But the fact alone that Jesus went massively into court with the theological establishment shows us that the real character of God, which Jesus made us experience, was of decisive importance for Jesus. For it was not for nothing that he said, *"I have come to bear witness to the truth,"* that is, to set the character of God straight in the minds of believers. This is what is attempted in a modest way in this book. What is interesting about trusting God is that God comes off better in the lives of most God-oriented people than in theoretical, theological explanations, and it is equally amazing that people can accept something without understanding it, because in reality they do not attach any importance to theoretical considerations, but simply try to establish a kind of personal close relationship with God, and this even in defiance of theoretical, dogmatic considerations. And these are not only people who are simple-minded.

People who did not have a harmonious childhood certainly have a harder time building trust in life, but guaranteed basic trust is not in the package insert at birth. And yet the highest thing you can experience is when you experience full trust or can give it yourself. It is a liberation beyond compare, you feel as if you are getting the famous Red Bull wings, as if all problems seem irrelevant, a moment of deep peace, a serenity that surpasses anything imaginable. Every person knows what I'm talking about, because this is the synonym for happiness, fulfilled desire.

When Jesus speaks of coming again, he emphasizes again and again that then the time of thinking about where one wants to be located will be over. Do I want to have anything to do with God at all or is that at the bottom of my list of priorities?

For some, a trusting relationship with God is too little scientific, like an intellectual headshot, for others it is too stupid, too sanctimonious, too weird. Not a few academics see - in taking the Bible at hand - a kind of high treason to the intellect. Life would have to have hit hard for one to do such a thing. And quite honestly, it's not relevant to God either. That would be a very small, if not a small-minded God, would he let himself be stopped by a rejection behavior towards the Bible, or towards himself, to address these people anyway.

Stephen Covey, a world-renowned management consultant consulted by people from all schools of thought and levels of influence, wanted one question answered: Is there such a thing as a collective conscience, or at least elemental moral consciousness that transcends religions, races, societies and walks of life? He interviewed people from all classes, religions, skin colors, political systems and ideologies.

The result is surprising. All people want to be respected, do not want their lives touched, want to see their opportunities preserved, do not want to be deceived and cheated, do not want to be stolen from, want to see their religious orientation respected and do not want to be aggressively envied. At least as far as they were concerned. The picture changed when these needs were also related to others, there were definitely other views.

When Jesus formulated this natural wisdom in the Sermon on the Mount: **"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, you also do to them; for this is the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12)** - he was referring to this truth that has been valid for millennia.

With ourselves, we know how it should go, and we know it clearly, crystal clear. But not only is it written on our own face, "Don't kill me," but it is written on every other face as well. And these rules of nature are known by every person when he or she grows up - without exception. The conscience is the controlling instrument of this elementary knowledge. Through free will, we, as people more or less free in personality, decide whether or not to respond to the voice of conscience. Through the conscience God has direct access to us and no human being can turn off this caller. As long as we live, we hear the conscience, even against our will. God also manages to reach every human being through our elementary knowledge, through this natural need, which is the same for all human beings, despite the cultural, religious and ideological superstructures about the conscience.

*Eternal glory, however, and honor and peace will be given to those who do good. This also applies first to Jews, but then also to all other people. For with God there is no favoritism of any kind. All people who sin and have no relationship with the*

*law of God will go to ruin even without the law. And all who sin in spite of the law will be condemned by it. For not those who hear what the law says will be declared innocent by God, but those who do what it requires. And now, when people from Gentile peoples who have no relationship with the law of God act on their own accord as the law demands, they carry the law within them. In doing so, they prove that the demands of the law are written in their hearts. This is also shown by their conscience and by the conflict of their thoughts, which accuse or even excuse each other. The day of judgment will bring this to light, the day when God will judge the hidden things of men through Jesus Christ. This is how it corresponds to the good news entrusted to me.*

Romans 2, 10 - 16

Much of ideology, of religion, is so slanted that not a few people have rejected religious life and have returned to the relationship of conscience with God, which in the end must also be walked by the believers, however positioned. Each funnel is wide at the outer edge, but very narrow at the lower end, The wide area describes the many life concepts, religions and ideologies. This narrow area is the conscience relationship with God, which does not differ by anything in a Bible believer or a different-thinking, agnostic or differently oriented religious person.

As a believer in the Son of God, I see great advantages in a solid knowledge of the Bible, just as it is an advantage to have learned to eat with a knife and fork. But not to strain this comparison too much, you can also get food into your mouth with your fingers or a spoon.

Years ago, I was visited by a cherished friend who, unfortunately, did not always know who his wife was. He asked me what he should do, whether he should stay with the married woman or start over with the now additional girlfriend. I gave

him the following answer, "I'll give you a perfect answer now"! Then he sat back, smiled and said, "Well, let's hear that perfect answer sometime". I replied to him. "Just do what you knew was right before you came to me". The smile disappeared and the friend confirmed that he knew it was right before. Oh, miracles! Do we really need someone to explain this to us? No, because we know, as we grow up and our conscience grows, that cheating on your spouse, betraying someone you value and trust, is not possible, and we don't need to quote the Bible or consult a clergyman. We simply know it, and **all people** know it.

Bible knowledge means only advantage, nothing else. Agnostic people can live much closer to the character of God than some Bible enthusiasts. Our confession for or against God of whatever kind always comes into the decisive relationship stretch with God, the realm of conscience decisions, even if we even aggressively reject it, or even fight it.

Of course, there are enough weird stories in the Bible that on the surface quickly lead to a pejorative judgment. But what actually prevents people from facing God or, to put it more strongly, from getting involved with him? Very rarely does anyone deny the supernatural, but building a trusting relationship with a discredited God is quite another hurdle.

A major issue that makes people keep their distance from the God of the Bible is the conviction of Bible-believing Christians that mankind is no older than about 6,000 years. Here literally explodes ridicule and scorn. Galaxies, which are billions of light years old and in addition still another earth, which is substantially older than 6000 years and then Christian and Jewish know-it-alls come along and maintain everything is only 6000 years old.

Creation is now considered one of the most bizarre stupidities. If there is talk about this topic, it becomes mostly embarrassingly quiet, one is perhaps still polite to hide the contempt of such "stupid" views. And yet I personally believe in the 7 day creation, not because I am too stupid to intellectually put one foot in front of the other, but because reason demands it. I am convinced of a Creator God, and not from a naive gushing, but with the gift that God has given us, with the mind. It is precisely our intellect that should be used when we approach God, because if God has created the intellect with which we can also understand Him, then we should also approach the nature of God with this same intellect, and check whether the character of God is not trustworthy after all.

Just as there is evolutionist science, there is also a very serious creation science and that in genetics, immunology, biology as a whole, astronomy, geology, physics and chemistry. Only because a creation science is talked down and badly, this does not mean that the evolution science is not in reality a scientifically dressed up religion substitute. But in a science-illusionist world it is quite understandable that people, who reject a creator for intellectual reasons, cannot build up a trust relationship to this rejected God in the same train. But to the objectification, also in creationism there are different currents just like in the evolution ideology.

The problem that these people almost all share is not being able to understand God's power to create and shape things. Many cannot imagine the power of creation, God's creative possibilities and His omnipotence. Many cannot even reject the power of creation. It is simply beyond their imagination. **The main problem with creation is human myopia about God's creative power.** Because if God exists an eternity already, it is obvious that this God was also creatively active in the past. Galaxies after galaxies God has created and who says that our universe

is the only existing universe, only because our technical means cannot grasp this? Why should there not also be many parallel universes? Also Stephen Hawkins described, even if differently justified, the possibility of the parallel universes.

We have thousands of events that fall under the heading - **not possible for humans**. This, let's call it very neutral for once, power, can create worlds, rearrange, order and reorganize again as it wants. It can help people to lead a God-fearing life, it can protect people or withdraw protection from them.

The history of Israel is full of these stories. A few examples so that this may be better understood.

God, who embodies this power, enabled Sarah, who was already long out of childbearing age, to have a child. In doing so, God argues: **should anything be impossible for God?** God killed by **an** angel, and not by a human hand, the firstborn in Egypt. He warned the Egyptians of this, it would be hard and harder if they did not give in and let the people of Israel go. He parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could get to the other side of the sea with dry feet. He caused the walls of Jericho to fall down by the trumpets and shouting of the Israelites, revealed himself dramatically at Mount Carmel at the judgment of God. God raised Lazarus from the dead, the young man in Nain, the daughter of Jairus, healed the seriously ill, a man born blind, and he preserved the Christian movement until today.

It says: "***and God created the heavens and the earth!***", but this does not mean that he created the whole universe or all universes anew, but it was in his power to organize the planets as he thought it good and that the earth was protected to function as we know it today.



*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness lay over the deep, and the spirit of God hovered over the surging waters. Then God said, "Let there be light!" And the light came into being.*

Genesis 1:1-3

*The earth is full of the goodness of Yahweh. By Yahweh's word the heavens came into being, all his host by the breath of his mouth. He grasps the waters of the sea as with a dam; in chambers he puts the floods. All the earth fear Yahweh; before him shall the inhabitants of the earth tremble! **For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood!** Yahweh breaks the resolutions of the nations, thwarts their proud thoughts. The counsel of Yahweh endures forever, the plans of his heart outlast time. Psalm 33, 6 - 11*

God has verifiably predicted that the forces of heaven will change massively in the future, then the earth will reel, and everyone will notice that. God will let everyone experience that he can very well do what he wants with the planets. He can protect the earth with a planetary belt, or change the planetary belt and torpedo the earth from space with whatever. In the end, it is said that the heavens will roll up like a scroll, that is, God will reorganize the planetary system, which was created by Him trillions of years ago, according to His will. The same will happen when he will create a new world and a new heaven with a new planetary protective belt, just as the new earth needs to be kept in a steady course. Because the moment God wills it, it will happen.

*When the Lamb broke the sixth seal, a severe tremor shook the earth. The sun became dark as a sack of sorrow and the moon suddenly appeared red as of blood. **Then stars fell from the sky to the earth like figs shaken by a storm. The sky disappeared like a scroll rolled up,** and no mountain or island remained in its place.*

*Then the kings of the earth, the rulers and the generals, the rich and the powerful, as well as all other people - slaves and free - hid. They hid in caves and crevices and pleaded with the mountains and rocks: "Fall on us and hide us from the sight of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For now the dreadful day of their wrath has come. Who can stand?"* Revelation 6:12 - 14

God knows exactly that his creation power is questioned by many science-oriented or even science-believing people. World saving programs are accepted everywhere, however, even if God says that he will destroy this world actively, with everything what the people worship so, the nature, the financial power, all the sanctuaries and idols of the human intellect, the daydreams of the experimental physics with their fairy tales for adults. God will show all people that he can do what he wants with the often praised planetary protection belt around the earth. If God changes this, then gigantic disasters will arise. The self-made future is over!

Why will God do this? To let people experience their idols and to disenchant their delusion of feasibility. He brings the consequences of their futile gods back into their own lives? and in the process he lets us humans experience dramatically that he can do whatever he wants with planets. At some point, the simplest people will understand that there will be nothing left of the world, because God does not want to leave anything of the godlessness and idols of us humans. It will be like in a wine press. The pressure gets higher and higher during pressing and the last bit of juice is squeezed out until an increase in pressure means no more juice, that is, the pressing process is over.

*Yahweh lays waste the earth and sweeps it empty; he disfigures its face and scatters its inhabitants. Then the priest will be like the people, the slave like the*

*master, the maid like the mistress, the buyer like the seller, the borrower like the lender, the debtor like the creditor. The earth will be completely empty and plundered, for Yahweh has passed judgment. The earth decays and rots, the circle of the world withers, and the mighty also perish. Profaned lies the earth among its inhabitants, for they have transgressed God's law, disregarded his ordinances, and made void the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has consumed the earth, and the inhabitants atone for their guilt. They fade away, consumed by embers. **Only a tiny remnant of the people remains.** ....Treulose know no loyalty! Only breach of faith, embezzlement and disloyalty! Horror and fear, pitfall and catch net expect the inhabitants of the world. Who flees from the screams of terror, falls into the pit, and who can save himself from the pit, gets caught in the net. **The floodgates of heaven open, it shakes the foundations of the world. Bursting, the earth tears open, it breaks and shatters, it staggers and sways, it staggers like a drunkard, sways like a night hut in the field, for its iniquity lies heavy upon it. She falls and does not rise again. On that day Yahweh calls to account the spiritual powers of the invisible world and the earthly rulers of the earth.** Isaiah 24:1 - 21*

God will start this pressing very soon, catastrophes will increase, people will be put under pressure, increasingly they will realize, no matter how they behave, this has no influence on nature, our well-being, we see all the hoped for and planned things disintegrate, we lose all hope for an improvement on this earth and then we will increasingly witness the power of God and how he rearranges the planets.

Here then still few people can decide and recognize the creator power of God and ask him to protect them. Then people will recognize, God has all power to build and has all power to destroy, he gives the most stubborn of the science believers a last chance to acknowledge him as creator God and to go under his protection. But knowledge of God's power to create does not mean trust in God. For

knowledge is not trust, but it is a giant step in that direction, because: If God is powerful to create everything like this, then other things about God could also be true. Then it's just a matter of a little thing. Can I overcome my pride and acknowledge the divine reality, or do I even lastly remain in my pride and not admit my error and rather go into the middle of my downfall. As irrational as it sounds, most people decide with great certainty for the 2nd way. This has nothing to do with intelligence, but with the willingness to admit having been elementally wrong. Of course, this is humiliating, but it saves lives.

As said, nevertheless, many today smile at a creator God and reject him. But when the pressure of catastrophes increases, when God starts to actively destroy the earth with its human idols, then people will still be aggressive against Bible believers at first, blaming them for all this. But the world destruction pressure will increase until it can no longer be denied. Then not a few will change sides and ask God not to destroy them, they will ask for forgiveness for persecuting the faithful, for blaspheming and mocking and ask God to protect them. God will gladly forgive them, since He only made this pressure so that these people would still get a chance to decide. However, the majority of people will remain in hatred of God and they will not turn to reconciliation with God, but will blaspheme Him even more because they have completely identified with Lucifer's character. The majority will reject God in spite of all that has happened, the experience that God very well has the power to move planets as it suits him. Not because they don't realize that God has all the power on earth, but because they reject His character. They would rather be nothing more than to live according to the creation instructions. Those who change to God's side at the last minute, they will no longer philosophize cleverly seven times. Then there will be no more theological or pseudo-scientific or evolutionist discussions - only one question: **Am I under the protection of Jesus Christ?** For they will realize, they will understand in a few

moments, that their protection from the final, God-made catastrophes is to be found only in Jesus Christ. In the same way, all of them, even those who have trusted God for many years, will have the same and only need to ask God to protect them in this hard time of the final plagues. They have no desire, nor need, to talk about denominational trench warfare.

At the end of this "pressing process", when everything goes haywire, **all** still living, God-oriented people have only one worry. **Are they under the protection of Jesus Christ?**

*But the people who survived this plague were not willing to change their attitude. They did not stop worshipping demons and prostrating themselves before images of gods made of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood, which they had made with their own hands and which could neither see nor hear nor walk. **No, they did not turn back, they did not stop murdering, engaging in occult things, having extramarital sex and stealing.*** Revelation 9:20, 21

*The fourth angel poured out his bowl over the sun and the people were scorched by its embers. The heat was so bad that it burned the skin on their bodies. **Then they blasphemed God, who was responsible for these plagues, and cursed His name. But they did not change their attitude and refused to give God the honor that was due to Him.*** The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast. Then his whole kingdom was plunged into darkness and people bit their tongues in agony. ***They cursed God in heaven because of their pains and their boils. Yet they did not repent of their deeds.... A terrible hailstorm fell upon the earth; chunks of ice fell from heaven upon the people, heavy as tents. And the people cursed God because of the hail, which was an extraordinarily terrible plague on them.*** Revelation 16:8 - 11; 21

*Remember: I have foretold everything to you. So, if they say to you: 'Look, he is out in the desert,' do not go out! Or: 'Look, here he is in the house! ', then do not believe it! For when the Son of Man returns, it will be like lightning lighting up the whole horizon. .... But immediately after that terrible time, the sun will be darkened and the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will become unbalanced. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the nations of the earth will wail and lament, and then they will see the Son of Man coming from the clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels with a mighty sound of a trumpet to gather his elect from all directions and from all ends of the earth. Matthew 24, 26 - 31*

The problem that many people have is that they massively underestimate the power of God, His miraculous power, His creative power or what His will alone can do, over and over again.

*We proclaim as it is written, "What no eye has ever seen, and no ear has ever heard, and what has never entered a man's mind, God has in store for those who love him."*

1 Corinthians 2:9

*Therefore, take to heart what the Holy Spirit says: "Today, when you hear the voice of God, do not close yourselves off to His speaking, as the people did in the wilderness on the day when they rebelled against Him. " Hebrews 3:7*

All those who side with God will witness God's act of re-creation of a new earth and a new heaven, and **not** the entire universe.

All people will have reached the end of the funnel, where only one question remains: Do we have protection in Jesus Christ or not?

But today it is extremely far away for most people to affirm such a subject. God-freedom seems inconsequential and, moreover, unrivaled, and the religious leaders don't seem to inspire confidence either. Religious zealots hardly take them seriously. But also political truth ministries, like the World Health Organization - WHO, the United Nations as a "peace project" with its human rights to be questioned do not arouse the confidence of the population. Who is this God actually, does he really deserve our trust? I have experienced, as it is written, if we seek him with all our heart and mind, then we will recognize him as he really is.

*For I know what I have in mind for you,' says Yahweh. I have peace in mind for you and no evil. I will give you a future and give you hope. Then when you call to me, when you come and pray to me, I will hear you. If you seek me, you will find me. Yes, if you ask for me with all your heart, I will let you find me,' says Yahweh.*  
Jeremiah 29:11 - 13

No theological acrobatics, no regurgitation of indigestible theological fare! Although I certainly have not fathomed all the weird stories in the Bible, but the ones I have fathomed give me reason to believe that understanding the outstanding "bizarrenesses" in the Bible will be as much fun as understanding the main concerns of God for us humans.

If we are not ignorantly blinded, we recognize that we have left a more or less narrow or wide trail of blood in our lives. Starting from the unkindnesses to the verbal injuries that we have given to our loved ones, from the breaches of trust,

the capricious ending of otherwise valuable relationships, from our dishonesties, to the disrespect to our parents, superiors but also to our God. If we do not pass by ignorantly, we know reconciliation over all the hurtfulness we have hosted would be a tremendous balm, especially for our wounded soul. What do we want in our so mendacious time, who is really interested in us?

**Isn't it time to approach the most repressed issue, the trustworthiness of God, because if we cannot trust God, then there are no satisfactory answers to our elementary human questions.**

Unfortunately, the Christian churches have not helped make this an easy endeavor. They will have to start this on their own with God if they really want to be successful and not get theological brainwashing.

**But, if God is, then He is strong and influential enough to help them do so.**



## Questions that put a finger in the wound.

Recently the thought did not let me go, why did the theologians from the Sanhedrin hate Jesus so much that they only wanted to see him dead. I had never consulted the Bible about this until then. So I thoroughly examined the 4 Gospels just for this question. Only then I understood what the Gospel of John is about, what the main theme of this Gospel is: Jesus is the Creator God, Yahweh in ancient Israel, the Lawgiver in Moses, the Reconciler of all times and the returning Judge for all people. He is God!

Questions God asked me were a nice piece of work each time, but with each answer I additionally understood some other questions lingering in my mind. Questions that we can't answer from the hip usually require a more intensive study of the Bible. On the other hand, that always has a nice amount of additional knowledge in the bag.

In all our actions, we occasionally ask ourselves the question: Does this promote trust or not? With our spouses, we occasionally think, against our better judgment, that our Pro Familia decisions are, of course, the very best thing for everyone. But riding roughshod over our partners has never promoted trust, whether our decisions were good in principle or not. Riding roughshod over has never brought people together well. How often have we had to adopt theological thinking in the same way because it just had to be right? This affects many people in their churches. Not because there has to be any malice there, but at "truth" the fun stops in almost all churches. After all, it is about the truth, at least the denominational truth. For example, with such a large number of texts that

emphasize or at least favor a "substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ," can one still get the idea of believing that the Gospel can be read differently?!?

I thought the same thing at the beginning. But the Holy Spirit asked some questions that called for answers, but which were not to be found in the catechisms or manuals of the churches. Certainly, by now I have a different eye for these questions, a different sensitivity, at least today. A good 40 years ago, I was not in a position and hopelessly overwhelmed to even begin to answer these questions, but they have never left my thinking:

If Jesus expects us to lovingly forgive all people, and not just once, but 7 x 70 times, and even our enemies, because then we would be perfect, like the Father in heaven, why can't the Father forgive us like that, without anyone dying in our place?

If the chapter 1 Corinthians 13 represents the character of God, that is, love in its purest form, that He does not avenge Himself, does not impute evil, even loves enemies and is infinitely patient, why is there a final judgment where He separates the good from the bad and extinguishes the wicked into the fire? How can we understand such a thing?

If he does not hold anything against me, why is there so much blood in the sacrificial cult and, in addition, Jesus killed?

Why is God not as good as we are, because we do not need dead people to forgive?

If God in the Old Testament is always anxious to set Himself apart from the Baal cult and human sacrifice is an abomination to Him, why does He require Abraham to sacrifice his own son Isaac?

Several times God emphasizes that sacrificing innocent people did not even occur to him and that he even had the Jewish people exterminated because he did not want to forgive the arbitrary murder of innocent children and adults anymore and just he himself should want his innocent son as a reconciliation sacrifice as a central theme for the relationship with mankind?

If the sin/guilt offering was to help get forgiveness with God, why did he repeatedly express that he was sick of these offerings?

If we take the writer of Hebrews seriously and read that "the blood of goats could never take away sins," what was the purpose of the sacrificial service if it was useless for the forgiveness of sins?

Did the sacrifices mean something quite different, as the Gospel, accustomed to tradition, sees in the sacrificial system a foreshadowing of Jesus' "sacrificial death"?

If Jesus was the sacrificial lamb, why didn't the high priest kill Him on the altar?

Why was Jesus murdered like a criminal by the Romans. A crime ordered by the high priest of Yahweh's church, the people of the Jews? Is this a worthy setting for a true Passover lamb?

When it is said that Jesus took upon Himself all our infirmities, why...

was he not then crippled, blind and deaf, or had leprosy?

If the price of sin is the 2nd death from which no one comes back, that is, eternal extinction, then why did Jesus rise from the dead if he died in our place?

If Jesus says why he came, why do we ignore the many statements about the meaning of his coming and reduce his coming only to a text that addresses his death?

When Jesus was interrogated by Pilate, he explained to Pilate that he had come to testify for the truth. Why, then, did he not explain to him the Christian, believed truth, that he had come only to die vicariously for all people and, of course, also for him, Pilate?

If vicarious death was the goal, why does he say to Pilate that those who delivered him into his hands were more guilty than he, Pontius Pilate?

If vicarious death was the goal, why is it that any of the murderers and accusers are guilty at all and are not given the status of executioners, who in turn kill without guilt?

If God is so full of love, why can't He forgive as we do - from the beginning without preconditions, as we are expected to do?

If God clearly states in Ezekiel 18 that only the ungodly shall die and not also the son with or the father of an ungodly son and the whole thing also vice versa, the righteous shall live, even if the father was perhaps a criminal, why does God describe in such detail the no to a kinship?

What punishment is appropriate for a kicking, extortionately crying infant or for a felon? Is it not eternal death? Or do we have different qualities of sin?

If God is so pure that sin separates on principle, why did Jesus come to us unclean people, why could he with tax collectors, whores and can with us?

Why did he touch the leper before he healed him and have no fear of touching him, when God is too pure to let normal sinners near him?

Why was Satan allowed into God's presence when God's purity and holiness would never allow it? When Satan discussed the "purchased Job" with God, Satan had not been clean for a long time!

Why do our sins dissolve as if in the morning mist and God no longer thinks of our sins when we apologize to God and repent of our sins, at least in the Old Testament, even though Jesus had not yet been murdered (sacrificed)?

Does divine reconciliation really happen differently from how we humans reconcile?

Why does God say that He is willing to forgive any sin, no matter how great, sins that are blood red, that is, capital crimes? Why then does the sacrificial system in Israel not provide for animal sacrifices for capital crimes, but only stoning?

Is God asking more of us than He Himself is willing to give?

Did Jesus really deposit the price for our sins when he rose again after about 40 hours?

Can the possible substitutionary death of Jesus Christ apply to 100 billion people without being eternally dead?

Isn't the resurrection of Jesus the proof that he really didn't pay the price as a substitute for even one person?

When we look at the subject of ransom, can we really read out the possibility of substitution, assuming we look at **all the** texts on ransom?

Could it be that the atonement after the traditional substitutionary death of Jesus Christ is actually the atonement concept of Baal/Lucifer? Because he demands innocent deaths, he buys people with human sacrifice and fear?

I will try to discuss these questions and a little more in the following chapters. Questions that help us to understand God better. For can we really trust God if we cannot understand essential ways of acting and thinking of God? I can already hear the retort:

*Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the transgressor his thoughts, and turn unto the LORD; and he will have mercy upon him, and upon our God: for with him is much forgiveness. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD: but as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not again, but moisten the earth,*

*and make it fruitful and increase, that it may give seed to sow, and bread to eat; so shall the word that proceedeth out of my mouth be. It shall not return to me void, but shall do that which I please, and shall prosper when I send it. Isaiah 55, 6*

- 11

When spouses say that they do not understand the opposite sex, that the opposite sex is a creature or a book with 7 seals, then this is simply a superficial sloppiness. One has not dealt with the partner or the partner in depth, because otherwise we would know whether the needs and the concerns of our entrusted counterpart. This also does not require university studies to learn essentials about the world of thoughts of our partner. But the decisive question is, am I interested in the world of thoughts of my counterpart, or does it disturb me on my way of self-realization?

The same is true with God. In essentials, we must understand God in order to respect Him. Because if we cannot respect Him, we can never like Him.

*This is eternal life, that they may know you, who alone are the true God, and whom you have sent, Jesus Christ. John 17, 3*

## How do we forgive?

Forgiveness and reconciliation is a basic foundational behavior when people want to build relationships of trust. It is fundamental no matter what those relationships look like. Whether between parents and children, between life and marriage partners, in business relationships, everywhere there are chips that need to be swept together, that need to be cleaned up.

Now how do we forgive? With young children we forgive from the start, and with older children we often forgive with heartache. It is easiest for us when there is insight and repentance. Then a unity of thought and feeling is possible. We all want to experience reconciliation, a restoration of the previous **trusting** oneness and not the "forgive but don't forget". This longing to achieve total reconciliation, to hear "it is good again" and also to experience it, this accompanies us since childhood and will never leave us. One can still forgive with a big heart, but real reconciliation, i.e. unity with the person, can only occur when the injured counterpart can be made to understand the error. Reconciliation happens when the injured person's willingness to forgive is accepted, but the offending person shows remorse and a genuine change of heart and allows it to be experienced.

To allow this insight of the error of life, or even their several, we read in the invitation of Jesus:

*He straightened up. "Where did they go?" he asked the woman. "Did no one condemn you?" - "No, Lord, no one," she replied. Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; you may go. **Sin no more from now on!**"* John 8.10, 11  
or ***"change your mind and accept the good news in confidence"***(repent) Mk, 1.15



*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

Willingness to reconcile, confessing or admitting one's own wrongdoing and willingness to change the life path that triggered this violation is the basis of human reconciliation as a basic prerequisite for deep unity in thoughts and feelings, nothing more and nothing less.

Anything else, like "*forgive but don't forget*" is a weak but widely accepted arrangement that doesn't make people happy, but for many is still better than being alone or losing relationship benefits.

**Can't God forgive without Jesus having to die?**

This brings us now to one of the weirdest ideas, to one of the most indigestible "foods" in Christian theology. Every Christian and biblically educated person has already received almost with the mother's milk that Jesus died *for* our sins, meant in place of us lacking and erring humans.

*God made him who knew of no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become in him the righteousness that is before God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. John 1:29*

*Your sins separate you from your God. Isaiah 59:2*

It is formulated that our sins separate us from a God who is holy and pure. Sin is defilement and has no place with God. Through sin the way to God is cut off and obstructed and man can only wait for the eternal, the 2nd death.

*The wages of sin is death.* Romans 6:23

Traditionally, the punishment for sin is that a person must die, even for the smallest of trivial offenses.

In order that God would not have to kill man, according to the traditional Christian view, God should have made a plan to save man. By Jesus living righteousness on earth and being sacrificed as a righteous man vicariously for all men, Jesus' righteousness would be transferred to us so that we could appear before God in the purity of Jesus and his righteousness. Jesus would become the bridge over the unbridgeable chasm between the sinner and the holy God.

*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life....* John 3:2

The basis of this theology is the multitude of texts written with sacrifice, blood, justice, in the books of Moses and especially in the letters of the apostle Paul. Unfortunately, the Pauline texts on the "sacrifice" of Jesus, his death, his murder on the cross, were taken with a clear slant toward vicarious sacrifice and interpreted into the Gospels. They were also put over the writings of the Old Testament, instead of using the Gospels as the main revelation to orient the Pauline letters to it.

This is because there is a hierarchy in the biblical revelation of truth:

1. Jesus came to bring the character of God to life and to explain how God meant it.
2. Since Jesus as Yahweh also watched over all mankind during the biblical period of the Old Testament, so the revelations of God from that time are to be equated with the life of Jesus.
3. The apostolic letters of the New Testament must not contradict the Gospels and the Old Testament. Difficult texts in the New Testament letters must be explained from the Gospels and the Old Testament, since God does not change, so Jesus and Yahweh are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow for all eternity.
4. Church doctrines and church prophets have to be oriented to 1 - 3 and not 1 - 3 have to be oriented to church creeds and church prophets.

Whoever approaches the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, with this hierarchy of truth has the best chance of really understanding God.

To the writings of Paul, Peter already warned:

*There are also some difficult passages in Paul's letters. They are misused by people who have no understanding and no basis. But this is also what these people do with the other holy scriptures. They dig their own grave with them.* 2 Peter 3,16

A warning text that wants to show us that not everything that superficially fits into a preconceived concept (of redemption/reconciliation) was really meant that way by Paul.

Let us return to the subject of forgiveness and reconciliation. When there is understanding about deeds committed, we can forgive petty offenses. Just like

that. Parents usually forgive their children from the start, despite educational measures, because it does not even occur to them to react differently.

According to traditional Christian doctrine, God in his "wounded holiness" can only forgive when blood flows, even for the smallest of offenses. According to traditional Christian theology, Jesus had to die so that God could do it again with people, or can do it at all.

However, if even one of the fiery advocates of this theological view were to treat his own children in this way, he would be lynched by the neighborhood for barbarism. But with God, we call this love. So we have millions of sermons about the love of God, the main content of the so-called love being the substitutionary death of Jesus in place of man. A death of which we are guilty for even the smallest offenses. But brought to the human level, we cannot imagine loving parents behaving like that.

**Are we not better than God, because we do not kill anyone for reconciliation!?!?**

More than 20 years ago, a baby was abducted and later killed by a dingo at a campsite in Australia. Newspapers, however, reported that the pastor couple **had sacrificed** their own child in a **vicarious ritual murder for their own forgiveness of sins**. With this information came one of the most massive and shameful miscarriages of justice in Australia. "Cry in the Darkness" was the name of the film that addressed this issue.

The Australian people reacted normally to this newspaper report, because a ritual murder is bestial, the judges and jurors also felt that way. What kind of sick people do such a thing. There was no understanding for such a couple. But at the same

time, pastors and ministers in the churches of Australia were preaching exactly the same thing from God. But with God, everything we find perverse in human beings is suddenly good, even total love.

In all of this, they quote the Bible. They all believe that they are quoting the truth in its purest form, and yet in almost all sermons the basis is a Bible-extract Christianity that bases dogmatics on 3 - 5 biblical passages, or even a perverted creed of a denomination where the entire Bible is no longer the basis for a Christian confession, but only has to serve as the legitimation of a church creed. For all our need to recognize truth, we humans are always faced with the dilemma: How can we distinguish truth from error?

**It is the human mind, so despised by many theologians, with which we judge what is possible, reasonable and normal.** Obviously, this mind, for all its faulty function, is sufficient to successfully cope with everyday life. For we humans build engines for which there is also fuel, write books in languages that are also spoken and produce means of communication that can also be used. But according to traditional, Christian theology, God created man with a high-performance computer that fails in the knowledge of God, wrong software or hardware or simply completely incompatible programs. Theologians then explain this to us as the mystery of God's plan of salvation, that the super holy and righteous God could forgive man only when a righteous man - that is, Jesus Christ - dies in place of us sinful or erring humans. This is then described as the Song of God's unsurpassable love. But that is exactly what the Australian judges accused the pastor couple of doing: **a substitutionary ritual murder, a ritual sacrifice for their own forgiveness of sins** is bestial and for that there were severe penalties. (The trial was reopened after pieces of the toddler's clothing were found by chance in the wild and corroborated the pastor couple's defending statements. )

If we want to understand God again, we must first decide: Is man a total misfit who cannot understand the ways of God? Or has God created man in such a way that he can recognize and understand Him by the things and circumstances that he experiences every day in his life. Could it be that nothing special is required in terms of heavenly knowledge, but only a looking at the normal in human interaction?

*Where among you does a son ask the father for a loaf of bread, who offers him a stone, or for a fish, who offers him a snake... As bad as you are, you know what is good for your children and you give it to them. How much more will the Father in heaven give His Spirit to those who ask Him?* Luke 11:11 - 13

To summarize: God has more compassion than we humans - he is better than us. In these verses God appeals to common sense, God does not expect any intelligence acrobatics here, but simply see the everyday and transfer it to God. The question arises: Why is this too suspect, too simple for many theologians? Do they want to experience an intellectual headshot of man in order to keep centuries-old, theological "truths" alive? When the essence, the character of God, was distorted beyond recognition among the much self-praised people of God, God decided to show people what God is really like. **For this purpose, Jesus came into the world.**

After telling the parable of the *Shepherd and the sheep* and the *Good Shepherd*, Jesus had a major argument with the scribes:

*"How long are you going to string us along. Say it freely. Are you the promised Savior or not?"* John 10:24

Jesus responds to a politically influenced question with a content that reforms the personality.

*"I have already told you, but you do not want to believe me. The deeds I have done on behalf of the Father speak for themselves. But you do not belong to my sheep...My sheep listen to me...No one can snatch them from the Father's protection. The Father and I are inseparably one." Then the people picked up stones again and wanted to kill him. Jesus asked them, "On behalf of my Father, I have done many good deeds before you - for which of these deeds do you want to kill me?" They replied, "We are not stoning you for any of the good deeds, but because you insult God. You are passing yourself off as God."* Jesus did not give up yet and first answered them with a theological counter-question to calm them down. Then he explained to them unequivocally, *"I have been empowered by the Father and sent into the world with his message. How can you say that I offend him when I say that I am the Son of God? If what I do are not the deeds of my Father, you need not believe me. But if they are, then you should at least believe these deeds, if you do not want to believe me. You should finally understand that the Father lives in me and I live in the Father."* John 10, 24 - 38

With these words, Jesus made it crystal clear that he and the Father in heaven are of one mind and one basic attitude. An identical life, reconciliation and personality restoration program for misguided people. As Jesus exemplified it, so God had meant it at all times, - no different programs - absolute equality of essence.

*I, the Lord do not change.* Malachi 3, 6

Jesus had countless arguments with the scribes. Theologically, they were always inferior to him. He showed them how bent they were in collecting funds for the temple service and how they dissolved the obligation to support the parents.

Jesus quotes from the book of Isaiah:

*This people honors me only with words, but with their hearts they are far from me. All their worship is meaningless, for they teach only commandments that men have devised. God's commandment you push aside, but to the precepts of men you cling... How cleverly you manage to circumvent God's commandments so that you can maintain your precepts! Moses famously said: Honor your father and your mother - and - whoever says something shameful to his parents will be punished with death. You, on the other hand, claim that if someone says to his father and mother: Korban - that is: what I should actually give you is meant for God, then he does not need to help his parents anymore. Yes, you do not even allow him to do so. In this way, you make God's commandment invalid through your own regulations. And there are many other examples of this.* Mark 7, 6 - 13

And it was not that the scholars did not understand Jesus. Jesus spoke plainly in many parables. They knew and know just as well today what consequences would follow if they allowed themselves to be corrected by God. Their reputation among the church people would dwindle because the churches would drop them. What will they live on? They know that their need for prestige will take a huge hit. Despite their need for security, they would have to do for once what they always preached about, and that is to really rely on God. But they succumbed to the illusion that by eliminating Jesus and later the theological troublemakers, God would then again be as they portray him. God is as he is and not necessarily as thousands and thousands of Christian theologians have preached and preach him, so according to the motto:



**Assert it firmly and repeat it often, then it is truth.**

Or ask yourself. If Jesus were to correct the churches today, would the many denominations or religions let him work for three and a half years, especially if his calls for correction were delivered with the same authority as 2000 years ago?

## Can't God forgive like we do?

We lose nothing when we forgive. We gain. We do not need to see the blood of a family member in order to forgive another family member with whom we are in dispute.

Why is "God" not like us? At least as good as us!

Then the knowledge of God would be extremely simple.

Paul explains to us in the song of love in 1 Corinthians 13:

*Without love man is nothing, without love all that we do is without value...he who loves is patient and kind, he who loves does not get excited, he does not boast and does not show off, he who loves does not behave tactlessly, he does not seek his advantage and does not let himself be aroused to anger. He who loves bears no grudge against anyone; he is not pleased when someone makes a mistake, but when he does what is right. He who loves never gives up, in everything he trusts and hopes, everything he bears with great patience.* 1 Corinthians 13, 3-7

A basic attitude that would greatly facilitate **trusting** coexistence, especially if we started with ourselves. We like to read over some of these passages. But now it is not about us.

But rather: Does 1 Corinthians 13 also apply to God? Does it also apply to him not to hold anything against me? According to traditional Christian theology, why does "he" kill me at the end of the history of the world if I do not do what "he" wants me to do? If "he" doesn't hold anything against me, why does Jesus have to die in my

place. If "he" lets Jesus die in my place, then he bears me after all what I have done wrong, all tactlessness, even if I am sorry for it?

The fact that I am sorry for my mistakes in life has no influence on the further life of Jesus, he will be killed anyway. Then the question arises, **why should I forgive, just like that, in patience and love, in benevolence and care, if "God" does not keep even that according to traditional theology?!** Preaching water and drinking wine, is that what we call in the vernacular, a "God" with a double bottom?

When Jesus says,

*"If a brother has done wrong, rebuke him; if **he repents, forgive him.**"* Luke 17:3

*Or: "Judge no one, and God will not judge you. Do not condemn anyone, and God will not condemn you. **Forgive, and God will forgive you.**"* Luke 6, 37

*"If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the left cheek also."* Matthew 5:39

If I rebel against God, where does he turn his cheek when he threatens to kill me for it in the end? (according to Christian tradition)

*Or, "Lord, if my brother was guilty of me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy times seven."* Matthew 18,21

So repentance, insight, as the basis of reconciliation is quite normal for us humans - and how does God behave? In all these texts we see that God expects man to forgive, just like that, not a thousand conditions, because conditions make real reconciliation impossible. **But why, according to traditional Christian theology,**

"God" does not abide by his own proposals. Why does "God" need a dead righteous person as a substitute for me as a bridge to him in order to be able to give me love in the form of eternal life?

Just to think, if their father had vicariously killed their mother for fighting over toys with their siblings, would they feel comfortable in the father's presence and not always wonder, why did my mother have to die, why couldn't he forgive me the way we forgive our siblings? Would we even want to live with the father, or with such an option of sacrificing the mother in order to get along well with the father, would we not prefer to live with the mother and wish everything shameful on the father?

Assuming - God is really like Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13, then there would be no dead in the family, we would not have to be afraid of God anymore. We would trust again. By experiencing for ourselves that He does not react to our tactlessnesses the way we do, it moves us to apologize for our tactlessnesses as well. We suddenly experience the benefits of real reconciliation and are motivated to experience more of it, correcting our life's errors bit by bit to the delight of God and our fellow human beings. Is this what Jesus meant:

*"Come to me, and I will take away the burdens of life from you. ...I also do not torment you and do not look down on anyone. Place yourselves under my guidance and learn from me; then your life will find fulfillment. What I command is good for you, and what I give you to bear is no burden."* Matthew 11:28-30

Did not Jesus clearly outline the divine way by saying:

*"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. In this way you prove yourselves to be children of your Father in heaven."* Matthew 6:45

Luke adds, *"For God also is good to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, as your Father is merciful."* Luke 6:35, 36

*"To you who listen to me I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who treat you badly."* Luke 6:27, 28

*Repay no one evil with evil! Do what is noble in the eyes of all people. If it is possible, as much as is in you, be at peace with all men. Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." If therefore thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink. If you do, you will gather fiery coals on his head. Do not let evil overcome you, but overcome evil with good.* Romans 12, 17 - 21

*You have heard that it is said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what special thing do you do? Do not the Gentiles also do the same? Therefore you shall be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect!* Matthew 5, 48

Obviously, God sees his love of enemies as a standard of behavior for us humans, his infinite patience with people who have become guilty. Then it may at least be assumed that infinite patience and the total readiness for reconciliation is the main characteristic of God and open embracing, comforting arms and hands have

always been there and hands which did not become reconcilingly open only with the death of Jesus Christ on the cross - simply - a forgiveness existing from the beginning - a priori - for missing people.

*"I have told you all this in pictures. But a time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in riddles, but will speak openly about the Father. Then you will ask him in my name. I do not say that I will then ask the Father for you, for the Father Himself loves you. "John 16, 25*

But where is the love of God, if I am threatened with hell for my mistakes, no matter how they came about (Christian tradition)? Where is his long-suffering, his not bearing grudges, his forgiving everything, his tolerating everything, turning the other cheek, etc., etc., etc.! The whole Sermon on the Mount becomes a waste, a pious drivel to which the normal thinking person simply cannot submit. The rejection of such a contradictory image of God is a must for theologically not contaminated people with a common sense.

## What truth did Jesus actually proclaim?

Have they never wondered why a third of the Gospels and about 50% in John's Gospel alone deal with the conflict with the theological leaders? Why does this conflict occupy so much space in the Gospels? So that our mind feels a strong breeze of **trusting reason**, so that we see and experience that God appeals to the intellect over and over again.

The gospel of John is not the harmless book of love, only because these words are to be found more often in this gospel, but it is a radical declaration of war against the theologians at all times, **that Jesus is God, namely creator, lawgiver, reconciler and judge, that everything what had to do in this world with the living God went over the desk of Jesus**. He is described as a man, as the Son of God, but in almost all the conflict conversations Jesus had with the Pharisees, his deity is a central theme. Even if Jesus had a friendly conversation with theologians, e.g. Nicodemus, it still means that Jesus' almost blanket condemnation of this super-pious caste or professional group hits the famous nail on the head. Nowhere in the gospels do we read that Jesus went to court with guilty people or even Romans in such a way as with the theologians, as full-time image-mongers of God (at least in those days).

John writes his Gospel only to show this point. It begins like this:

*In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, yes, the Word was God. From the beginning it was with God. Everything came into being through it. Without the Word, nothing of what exists came into being. In him was life and this life was light for the people.* John 1:1

John concludes the Gospel with the following words:

*Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples, but they are not written down in this book. What is reported here **was written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God**, and that you may have life through faith in Him in His name. John 20:30 - 31*

No matter how one stands to Jesus, here it is written that Jesus is the creator of heaven and earth, he made Adam and Eve, asked Noah to prepare for the coming flood, the judgment of God on mankind, he talked with Abraham, reactivated the laws of faith with Moses, which Abraham also knew, carried out the various reforms in the people of Israel with the prophets, and warned the people of a massive downfall. It was he who made Israel almost completely extinct, because he did not let the people of Israel get away with these extreme child sacrifices from a certain point on. It was he who, portrayed as a man in the Gospels, exemplified the true character of God and called them to reconciliation with the real God of heaven, but also declared that he would later be the judge of all angels and men at his Second Coming.

It is therefore not surprising that already after a few weeks of his ministry it was "clear" to many leaders that this Jesus with his outstanding miracles with his claim to be the Son of God "blasphemes" God and therefore must be eliminated.

*When Jesus saw him, he realized that he had been sick for a long time, and he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Lord," the sick man replied, "I have no one to help me get into the pond when the water is moving. And when I try to do it myself, someone else always gets in before me." "Get up, take your mat and go!",*



*Jesus said to him then. In an instant, the man was healed. He picked up his mat and was able to walk again. This happened on a Sabbath. Some of the leading men among the Jews therefore said to the healed man, "Today is the Sabbath! You must not carry your mat there." He replied, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take your mat and walk!'" "What man told you to do that?" the Jews asked. But the healed man did not know who it was, for Jesus had already left the place because of the crowds. Later Jesus met the man in the temple and said, "Listen! You are well now. Sin no more, lest something worse happen to you!" After that, the healed man went to the leading Jews and told them that Jesus had made him well. From then on, the leading Jews began to persecute Jesus for doing such things on the Sabbath. But Jesus told them, "My Father is always at work, and therefore so am I." This turned them against him even more. **They were now determined to kill him.** John 5:6*

*There were only two days left until the Passover and the following Feast Week of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were still looking for an opportunity to **secretly arrest and then kill Jesus.** Mark 14:1-2*

*The chief priests and the teachers of the law **were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus.** But they wanted to do it secretly because they feared the people. Luke 22:1-2*

*Then he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Then the dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with grave bandages and his face bound with a sweat cloth. "Unbind him and let him go!" said Jesus. Seeing this, many of the Jews who had come to Mary believed in Jesus. But some of them went to the Pharisees and reported what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees called the high council together. "What shall we do?" they asked. "This man is doing many sensational things! If we let him go on like this, eventually everyone will still believe*

*in him. And then the Romans will intervene. They will destroy our temple and all the people." One of them, Kaiaphas, who was the officiating high priest that year, said, "But you don't understand anything! **Don't you understand that it is much better for us if one dies for all and not all the people perish?**" He had not said this of his own accord, but in his capacity as high priest had uttered the prophecy that Jesus was to die for that nation. John 11:44-53*

*...and made the decision to **arrest Jesus secretly and then kill him.** Matthew 26:4*

But let's look back into the life of Jesus for a moment. He increased in wisdom and grace over time. At the age of 12, Jesus was already able to make the theological aristocracy in Jerusalem sweat quite a bit. Mary, his mama and Joseph as foster father raised Jesus in a Word of God they could understand, visits to the synagogue also helped tremendously. Jesus certainly did not miss during the following 18 years after the incident in the temple in Jerusalem the ambiguity of the super pious, the slipping away from the core message of the law, the Ten Commandments, the meaning of the sacrificial laws, the welfare laws, the moral safeguarding commandments, as in Exodus, 18. By understanding more and more who he is, by remembering more and more the creation that he had shaped, the judgment for the Flood, at the Tower of Babel, the Exodus from Egypt, the people's slide into idolatry, Manasseh, who is one of the greatest mass murderers and described biblically as an amoral despot. But when he humbled him, Manasseh repented and truly converted to him. Jesus remembered the ignorance of the worldly and theological nobility around Zedekiah, that they narrowly mindedly threw all warnings and calls for conversion to the wind, when he shows Ezekiel the fate of his people, when he took him in a vision to Jerusalem and also showed the catastrophic godlessness, that he loved his people, but could also destroy them almost completely with the prevailing ignorance.

It is quite conceivable that Jesus talked about it with his earthly parents, explained to his mama the meaning of the Word of God very well, but also to his mission. Can it be that on the Sabbath, before going to the synagogue, Mary took Jesus in her arms, a man who had long outgrown her, and with restrained concern that Jesus might express what he told her also in the synagogue - tenderly gave him a kiss on the forehead and said to him. "Remember where you are going. There are our friends, there are our relatives, Please keep your mouth shut"? Jesus also obeyed the majority. Don't many in the churches today also keep their mouths shut so that religious and church relationships don't escalate aggressively?

But at the age of 30, he "explained" to his mom, "Mom, now the time has come that I have to do the service and there will be glorious and regrettable things," in the end for his mom superficially a disaster, but his mom was prepared, even if she did not understand everything - as we do today.

"With the beginning of his Messiahship, Jesus was immediately welcomed with open arms by the Jewish high theology and they immediately gave him, as the Creator, the theological presidency in their universities and all followed his advice - well, Jesus knew from the beginning that this was theological dreaming".

In defense of the theological high nobility, it is understandable that they did not want to have a 2nd Babylonian debacle, an almost total extermination of God's people. So, with good intentions, they built a set of rules that if a Jew followed this, it should be impossible for such a Jew to be lost. Over the centuries, these piety recommendations took on a life of their own and replaced the Word of God - the statutes of the ancients were suddenly the measure of piety. The statutes were the creed, the statutes were the tradition, the statutes replaced the Bible,

the statutes were suddenly incontrovertible truth. And such a thing does not necessarily need millennia, but can also happen in a shorter time.

Unfortunately, Jesus regularly took aim at these statutes and because he emphasized the Bible, he fell from grace, even more, they despised him as godless and hated him more and more with each month of his ministry. And even today, the many church leaders would not let him get away with criticizing their church traditions.

It is obvious: for the Pharisees Jesus, although also a Jew - was not one of them, but an unworthy, unmarried child. No one introduced him to the leaders or recommended him, a young autodidact, a know-it-all with miraculous powers, who dared to question the "absolute truth", namely the truth interpretation of the Jewish scribes. He did not have their stable smell, he did not go through their schools, criticized their hard-earned piety, tormented them with Bible texts, when they had made themselves so comfortable with their church and truth tradition. It was as clear as day for the Jewish leaders and respected theologians of that time, this Jesus "cannot" come from God, otherwise he would submit to them, because THEY represent the "truth", the "absolute truth", even more, they embodied this "absolute truth". Jesus regularly disappointed them because he had a different agenda, because liberation from the Roman yoke was not his program, but liberation from the slavery of sin. He even provoked them with the fact that "their God", whom they supposedly thought to worship as Yahweh, was actually Lucifer. Their judgment was irrevocable: This Jesus, this enemy of the church of God, must go. For Jesus it was also clear, these leaders would not question their position, but they were unconvincingly convinced of their error, that their views were truth and the truth Jesus represented was untruth, a

satanic, blasphemous lie, he was a devil, and he, Jesus Christ, would only seduce the people with his demonic miracle art.

The traditional denominational unteachability, the impossibility of questioning oneself, the substitution of a personal spiritual growth by a church rule or its many should become a very dangerous game in the time before the return of Jesus Christ.

Let's be honest - what does a good Christian way of thinking according to denominational tradition in the various Christian churches look like today? How do you recognize Christians who are optimally preparing for the return of Jesus Christ? Don't most people understand an optimal spiritual way of thinking as implementing one's own denominational way of thinking?! So for all to see that one is now spiritually prepared. One is denominationally conform, that is, loyal to the church, and thus one thinks that one is connected to the Spirit of God. Because the church clearly specifies the way of piety. This is then especially visible to the many brothers and sisters of one's own church. One then also uses the right words of piety, has the denominational language of piety, the "language of Canaan" well down. The truth has acquired the quality that firm confessional assertion and repetition of these statements make it the truth. Even in the Corona crisis, this is the seemingly correct spiritual preparation, that of denominational commendation, and the denominational mode of behavior considered for all time to be immutable truth.

It is always surprising that people can no longer question a decision once it has been made, neither themselves, neither their view of right and wrong, neither truth or lie, the decision they once made that remains and especially the denominational view of truth. Everything is seen either as a confirmation or as an attack - because

one's own position is sacrosanct. Our attitude, our view of the truth is set in stone. But of course we are open to "new things". as long as they in fact only confirm our position. And if it does, it's true, and if it doesn't, it's automatically untrue.

Most Christians, but also various churches, act according to this maxim. Maybe not consciously as clumsy as just described, but conditioned by convenience and biblical ignorance, by laziness for the intensive Bible study, many choose the easy way - the **Bible excerpt Christianity**. With a few quickly learned Bible texts, one can cite any unbiblical or occasionally biblically correct reason. The less willing we are to question a subject, the more willing we are today to justify our own position with buzzword Christianity, with firmly asserting, mantra-like repetitions, with the typical 3 -5 Bible texts. We have reached the end of time, Christ's return is coming soon and people are preparing differently.

The co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, E. G. White, writes the following remarkable warning about this in a manual to church-owned publishers.

*There is no excuse for anyone who takes the position that there is no more truth to be revealed and that all our expositions of Scripture are without error. The fact that certain teachings have been regarded as truth by our people for many years is no proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close examination. But while the true spiritual life is declining, there has always been a tendency not to advance in the knowledge of truth.*

*People are satisfied with the light already received from God's Word and discourage any further investigation of Scripture. They become conservative and try to avoid discussion. We live in dangerous times, and should be careful not to accept anything*

*that is claimed to be truth without investigating it thoroughly. Nor can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of God's Spirit, for we should be teachable, gentle and humble of heart. There are those who reject everything that does not conform to their own ideas, thereby endangering their eternal interest as well as the Jewish nation in its rejection of Christ.*

*...Many who claim to believe the truth have calmed down and said, "I am rich and have more than enough and need nothing. " Whenever the people of God grow in grace, they will constantly gain a clearer understanding of His Word. They will see new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true throughout the history of the Church in all ages, and will therefore continue to the end. (CW 38) Ellen G. White in Counsels to writers and editors:*

With modesty, humility and critical self-questioning, we would go very far in the spiritual world. It can hardly be formulated better than this quotation.

Was it God's will that a blood sacrifice be offered for the atonement of God?

If we look at the system of just judgment in litigation from the perspective of the Old Testament, the death of Jesus on the cross was a miscarriage of justice, more than that, a judicial scandal, and not a way of reconciliation intended by God to **promote trust**. This may be very surprising, but according to several quotations in the Old Testament, it was an abomination to God for people to be liquidated, sacrificed, for the sake of appeasing God, as God puts it this way:

*"In the Hinnom Valley they built sacrificial sites to sacrifice their sons and daughters to the god Moloch. I did not command this; **it never occurred to me to require such a thing of them**. With this detestable activity they have seduced all Judah into idolatry."* Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35

*"**Stop shedding the blood of innocent people in your land**"* Jeremiah 7, 6

In the 7th chapter of the Book of Jeremiah, God expresses His abhorrence of this action. The true God, YAHWE, does not need this appeasement at all. God has always wanted something completely different:

*"But I have come that those who follow me may have life, abundant life."* John 10, 10

***Because my plan for you is clear: I want your happiness and not your unhappiness. I have in mind to give you a future as you hope for it. You must turn to me and ask***



*me for help, then I will hear you. You must seek me with all your heart, and I will let you find me... I, the Lord, say this!"* Jeremiah 29:11 - 14

Jesus died on the cross according to God's will? Really? God's goal was the acceptance of Jesus' message and the restoration of a clear concept of the nature, the character of God, beginning in Israel and then encompassing the whole world. But God knew in advance that this would not happen, so Jesus also mentioned this again and again, that he would be put to death violently, but he also mentioned positive things about this death, that many people will amazingly find a new access to God through this.

Was the sacrifice of innocents really God's plan?

The story of Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac is by far one of the weirdest stories in the Bible and has left many people questioning a gracious and loving God. How can a loving God demand such a thing. No **human being would call for such madness**. But if the subject of human sacrifice throughout the inhabited world and child sacrifice, especially in the Baal cult of Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Canaan, and the Carthaginian sphere of influence throughout the Mediterranean, is looked at more closely, we can see structures that help us to better classify this story.

Almost in every area of the world there are records of human sacrifice, whether Hawaiian, Melanesian, Polynesian, among the Celts and Germanic peoples, in North and South America, e.g. Incas and several Peruvian peoples, and in Central America among the Aztecs and Mayas. Some of the human sacrifice rites were so bestial and cruel that they can hardly be described. Even for us humans, these cruelties in human sacrifice cannot be surpassed, who love to have war and kill

people or abort unborn life without hardly batting an eyelash or bomb cities, including civilian population, because of some geostrategic differences. And then shouldn't God be disgusted by such murder, by such human sacrifice?

Phoenicia, Canaan, Mesopotamia and, with the Carthaginians, the whole Mediterranean area. Well-known sacrificial sites, called Tofets, can still be visited today in Chia (formerly Bithis) or San Antioco in Sardinia (formerly Sulci), with the remains of a fabulous 9,000 sacrificed children in clay jars, and many more, indulged in child sacrifice as a means of obtaining material blessings. The Baal cult, to Baal or Moloch or any of these child-life demanding idols, was a very special form of this sacrificial perversion. And there shouldn't the living God have had an abhorrence? God says in the Bible that he can pronounce forgiveness over almost everything.

*Wash and cleanse yourselves! Get your evil deeds out of my way! Stop doing evil before my eyes! Learn to do good / and ask for what is right! Reject the oppressors! Help orphans and widows to their rights!" "Come here, let us see who is in the right!" says Yahweh. "If your sins are red like blood, yet they will be white like snow; and if they are red like purple, they will be like white wool. Isaiah 1, 16 - 18*

But above the gluttonous, rampant murder of innocents, it suddenly says quite differently:

*During his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon approached with an army. Jehoiakim submitted to him. Three years later, however, he rebelled against him. Then Yahweh caused bands of robbers from the Chaldeans and those from Syria, Moab and Ammon to invade Judah to destroy it. Thus Yahweh had announced it*

through his prophets who served him. Yes, all this happened expressly at the command of Yahweh, for he wanted to get the Judaeans out of his sight. Manasseh's sins and all his doings, ***the many innocent people killed, the rivers of blood that had flowed in Jerusalem, Yahweh would not forgive.*** 2Kings 24:1 - 4

No matter the time, a character of integrity was worth its weight in gold, handshake quality, faithfulness to contracts, or simply being true to one's word. These are qualities we value highly in people. Also, it should be possible to remember our own statements without the lazy excuse that former German Chancellor Adenauer made so famous when asked about his earlier statements, "What do I care about my yesterday's gossip." From a God we expect a better performance, as emphasized in the following Bible passages.

*"Watch out!" says Yahweh Almighty God. "I am sending my messenger. He will make a way for me." And all of a sudden, the Lord you are waiting for will also come to his temple. Yes, the messenger of the covenant you are waiting for will come. But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand before his appearing? For he is like the fire of the goldsmith, and like the lye of the launderer. He will sit down to melt out the silver and purify it; he will purify the sons of Levi, as is done with gold and silver. Then Yahweh will have men to make appropriate sacrifices to him. And then - as it was in times long past - he will take pleasure in the offering brought to him by Judah and Jerusalem. "I am coming to judgment," says Yahweh Almighty, "and I will make short work of all the sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers. I will proceed against all who have no reverence for me, who deprive their workers of just wages, who oppress widows and orphans, and who oust foreigners. ***I am Yahweh, I have not changed.*** And you have not ceased to be sons of Jacob!" "Like all your ancestors, you have not obeyed me or heeded*

*my instructions. Turn to me, and I too will turn to you!" says Yahweh Almighty God. Malachi 3, 1 - 8*

When the Israelites forgot God, saw no difference in the worship of various gods, child sacrifices were the order of the day, everything that smelled of God and before which one could kneel was placed in the temple of Yahweh. The prophets warned at the risk of their lives and drew attention to this deplorable state of affairs, that God would not let this go on, especially not these insane child sacrifices.

*"...Therefore I give you up to disgrace, all nations near and far will mock you. Everywhere you have brought yourself into disrepute; you are famous for your crimes. Your leading men abuse their power to **kill innocent people**. Your inhabitants despise father and mother, they oppress strangers and deny widows and orphans their rights...**Because of slander innocent people are condemned to death.**" Ezekiel 22:5-9*

The whole chapter 22 describes the unabashed godlessness of Jerusalem and Judah, which God answered with almost total destruction. He declares his wrath in the last verse: ***Then I poured out the embers of my wrath on them and gave them over to destruction. Their own doings I caused to fall upon them.*** This chapter 22 is unfortunately also a description of one of the many godlessnesses, which developed in all the millennia over and over again by so-called advanced civilizations at their end, but perished just like Israel in its time. The Flood, the Acades, the Babylonians twice within 400 years, the Assyrians, the Medopersians, the Greeks and Romans, Teutons are less known to the general public - and if already - somewhat known is the downfall of Rome. Today this condition exists almost worldwide in almost identical form. Should not God come to a similar

decision? "*Then I poured out the embers of my wrath upon them and gave them over to destruction. Their own doings I caused to fall upon them. "*

## Ezekiel, chapter 22

The word of the Lord came to me, he said: "You man, get ready to accuse the city of murderers! Hold before her what heinous crimes she has committed. Say to her, 'Thus says the LORD Almighty: **You city that sheds the blood of the innocent within its walls, bringing about its end, that defiles** itself with its idols! Your doom is near, you have brought it on yourself! By your bloodshed you have brought heavy guilt upon yourself, by your idols you have become an abomination to me! Therefore I will put you to shame, all nations will mock you, all near and far will make fun of you. You are famous for your impurity, great for your crimes! **Your leading men abuse their power to kill innocent people.** Your inhabitants despise father and mother, they oppress the strangers who have sought shelter with them, they deny the orphans and widows their rights. They disregard my sanctuary and desecrate the Sabbath. **Slanderers deliver innocent people to death.** Sacrificial meals are celebrated on the mountains for the idols. The worst misdeeds are committed in your midst. There you sleep with a wife of your own father and consort with women during the time of their monthly bleeding. You commit adultery with each other's wives, you don't mind sleeping with your daughter-in-law or your half-sister, your own father's daughter. Corrupt judges sentence innocent people to death. Money is lent at interest and the plight of the poor is shamelessly exploited for personal gain. But you have forgotten me, the Lord, the mighty God! But just wait, you criminal city, when I settle accounts with you, full of anger at the murder and deception in your midst! Do you imagine that you can stand before me? Do you think you can even raise your hand when I take action against you? **I, the LORD, have spoken, and what I have said I will do. I will scatter your people far and wide**

*in foreign lands and put an end to your crimes. May my reputation among the nations suffer because of it: You shall know that I am the Lord! "*

*... The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "You man, say to the land of Israel, 'You have become so unclean that I will not send rain in my wrath. Your rulers have acted like ravening lions: they have robbed treasures together and murdered. How many women they have made widows! Your priests have interpreted my commandments arbitrarily and profaned the sacrifices they offered me. They made no distinction between holy and unholy things, did not instruct the people about what makes unclean, and did not care when the Sabbath was desecrated. Thus it came about that the people of Israel met me without any reverence. Your judges behaved like ravening wolves; they did not mind killing people to enrich themselves. Your prophets, however, covered up all this injustice with appeasing words. They proclaimed deceptive fantasies and said: Thus says the Lord, the mighty God - when I had not spoken to them at all. Your respected people resorted to robbery and extortion. They took advantage of the poor and defenseless and denied the strangers their right. I looked everywhere for one who would step into the breach and keep the wall around my people from collapsing, so that I would not have to destroy them; but I found none. Then I poured out the embers of my anger on them and abandoned them to destruction. Their own doings I caused to fall upon them.' " This is what the Lord, the mighty God, says. Ezekiel, 22, 1 - 31*

*When the king of Moab saw that he could not hold the city much longer, he gathered 700 swordsmen around him and tried to break through to the place where the king of Edom was standing. But they did not succeed. So he took his firstborn son, who would one day become king after him, and burned him as a sacrifice on the city wall...2 Kings 3:27*

*None of your descendants may you burn as a sacrifice to Moloch. You shall not profane the name of your God. I am Yahweh!* Deuteronomy 18:21

When you come into the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, do not try to do such detestable things as its inhabitants. *No one shall be found among you who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, no one who prophesies, no sorcerer, conjurer or magician, no banisher or necromancer, and no one who consults a spirit of the dead or a soothsayer. For Yahweh abhors anyone who does such things.* And because of these abominations Yahweh your God drives them out from before you. You shall cleave undividedly to Yahweh your God. For these peoples you are driving out listen to sorcerers and soothsayers. But to you Yahweh your God has not permitted this. Deut. 18:9 - 14

Yes, the Judeans did what displeases me," says Yahweh. "They have placed their abominations in the house that bears my name and have thus profaned it. *In the Hinnom Valley they have erected the sacrificial high place of Tofet to burn their sons and daughters there, which I never commanded them to do. Never did such a thing come into my mind!* Jeremiah 7, 31

For easy review:

*Never has such a thing occurred to me!*

*Never has such a thing occurred to me!*

*Never has such a thing occurred to me!*

In the 17th year of Pekah Ben-Remaliah's reign, Ahaz Ben-Jotam became king over Judah. He was 20 years old at the time and reigned in Jerusalem for 16 years after the death of Jotham. He did not act according to the example of his ancestor David and did not do what pleased Yahweh, but *followed the bad example of the kings of*

*Israel. He even had one of his sons burned as a sacrifice, as was the horrible custom of the pagan nations that Yahweh had driven out of the land before the Israelites.*

2 Kings 16:1 - 3

*They disobeyed the commandments of Yahweh their God. They made for themselves two cast bull images and set up poles dedicated to Asherah. They worshipped the host of stars in the sky and served the idol Baal. **They had their own children burned as sacrifices to the idols. They practiced divination and sorcery and indulged in doing everything that abhorred Yahweh and offended him.** 2 Kings 17:16, 17*

***Manasseh** had been twelve years old when he became co-regent and ruled Jerusalem for a total of 55 years. His mother's name was Hefzi-bah. He did what Yahweh abhorred and adopted the terrible customs of the nations that Yahweh had driven out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high shrines that his father Hezekiah had destroyed, erected altars to Baal, and set up a pole image of Asherah, as King Ahab of Israel had done. He prostrated himself before the host of the stars in the sky and offered sacrifices to it. And in the house of Yahweh, which he had appointed as the dwelling place of his name, he set up altars. Yes, in the two courts of the temple he erected altars to worship the stars. **He burned one of his sons as a sacrifice. He indulged in sign interpretation and divination, got involved with spirits of the dead and with seers. Thus he did many things that Yahweh abhorred** and provoked his wrath. He set up the image of the goddess Asherah in the temple...2 Kings 21:1 - 7*

***I will turn against this man and eliminate him from among his people, if he has given one of his children to Moloch, defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. And if the people of the land turn a blind eye to this man who sacrificed one of his***



*descendants to Moloch, if they do not kill him, then I myself will turn against this man and his clan and against all who imitate him and get involved with Moloch. I will eliminate them from their people. I will also oppose every person who gets involved with spirits of the dead or soothsayers and eliminate them from their people. Exodus 20:3 - 6*

And for repetition, so that the reasoning for the annihilation, the near extinction of the people of Israel, is understood:

*... Yes, all this happened expressly at the command of Yahweh, because he wanted to get the Judeans out of his sight. Manasseh's sins and all his doings, **the many innocent people killed, the rivers of blood that had flowed in Jerusalem, Yahweh would no longer forgive.** 2 Kings 24:3, 4*

Manasseh represented an entire system of government and despotic power in Israel. In Chronicles and in the books of Kings, this system is described as one of the most arbitrary, cruel and perverted. At some point God put an end to this goings-on, even forgiving King Manasseh personally, because Manasseh truly humbled himself. Especially with Manasseh, we see that when push came to shove, Manasseh knew exactly who God was, but before that he preferred the character of Satan with the full range of ungodliness.

Well, whichever way you slice it, it's hard to imagine that God would have really taken pleasure in a sacrifice of Isaac. It had never occurred to him to have innocent people sacrificed for his glory. It is an abomination to Him, the mass shedding of innocent blood was something the Creator no longer wanted to forgive. A line was crossed. And despite all the witnesses from the Old Testament,

the theological "delicacy" is held on to, that the killing of an innocent God-man Jesus for the benefit of mankind, was the main content of God's plan.

The Creator prevented Abraham from killing Isaac because Abraham did the will of God with extreme pain. This does not mean that he believed all that Christians today project into his mind. He had indeed experienced that nothing was impossible for God, his barren Sarah was proof enough of that, but to sacrifice his own son, that was the hardest proof of Abraham's obedience to one of the weirdest commands in the Bible

Based on all of God's other statements about child sacrifice for His atonement, we can conclude that the Creator certainly did not want to be associated with the tyrannical gods of the environment. The living God Yahweh was different, and Abraham increasingly understood and gladly served this Creator, especially after Isaac's sacrifice request turned out so smoothly. In preventing the killing of Isaac, God proved that He really had no interest in the death of innocents, much less in human sacrifice. After the near-sacrifice, Abraham finally understood that his Creator God was quite different.

Unfortunately, this story of the sacrifice of Isaac is often allegorically applied to Jesus. The interpretation of the Pauline letters in the New Testament also contributes to this. Nevertheless, it remains that the human sacrifice of Isaac and all human sacrifices of the past, or whenever, were not wanted by God.

But what do we do with the crucifixion of Jesus. Wasn't that the human sacrifice that God wanted in order to appease His wrath against us - or to help us vicariously out of eternal damnation? With a little fairness, we quickly realize, Jesus never took on the punishments that Christian theologians have devised for

human beings. So let's hold on, victims of innocent people and this also applies to Jesus Christ, God has never wanted. Nor does he need to do so in order to forgive us. Our Creator God also does not need innocent human sacrifices for this, something like this has never occurred to Him to ever want such. Our Creator does not need any appeasement of wrath as in the Baal cult, because he showed us in Jesus that he does not need any appeasement of wrath to forgive us who are willing to reconcile and to bless us.

## Abraham and the Sacrifice of his Son Isaac: Perversion or Normality?

Yahweh asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, something he then prevented at the last moment. This weird story likes to be glossed over theologically, but for all its beauty, the story remains really weird, **not really confidence inspiring**. Let's look a little closer to see if this story turns out to be intellectually good after all.

With all the difficult to understand of this event, the so-called sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham is often taken as an example to justify the vicarious death of Jesus Christ. But - if Abraham should represent God the Father, and Isaac Jesus, then God the Father should have killed Jesus with his own hands and not have given the dirty work to the Romans. The Romans would have always been blameless - but Jesus saw it decisively different at his death.

*When the chief priests and their people saw Jesus, they cried out, "Crucify! Crucify him!" - "Take him yourself and crucify him!" cried Pilate. "I, for one, find no fault with him." "According to our law he must die," the Jews countered him, "for he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he became even more afraid. He went back into the praetorium and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. "Won't you talk to me?" said Pilate to him. "Don't you know that I have the power to set you free? But I can also have you crucified!" "You would have no power over me," Jesus replied, "if it were not given to you from above. **Therefore he who delivered me up to you has greater guilt.**" John 19, 1- 11*

The apostle describes the affection of the Jews for the Christians as follows:

*For you, brethren, have become imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you have suffered the same things from your own people, as they did from the Jews, who also killed the Lord Jesus, and persecuted the prophets, and us, and are not pleasing to God, and are abominable to all men; forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles, that they may be saved, whereby they fill up the measure of their sins always;*

1 Thessalonians 2, 14-16

This already sounds different than killing Jesus according to God's will. By the murder and persecution of the Christians the Jews make their measure of sins full - that does not sound exactly as the superior plan of God to sacrifice Jesus in our place, thus vicariously for us, as the "Christian" theologians like to sell it to us.

Let us return to Abraham once again.

Abraham had no children. When God showed him the stars and declared that he was to become the father of a great nation and that the number of his descendants would be like the stars in the sky, Abraham understood that the God who occasionally talked to him really wanted to bless him.

*After these events, Abram received the following message from Yahweh in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram! I myself am your protection and your very great reward." Then Abram replied, "Yahweh, my Lord, what will you give me? After all, I will die childless, and my property will be inherited by Eliëzer of Damascus. You have not given me a son. The slave born in my house will inherit me." Then the word of Yahweh came to him, "No, he shall not be your heir, but one whom you shall beget shall be your heir." Thereupon he led him out into the open and said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars, if you can!" And he added, "So shall your offspring be!"*

*Abram believed Yahweh, and he counted that to him as righteousness. Then he said, "I, Yahweh, have brought you from Ur in Chaldea to give you this land as your property." Genesis 15:1 ff*

But months turned into years, years turned into decades, this promise dragged on and on until Sarah no longer had a menstrual period. She had aged beyond childbearing capacity and had given up all hope of having a child. There followed the human move to have the body maid, Sarah's slave impregnated and then the child would then be Sarah's child, so to speak.

*But Abra(ha)m's wife Sarai remained childless. Now she had an Egyptian slave girl named Hagar. So she said to Abram, "You see that Yahweh will not let me have children. However, if you get involved with my slave girl, perhaps I will have a child through her." Abram agreed. So Sarai gave him her Egyptian slave girl as a wife. Abram had been living in the land of Canaan for ten years at that time. He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she realized she was pregnant, she began to look down on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You shall bear the wrong that is done to me! I have given you my slave girl. No sooner does she realize she is pregnant than she despises me. Yahweh judge between you and me!" Abram replied, "Here is your slave girl. Do what you want with her!" Then Sarai treated her so harshly that she ran away from her. But the angel of Yahweh found her at a watering place in the desert, by the well that is on the way to Shur, and asked her, "Hagar, Sarai's slave! Where did you come from, and where are you going?" "I have run away from my mistress," she replied. Then the angel of Yahweh said to her, "Go back to your mistress and endure her harsh treatment! I will give you so many descendants that they cannot be counted. Then he added, "You are with child and will have a son, whom you shall call Ishmael, 'God hears,' for Yahweh has heard your wailing. He will be a wild ass of a man, at odds with all and fought by*

*all. And he will be on the nose of his brothers." Then Hagar called upon the name of Yahweh who had spoken to her. "You are the God of looking!" she said, and cried out, "Have I really looked after him who looked after me?" That is why the well is now called Beer-Lahai-Roi, 'Well of the Living One who looks after me.' It is located between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar bore Abram a son and Abram named him Ishmael. **Abram was 86 years old at that time.** Genesis 16:1 - 16*

Sarah experienced that Hagar, her body maid with Ishmael, the firstborn son of Abraham, became very proud and Sarah saw herself enormously humiliated, alone already because of her infertility, then to experience the humiliating looks and of course also the going into a rage against Hagar, which ended then later in the sending away of Hagar and Ishmael. That Hagar exalted herself in this way was anything but right, but humanly speaking, it was obvious. Often this: ***"You will be a great people, numerous like the stars in the sky"*** was thematized in the tents of Abraham. For decades, Hagar got to hear this. Hagar was also no teenager any more, but in the so-called best age - and had also no children, not because she could not, but after Sarah not allowed. It also did not occur to Sarah to let Hagar marry, because what did she care about the needs of her body maid or personal slave. With all the other servants Abraham and Sarah had, there was obviously no alternative to getting the household sorted out. And then the unbelievable happens, when according to human, hormonal reading the chance for a child was over, Sarah used Hagar for a legal substitute child. Hagar bore the longed-for son to the great Abraham, not Sarah. Nor did it take much of Hagar's arrogance to infuriate Sarah. We would say today, completely inappropriate and extremely unchristian, Sarah began to bully Hagar, to flay her, to treat her harshly or extremely unfairly and extremely unlovingly and Hagar paid her back with arrogance and contempt. Because Hagar knew where the sore spot was with Sarah. I am convinced that in time this was a real ungodly community of hatred

and not at all to the delight of Abraham. But before Hagar's child was born, Hagar could stand it no longer and ran away. Then God speaks to the fleeing and desperate Hagar and explains to her that he did not overlook the bad treatment by Sarah, and I am convinced that Hagar had the lion's share in this escalation of this "relationship", or this hateful opposition. Guilt-ridden and yet seen, heeded - this is in reality the situation of every human being. Do we react to this being seen or do we reject an address of God in our conscience. This is in reality one of the very few relevant questions in our universe.

And it dragged on again. Another 13 years. But when long ago all hope of a possible pregnancy for Sarah was gone, the Creator appears with two of his angels to Abraham. Abraham welcomes them and yet soon the Creator comes to the situation of Sarah's infertility and he says that when the year is up, Sarah will have given birth to a child. Nothing is more important to Sarah and Abraham than their own child from their rightful relationship. The Creator does not explain in a long elaboration why he had waited so long for Sarah to become barren, but quite succinctly, when all hope was lost from the human side - Sarah will give birth to a child.

*When Abram was 99 years old, Yahweh appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai, 'God Almighty,' go your way before me and adhere to me completely! I make my covenant with you and will give you immeasurable descendants." Then Abram prostrated himself before God with his face to the ground, and God said to him, "Pay attention! My covenant is like this: You will become the father of many nations. Therefore you shall no longer be called Abram, but Abraham! For I have destined you to be the father of many nations. Then God said to Abraham, "No longer shall you call Sarai your wife. From now on she shall be called Sarah.<sup>16</sup> I will bless her and give you a son by her. I will bless her in such a way that she will*



*become the mother of whole nations; even kings will come from her." Then Abraham prostrated himself before God and laughed inwardly. He thought, "To a hundred-year-old shall another son be born, and a ninety-year-old shall have another child?" Then he said to God, "If only Ishmael can live before you!" But God said, "No, your wife Sarah will bear you a son, whom you shall call Isaac, Laughing. To him and to his descendants my covenant is for all time. But I have also heard you because of Ishmael. I will bless him and make him fruitful, and he will have very many descendants. He will beget twelve princes, and I will make him the father of a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will give to you at this time next year."* Genesis 18:1ff

Throughout the Abrahamic narrative, there is no mention of why Abraham should leave Ur. God promised him a great land. He was given a commission, or simply an invitation, to leave Ur. Was godlessness less pronounced in Palestine/Canaan than in Ur or in the other Mesopotamian sites and areas? Also, if there is a trend today to move to the countryside, then perhaps that was also an explanatory possibility for Abraham.

Well, the year went by and Sarah gave birth to a child. When everything was lost, at least for Sarah, the Creator had mercy and showed Sarah and Abraham that for God the Creator a "can't", an "impossible" does not exist. Isaac, this longed-for son of Sarah and Abraham grew up and was certainly the pride of his mother and also of Abraham, but he also had his son Ishmael. This did not please Sarah at all, not that she disliked the boy, but she saw in Ishmael her rival against Isaac, her natural child. So Ishmael and Hagar were set free and sent away from the camp, or more realistically, chased away in helpless hatred.

*Yahweh remembered Sarah and did to her what he had promised. She became pregnant and bore Abraham another son in his old age. It was exactly at the time God had specified. Abraham named the son Sarah bore him Isaac. When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as God had instructed. A hundred years old he was at the birth of Isaac. Sarah said, "God has given me a laugh! Everyone who hears it will laugh with me. Who would ever have whispered to Abraham, 'Sarah will nurse a baby son!' And yet I bore him another son in his old age!" The child grew up. When it was weaned from its mother's breast, Abraham celebrated a great feast. One day Sarah noticed Ishmael, the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, frolicking. So she said to Abraham, "Take the slave girl and her son away from me! The son of this slave woman must not inherit together with my son Isaac!" Abraham disliked this very much, because Ishmael was his son. But God said to him, "Do not grieve because of the boy and because of your slave girl. Listen to everything Sarah tells you! For Isaac's descendants will be called yours. But I will also make the son of the slave girl a nation, because he is descended from you." Early in the morning Abraham got up, took bread and a hose with water, put everything on Hagar's shoulder, gave her the child and sent her away. Hagar left, but she got lost in the desert of Beersheba. When they ran out of water in the hose, she put the boy under a bush and sat down on the ground a bow shot away. For she said to herself, "I can't watch the boy die!" So she sat there facing him and wept. But God heard the boy. Then the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, "What is the matter, Hagar? Don't be afraid! God heard the boy where he now lies. Get up and take him by the hand! I will make him a great people." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the hose with water and gave the boy a drink. God continued to take care of him. He grew up in the desert and became an archer. It was the desert of Paran where he lived and where his mother gave him an Egyptian woman as a wife.*

Isaac also grew up, he was the great pride of Abraham and Sarah and then something very confusing happened. It was not unknown to Abraham what the Creator now demanded of him, but it hit him as nothing could have hit him more, namely the command: *Sacrifice to me your son Isaac*. Such sacrifices of the firstborn existed everywhere where there was a queen of heaven, mostly a goddess of love and fertility, and there was also a rain, weather and "creator god" who was "married" to the queen of heaven and begot gods' children. Of course the Mesopotamian pantheons were different, even if only marginally, the names changed, but not the functions. But how can we know that existed back then? It is actually discovered in passing, when Lot was captured and freed by Abraham a little later.

*"At that time, the kings Amrafel of Shinar, Arioch of Ellasar, Kedor-Laomer of Elam, as well as the king of the nations Tidal, waged war against the kings Bera of Sodom, Birsha of Gomorrah, Shinab of Adma, Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is now Zoar. These five had allied themselves and moved to the valley of Siddim, where the Salt Sea is today. For twelve years they had been subject to Kedor-Laomer, but in the thirteenth they had rebelled against his rule. Now in the fourteenth year, Kedor-Laomer and the kings allied with him advanced. First they defeated the Refaïtes at **Ashteroth-Kernaim**, the Susites at Ham, the Emities in the plain of Kiriathayim and the Horites who lived in the hill country from Seir to El-Paran at the edge of the desert. "* Genesis 14, 1 ff

Most think of it as just any place, but it is not. **Ashteroth Kernaim** was a place of worship for the queen of heaven, love goddess and fertility goddess Astheroth, or better known as **Astarte**. Now, if there was a fertility goddess, there was also a "creator", the husband of Astarte, in the Canaanite area he was called Baal, or

depending on the hill on which he was worshipped, e.g. Baal Peor, Baal Berit, Baal Gaal, Baal Zebul, etc.... The chief of the "divine pantheon" the god heaven widely believed at that time, in which there were then however still several fellow players, the "LORD", thus the Baal, demanded a sacrifice of an innocent child, usually the firstborn child, so that this Baal would be satisfied then and this family had then material blessing, where children were considered as highest property in this blessing. Also the many sins, with which humans would have made themselves guilty, could be expiated in the Baalskult only with a child sacrifice, a child sacrifice as reconciliation for family sins.

*...then the land of **King Og of Bashan**, the last of the family of the Refaiters, **who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei**. Joshua 12, 4*

When the Israelites left Egypt for Canaan, they also fought against the Amorite king Og of Basan, an area north of Heshbon and **Astheroth Kernaim** was the capital of King Og of Basan and the main worship center of the Canaanite cult of Astarte. Og, an Amorite king was devastated after Sihon another Amorite king in the southern East Bank was also already devastated as Yahweh announced to Abraham a good 600 years earlier when he told him that it would be some time before the measure of the sins of the Amorites would be full.

Until now, Abraham thought that the God he worshipped, the God he invited, the God he accompanied, had only Plan A or Plan Super A for his son. But suddenly now, after Abraham and Sarah were so happy with their son, God demands his sacrificial death. I can imagine that Abraham's world was properly shaken up. Now he had a son, the son of promise, and now he is to do the same thing that the Baals of the surrounding areas demanded of their inhabitants. I can also well imagine that he, who was accustomed to make the arguments, even if he prettied

it up, but in the end, in inner despair, submitted and obeyed the will of Yahweh in deepest, soulful, pain. Abraham did according to the order of the Creator, who made him so happy with Isaac, but now pushed him into an almost insurmountable darkness. I am convinced Abraham took his son Isaac with a heavy heart and climbed Mount Moriah to truly sacrifice Isaac to the Creator there. I am also convinced, Abraham did not discuss this with Sarah, because she would not have left her only son to Abraham voluntarily, but would have fought with all weapons and household knives, which she would have had at hand.

*Some time after that, God put Abraham to the test. "Abraham," he said to him. "Yes?" he answered. "Take your son, your only son, the one you love, Isaac! Go to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you!" The next morning Abraham got up early. He split wood for the burnt offering and saddled his donkey. Then he took two of his men and his son Isaac and set out with them for the place God had told him. On the third day he saw the mountain from a distance. Then he said to his people, "You stay here with the donkey! I will go up there with the boy to worship. Then we will come back." Abraham loaded the logs on his son's back. He himself took the pot with the burning coals and the knife. So they both went together. Then Isaac said, "Father!" - "Yes, my son?" - "Look, we have fire and wood. But where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" "God will provide a lamb, my son." So they both walked together. When they reached the place God had told him, Abraham built the altar. Then he piled up the wood, tied up his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. And then he reached for the knife to slaughter his son. Then the angel of Yahweh called from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" - "Yes?" he replied. "Stop! Don't hurt the boy! Now I know that you obey God, for you have not denied me your only son." Then, when Abraham looked up, he saw a ram with its horns caught in the bushes behind him. Abraham retrieved the animal and sacrificed it on the altar in place of his son. Abraham called the place*

*"Yahweh Provides." Even today people say, "Provision is made on the mountain of Yahweh." Once again the angel of Yahweh called to Abraham from heaven, "I swear by myself, says Yahweh, because you have done this and have not denied me your only son, I will shower you with blessings and make your descendants exceedingly numerous, like the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the beach. They will defeat their enemies and conquer their cities. And through your descendant all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Abraham returned to his people, and they went together to Beersheba. There Abraham remained to live. Genesis 22:1 - 19*

But the question arises, why did God the Creator, not want the sacrifice of Abraham, why should Issaak not be sacrificed. We as Christians revere Abraham as a man truly devoted to the Creator, a man of deep faith, who did what the Creator asked of him almost without contradiction.

Isaac is supposed to stand as the antitype for Jesus, God's own son, who would be offered as a sacrifice, an innocent man, the true son of God, to be sacrificed for all people, representative for us, since we apparently deserved the sacrificial death and therefore he suffered the sacrificial death. I know, for those who are not theologically educated a sour feeling arises now, it feels unpleasant, especially since we see God quite differently than Baal. But on closer examination, we find incredible parallels to the child sacrifices in the Baal cult. But let's keep in mind: If Isaac was to be sacrificed on an altar at Yahweh's command, Abraham was to represent Yahweh and Isaac Jesus, then the death on the cross seems strange. It was just Passover at the crucifixion, thus also the time for the great memorial sacrifice of the gracious preservation at the exodus from Egypt. So if Jesus had been the great atoning sacrifice, why was he not offered on the altar in the temple in the greatest sorrow for the sake of our sins, the high priest would have

approached the altar with the deepest brokenness of soul and made this substitutionary sacrifice, if God the Father had so intended? What then would have been burned of Jesus on the altar? Would they also have disemboweled him as they disemboweled the sacrificial animals? Would they also have burned his body in the valley of the Hinnom? Would they also have flayed his skin???

But this is not how it happened, this great atonement sacrifice was offered, the memorial sacrifice of the supreme preservation, the Passover lamb, but this time it was certainly not Jesus. Jesus was betrayed, beaten, mocked, blasphemed, and brought to the death of the cross by a sly, underhanded action. Not for the faint of heart, a mean murder with mocking songs, blasphemies and zero and nothing of a worthy vicarious sacrificial death ambience - because it was precisely not a vicarious death, for the Roman soldiers were not the high priest and the execution site of Golgotha was not the altar in the temple and the jeering and blasphemous words were not the mental state of deepest sinfulness that would have been appropriate to celebrate this seemingly great Passover sacrifice. It was in no way a vicarious death, but a base murder with much guilt on the part of the perpetrator.

But let's go back and look at the near sacrifice of Isaac from another angle. Timothy Keller in his book: "All that glitters is not God" has another basic thesis about this event. **Idolatry in the preference of the son Isaac above all else.**

Abraham and Sarah were so looking forward to their own child that after the birth of Isaac they were certainly grateful to their God Yahweh from the bottom of their hearts. But before that, almost everything in Sarah revolved around her childlessness. She felt humiliated, not only by Hagar and Ishmael, but by the wider company, especially in Abraham's troop, and she felt abandoned by God and

disappointed in God. But now, as an old woman unable to conceive, she is a mother of a son who was perceived as the epitome of God's blessing. A successor, a worthy heir from her own legitimate marriage union. The sky of life was full of roses and violins. And so it went on. The joy of this own son did not diminish. In time, Abraham and Sarah became helicopter parents, everything revolved around their son, and God, who clearly said that Isaac was to become a great nation, was put in the back seat. Their son was all that really mattered in their lives, and when this "our son cult" took on idolatrous character, Yahweh interrupted this idyll with:

*"Abraham," he said to him. "Yes?" he answered. "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac! Go to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you!"* Genesis, 22

I am convinced that God used a tone of voice that Abraham understood very quickly. He did not say: kill Sarah, or in more detail: ram a knife into Sarah's chest - something Abraham would never have done, because he already knew then that murder could never be reconciled with God's will. Nor would he have reacted if Yahweh had said to him: ram a knife into your son's chest or cut his throat. Never would Abraham have reacted and carried that out. He knew, as we all know at all times. "You shall not kill," that was the will of God.

That Abraham was well informed about the commandments of God and his law we find in another text.

*Once again, a famine struck the land, as it had in the days of Abraham. Then Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech, the Philistine king. Yahweh had appeared to him and said: "Do not go to Egypt, stay in the land I tell you! Live as a stranger in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all*



*these lands. I will keep the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and give them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because Abraham listened to me and obeyed my commands, my commandments, my instructions and my law."*Genesis 26, 1 - 7

Yahweh declares to Isaac that he is blessed because Abraham obeyed His commands, commandments, instructions **and law**. And this was obviously known 600 years before the legislation at Sinai. The word law is already missing in some translations. If there is no intention in it? So Abraham knew exactly about the will of God.

But to the formulation: Abraham, take your son whom you love so much, whom you have grown so fond of, whom you idolize so much that you prefer him to me, me who had given you this son in the first place, who had let your barren wife become pregnant, who had accompanied you on all your journeys and had helped you out of every mess you had gotten yourself into in your own cleverness, who had overlooked your unbelief again and again. But now you put your son Isaac in my place and idolized him, you forgot that in him I wanted to bless mankind and so now you thank me for it, with idolatry with your own son? Abraham you have become guilty and now you will pay the price of that guilt with the death of the firstborn.

This hit Abraham like a hammer blow, but he suddenly realized that he, together with Sarah, in this idolization of their son Isaac, had followed the Creator God Yahweh. That is, they practically extinguished God from their lives, even if theoretically they still had friendly and clear words of faith on their lips.

To their obtuse astonishment, Jesus also explains this subject to his disciples and explains to them the succession or, in general, the basic law for the Kingdom of Heaven on the New Earth, which the Creator will create once again, that a God-relationship of people has a structure. Not an emotional babble, but an order of importance, an act of ranking of priorities, a subordination to the only life-giving Creator and the relationships as a whole.

*He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* Matt. 10, 37,

*And the people went with him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and his own life, he cannot be my disciple.* Luke 14:25, 26

Even if it says in the 2nd text, who does not hate father and mother, so is to be understood by it - who does not follow father and mother, thus no emotional dark rejection of the parents, which would have been in glaring contradiction to the commandment of the respect for the parents.

The same thought is also in the quote: *Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated*, Romans 9, 13 in other words, Yahweh favored Jacob and put Esau inferior or backward for good and partly known reasons. Malachi 1, 1 - 3

There is no life out of beauty, out of a professional success, out of a super talent, out of being famous and out of power, everything is in reality a nothing, if the living and life-giving God is not the number one. Every success and possession of goods or talent or influence are zeros - 000 000 - but a submission to the blessing God makes only the one before the zeros 1 000 000!

Abraham realized that now the living God was taking away from him, from the so blessed and yet ungrateful Abraham, the super beloved idol, which was promised, but as a son and not as an idol, as a god-substitute. Abraham may also have seen this as God's punishment. Now he has to pay for his idolatry with the death of the firstborn son Isaac. Only now did he stand up and do what the Lord told him to do, feeling guilty and gigantically ungrateful and faithless. He realized that God was always the one in his life, but he himself, Abraham had made him zero.

It was natural for God not to want to see the blood of Isaac, but He wanted to restore the order of life with Abraham and the order of blessing with his family. I am also convinced that when Abraham, after this experience, talked to Sarah about what was happening at Mount Moriah, they both burst into tears in repentance and gladly accepted this warning and gladly put God first, because real protection for themselves and for their Isaac could only be provided by God. They became normal parents in one fell swoop, not parents of a super talent, of an over gifted child, no, they stopped this helicopter being and in deep trust handed Isaac over to God, their Creator, their Yahweh and rejoiced in being together and relaxed in dealing with the usual parental worries. If Yahweh promised them that Isaac would become a great nation, then at least it was assured that Isaac would eventually have to marry and that he would not be killed by predators, enemies, and snakes by then. Of course, he would also get his life scrapes, like any normal child, but he was safe in the blessing hand of their God, in Yahweh, the Living and Life-giving Creator.

So Abraham got a tremendous lesson in God-relationship and priorities the hard way. In our words, "that did the trick".

The issue at Isaac and Abraham was the personal idolatry of Abraham and Sarah, it was a lesson and not a sacrifice. The issue at Calvary was not the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus, but it was the rejection of God by the theological Jews of that time, which was so great that they, Jews and Gentiles alike, were for the first time endowed with the possibility of killing God,- so much did they hate the true nature of God and so much had they accepted the nature of Lucifer as the nature of God and identified themselves with Lucifer. The Father God allowed this to happen in order to show all the world, including the angels in heaven, - where following Lucifer according to his Luciferian theology and accepting his character leads. Never else would there have been the possibility to kill God, but with Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man at the same time, Lucifer got this chance. The political and especially the religious world could hardly wait until they could murder the true Creator - that is, an act that laid guilt on all involved, something that was never the subject of any theological discussion in a ritual sacrifice like the Passover lamb. The willingness to be murdered, to let oneself be killed in spite of all the power available, as a quasi-sacrifice, but only for demonstration. To demonstrate how a God dies with all the gloating, with all the blasphemy. This free broadness to let himself be murdered, - since Jesus renounced all power that was available to him in every moment of the crucifixion, - **this impressed all people and created the greatest trust.**

If a God lets himself be murdered like this, then all people have a chance to be accepted by God, especially since he spoke the words for his slobbering murderers: *Father forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.* Luke 23, 34

## Chapter 53 in the book of the prophet Isaiah

This chapter is considered by many to be the heart of the theology of Jesus' vicarious death for "reconciliation" with God. God, in His "infinite love," is said to be unable to forgive sin unless a God-like person dies vicariously for us humans. God is too holy to simply forgive our sins - there is a huge price to pay, the life of an innocent godlike. Superficially, this can be well accommodated in the Bible. But it doesn't solve the issue of God's trustworthiness. Trust is not only a rational decision that can be demanded, trust should be felt from the bottom of the heart. Let us not say ourselves, *"those who demand trust do not deserve trust."* It is the example set by parents, by superiors, by politicians, by leaders that creates trust or destroys trust. In reality, one does not choose to trust, trust grows by itself, it is a consequence of good relationships, of closeness that is not abused.

According to traditional "Christian" understanding, the Father-God, who sacrificed Jesus on the cross vicariously for us, is the Super-God, who sacrificed Jesus as a human sacrifice in "love for us". He acted in reality as it were like Baal, because Baal is actually Lucifer. Baal/Lucifer needs in order to give blessing or prosperity, innocent dead or "Christian" seen the super - God father needs in Jesus an innocent super dead, who can redeem all people from the just punishment by this Baal-like God.

But if this is not so, then what happened on the cross? What then is the outstanding thing that Paul only raves about the cross. All the apostles present this event as the love event of God that eclipses everything. What really happened on the cross?

But before this is elaborated in the further chapters, it should be established before **what did not happen at the so-called cross**. The few texts, which the Christians use again and again to draw a Baal god in reality, will be worked up in the next chapters. What is the character of God, what do we experience on the cross, or is the crucifixion really a Baal-like tyrant appeasement? The Bible excerpt Christianity is not suitable namely to formulate such deep insights, but only the Bible total view shows the real character of God. If this is looked at from the most different sides, then these "substitution texts" can be interpreted again and only then we see the enormous deception which happens to the people believing in a living, benevolent God.

So let's start with the supertext that everyone takes as the explanation for the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, namely:

*But who shall believe our preaching, and to whom shall the arm of the LORD be revealed? For he sprang up before him like rice, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form nor beauty; we saw him, but there was no form to please us. He was the most despised and unworthy, full of pain and sickness. He was so despised that people hid their faces from him; therefore, we did not consider him anything. Indeed, **he bore our sickness and took upon himself our pain**. But we took him for one who was afflicted and smitten and martyred by God. But he is wounded for our iniquity and bruised for our sin. **Punishment is upon him that we might have peace, and by his wounds we are healed**. We all went astray like sheep, each one looking to his own way; but the LORD cast all our sin upon him. When he was punished and martyred, he did not open his mouth like a lamb led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that falls silent before its shearer and does not open its mouth. But he is taken out of fear and judgment; who will speak out the length of his life?*

*For he is taken away out of the land of the living, being afflicted for the iniquity of my people.*

*And they gave him his burial with the wicked, and with the rich, when he was dead, though he had wronged no man, neither was deceit in his mouth. But the LORD would thus smite him with disease. When he hath given his life for a trespass offering, he shall have seed, and shall live for a long time: and the LORD'S purpose shall go forth by his hand. Because his soul has labored, he shall see his pleasure, and have abundance. And by his knowledge he, my servant the righteous, shall justify many; **for he beareth their sins**. Therefore will I give him great multitude for a prey, and he shall have the strong for a prey: because he hath given his life unto death, and is counted like unto the transgressors, **and hath borne the sin of many, and hath** pleaded for the transgressors. Isaiah 53*

What else can you add to this? We have here terms like guilt offering and that he carries our sins - more clarity is not possible? Only - have we really taken the time and read up on the meaning of the sin/guilt offering? Because then we realize, the texts about the sin/guilt offering say nothing at all about a substitution. Only - if sin is in our lives, then a sin/guilt offering should be made. What the guilty person should understand, it does not say there.

But the next section in this chapter opens a door of insight.

Jesus healed many people and once he came to Peter's house and helped the family with their worries, because Peter's mother-in-law was very ill. After the high fever disappeared through the work of Jesus, the mother-in-law felt well again, and immediately began to cook and serve those present. But that evening, this private family idyll was very soon disturbed. Other people came with addictions, illnesses, but also possessed people who wanted and received healing.

Matthew described this incident very precisely, but he ended with a surprising explanation.

*And Jesus came into Peter's house, and saw that his mother in law lay sick of the fever. Then he took hold of her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and ministered unto them. And in the evening they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with words, and healed all that were sick: that **it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, He hath taken upon him our infirmities, and our pestilences hath he borne.**"*

Matthew 8:14 - 17

*So what does Isaiah 53 say?*

*He bore our sickness and took upon Himself our pain...for He bears their sins...and He who bore many sin.*

It has **taken upon itself** our infirmities, also sins, others translate this as infirmities, diseases, bondages, being possessed - and it has borne our plagues and addictions in the broadest sense, or generally speaking - it did not care about them, it took care of them.

Maybe we don't notice it right away, but to make it clear, when Jesus healed a blind man, he himself did not go blind, the same is true for a lame man, a gout sufferer, a leper, a deaf-mute, and he was not possessed when he cast out demons, or if someone had a curved back and could stand upright again after Jesus' healing work, Jesus was not curved, nor did he have a withered hand when this suffering was brought to him with the request for healing. He was not afflicted by all that where he had compassion on the sick and lost and healed them, nor was he stained by the



sins of those whose sins he forgave. In this text of Matthew it comes out clearly that taking upon himself, feeling as a personal burden meant that Jesus wanted to help to bear this distress. Everything that is written in Isaiah 53, we can not take literally, but in the sense that Jesus had compassion on these people.

Jesus was not indifferent to these sick and sinful people, i.e. egoisms, addictions, wrong attitudes, actions and goals in life that were contrary to his own happiness, etc. etc. He cared about them, he cared about them. He stood up for them, these people were important to him and that is all we can read from these texts. When he forgave people's sins, he didn't become a sinner in the same eye, Jesus forgave without taking on anything offensive to himself. When Jesus went to rest after the healings, he was certainly physically taken, but after a detailed conversation with his Father, he was fresh and strong again the next day.

*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Matthew 11:28.29

Jesus says that we should take his yoke upon us, for his burden is light. These are all terms that we also have in our daily speech, even though most no longer operate a yoke of oxen. But the terms have remained, and no one even thinks of trying to hitch themselves to a real yoke of oxen or horses with Jesus.

Burdened with toil...it is heavy on our shoulders...the responsibility weighs heavily...after solving the problem, one person became quite light....

a burden, a load was taken off...to take something upon oneself, to burden oneself (like a heavy potato sack) etc. etc. etc...

When we say responsibility weighs heavy, we are not thinking of 10 cement bags on each shoulder, but of a great responsibility. As in biblical times, we formulate problems, responsibility or liberating joy of life in terms of weight, such as light and heavy, terms that are properly understood even in our time. When it says: *He bore our sickness and took upon Himself our pains*, Matthew explains that this is a figurative term for compassion, care, concern, and sympathy for the health, mental, and spiritual problems of people who were struggling with illnesses and bondages.

*for he bears their sins....and he has borne the sin of many...Isaiah 53*

Sins are in the actual sense life goal failures with the corresponding deeds, which harm the transgressor himself most. But now to suddenly claim that the bearing of sins must be literal, so that a beloved theological bending, a rape of this text and a satanic distortion of the character of God is possible, shows congealed and superficial thinking. For Jesus did not bear the sins any more than Jesus took upon Himself the diseases, **but** He bore the sins in the sense in which He also took upon Himself the diseases. In fact, he had the same compassion and caring benevolence for us afflicted people as he had for the diseases and sins.

The substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus in our place actually leads to a loss of trust in a gigantically great God. A superbaal sacrifice does not necessarily dissolve the mistrust, but gives additional distance to a God who in reality is presented as an unforgiving God, since he cannot forgive in the first place, unless an innocent human being, in Jesus a superbaal sacrifice, is brought. This is in reality the tragedy of this theology.

*But he is wounded for our iniquity and bruised for our sin. The punishment is upon him that we might have peace, and by his wounds we are healed.* Isaiah 53, 5

We, as humans, rejected Jesus when he came to this earth because the God he showed was not equal to Baal. If Jesus had argued like Baal, then the pious high nobility would certainly have accepted him at all times. We experience this also today. No theology can be so bent and perverted without being received with enthusiasm. But when it comes to the simple gospel of Jesus Christ, most of those in positions of responsibility, including various church leaders, have their hair stand on end. It is immediately dismissed as a message of hate and labeled extreme, outdated, sowing discord, divisive, fanatical, radical, blasphemous, and so on. Had Jesus adopted the bent teachings of the theologians of his time, respected the theological madness of the Sanhedrin, everything would have been paletti, he would have worshipped Lucifer. **But our rejection of his truly forgiving, à priori forgiving nature, in effect, cried him out on the cross.** We humans wanted to have him away, so that afterwards everything is again in such a way, as a perverted religion is. It is godless, thus free or loose from the living God. We do not want to understand the outstanding miracles and prefer to stay in our old life. No conversion through a conversion of heart. Theologizing and being right, all people can do that without being educated at all. But if theological education leads to the construction of an opinionated, theological edifice or church tradition, only debaters and wafflers are needed - but certainly not the Spirit of God, who helps us to recognize our own folly.

*The punishment is upon him that we might have peace, and by his wounds we are healed.*

Wrath, punishment, vengeance, these are human words that can only be properly understood when the totality of God's revealed character is looked at and it is referred to again and again in the further chapters!

Now we have realized that our illnesses were not directly taken over by him, but he identified himself with our lot, our fate. So he just as little directly took over our sins, but allowed himself to be treated as a sinner. By dying, everyone who stood by could observe Jesus' reactions, the blasphemies of the scribes, the mocking and jeering of the fence-sitters and execution voyeurs on the one hand, and on the other, the treatment of his very suffering mother's sorrows and intercession for his tormentors. In all this, Jesus did not become sin, but he allowed something so that people realize something crucial: No matter how Jesus, as the almighty Son of God, had power to act against his tormentors, just one word would have been enough and all his tormentors would have been destroyed. He did not, but still prayed for them. He still interceded for his tormentors until the last. Here Jesus showed there is no need to be afraid of God. He showed that 1 Corinthians 13, the song of love, also applies to God.

*Without love man is nothing, without love all that we do is without value...he who loves is patient and kind, he who loves does not get excited, he does not boast and does not show off, he who loves does not behave tactlessly, he does not seek his advantage and does not let himself be aroused to anger. He who loves bears no grudge against anyone; he is not pleased when someone makes a mistake, but when he does what is right. He who loves never gives up, in everything he trusts and hopes, everything he bears with great patience.* 1 Corinthians 13 3-7

To repeat, there is **no need to be afraid of God.**

That was the gamechanger! That turned the universe upside down. Jesus explained the character of God on the cross, Jesus unmasked Satan's accusation of God as a despotic, tyrannical, unforgiving God who needs innocent blood to make reconciliation possible. Here Jesus showed how he always understood the sin/guilt offering, how twisted the theological high nobility distorted everything known about God - Jesus came to set the twisted straight, to correct views of God, and never to present a super Baal with a super Baal sacrifice, an incredible blasphemy widely sold as super love. We Christians have rolled out the widest, red carpet for Baal, aka Lucifer, we have made Lucifer hopeful in all churches, we have worshipped him and promoted him. It is time to reflect and present the true character of Jesus, but it takes more than church dogma, church creed and church prophets - it takes the simple willingness to still be teachable by the Spirit of God.

## What does Jesus himself say about his mission

*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill the law.* Matthew 5:17

*But go and learn what this means (Hosea 6:6): "Mercy I want, and not sacrifice." I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.* Matthew 9:13

*You should not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but the sword.* Matthew 10:34

*For I have come to divide a man with his father, and the daughter with her mother, and the daughter-in-law with her mother-in-law.* Matthew 10:35

*I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him.* John 5:43

*I have come to cast fire on the earth; what would I rather that it burned already!*  
Luke 12:49

*For I came from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.*  
John 6:38

*Then the Jews murmured against him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven.* Joh. 6,41

*And Jesus said: I have come into this world for judgment, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.* John 9:39

*A thief comes only to steal, slaughter and kill. I have come that they may have life and full sufficiency.* John 10:10

*Now my soul is full of restlessness. And what shall I say? Father, help me out of this hour? But this is why I have come to this hour.* John 12:27

*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.* John 12:46

*And whosoever heareth my words, and keepeth them not, him will I not judge: for I am not come to judge the world, but to save the world.* John 12:47

*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou yet a king? Jesus answered, "You said it: I am a king. I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. He who is of the truth hears my voice.* John 18:37

*This is certainly true and a dear word: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first.* 1Timothy 1:15

Here, several reasons are given why Jesus, as the Creator and Lawgiver (to Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses, to list some of those faithful to God's Law), made himself vulnerable as a human being. But strangely enough, almost all the reasons Jesus himself mentions are left out and only one reason outshines everything.

*Now my soul is full of restlessness. And what shall I say? Father, help me out of this hour? But this is why I have come to this hour.* John 12:27

But let's take the text that comes from the conversation between Jesus and the Roman governor Pilate.

*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou yet a king? Jesus answered, "You said it: I am a king. I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. He who is of the truth hears my voice." John 18:37*

Why didn't Jesus just formulate the standard "Christian" gospel here and respond as follows?

"I have come to die for you Pilate, also for the scribes, but also for all people, so that all may be forgiven of their sins. This is what my Father decreed long ago. You are not guilty, but the Father in Heaven cannot forgive people without an innocent Son of God dying. That is what I have been chosen for. But since the Father in heaven is too holy to kill me, he has left the dirty work to you Romans and the Jewish high nobility"....

I can imagine that Pilate would have clapped his hands and said to Jesus super kindly, but in deepest contempt:

"This is a perfect match. We are rid of a nuisance, the Jews are given a murder without guilt, and we are also rid of sins. You are really a gift from heaven. Now we can kill you, and that too with the permission of your Father God - more even, in his order we can kill you to redeem mankind. No one is to blame because it is God's plan.

But Jesus did not answer like that, but as follows:



*Pilate went back to the praetorium and had Jesus brought forward. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked. "Did you come up with this idea yourself, or did others tell you so?" asked Jesus back. "Am I a Jew?" retorted Pilate. "Your own people and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" "My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus replied. "If it were, my servants would have fought so that I would not have fallen into the hands of the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here." "So you are a king after all," Pilate said. "You are right," Jesus replied, "I am a king, I was born to be one. And I came into the world to stand up for the truth. Whoever cares about truth listens to me." "Truth?" said Pilate, "what is that?"*

John 18, 33 - 19, 11

Perhaps Pilate thought, this Jesus I will show it yet, how he can deal with such stupid, philosophical sayings, although the sure death waits for him. What arrogance, to act up as a king, with a fantasy kingdom. For him it was quickly clear, Jesus is only a cheap, religious gusher and swindler.

*Pilate then had Jesus flogged. Then the soldiers wove a crown of thorny branches and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple cloak on him, stood before him and sneered, "Hail, King of the Jews!" At the same time they struck him in the face. Then Pilate went out to the Jews once more and said, "Look here, I am bringing him to you now, for I want you to know that I find no fault with him." When Jesus came out, he was wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. "There, see the man!" said Pilate to them. When the chief priests and their people saw Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" - "Why don't you take him yourself and crucify him!" cried Pilate. "I, for one, find no fault with him." "According to our law he must die," the Jews countered him, "for he made himself the Son of God." ... John 19:1 -*

Now the picture changes in one fell swoop. Pilate is no longer arrogant, his conscience speaks up. It doesn't take long to translate it to him, he knows in his inner being about the reality of a real God. He had become accustomed to leading a God-free life. Now, surprisingly, the presence of God is catapulted into his consciousness.

*When Pilate heard this, he became even more afraid. He went back to the praetorium and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. "Won't you talk to me?" said Pilate to him. "Don't you know that I have the power to set you free? But I can also have you crucified!" "You would have no power over me," Jesus replied, "if it were not given to you from above. Therefore he who delivered me up to you has greater guilt."... John 19:8 - 11*

When Pilate heard that they were going to kill Jesus because he had made himself the Son of God (that is, the sonship of God was the main reason for his condemnation), Pilate became afraid. He asked him again, perhaps with a little less arrogance: where are you from? But Jesus did not answer him. But when Pilate returned to his old Roman arrogance, Jesus answered him: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. From above meant Lucifer, the Jewish high nobility, the "infallible" Jewish theologians, the religious "truth", the religiously falsified, theological human madness. And then he adds a postscript that clearly showed what the condemnation of Jesus was - a **crime**. For Jesus said, "Therefore he that delivered me up unto thee hath greater guilt than who? Pilate too, of course, and everyone who was involved in this plot against Jesus.

If this spiteful murder of Jesus would have been really a God-willed sacrifice, then the Romans or the Jewish, religious high nobility, would have been merely the

executioners, but they are normally not to blame. But Jesus clearly speaks of guilt in his murder and not a God-willed sacrifice by foreign executioners.

But let's return to the statements about why Jesus came into this world.

*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; **I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill the law.*** Matthew 5:17

It is essential to mention here that Jesus emphasized again and again that he is the God who created the world, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, who had given the commandments, the instructions for use to the people. He did not fulfill them and thus settle them, but exemplified their real meaning and advantage.

*But go and learn what this means (Hosea 6:6): "Mercy I want, and not sacrifice." **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*** Matthew 9:13

Not orthodoxy, but compassion for erring people, not a harsh judgment for people with a God-free way of life, but an offer to these people to seize the benefits of a liberating relationship with God.

*You should not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I have not come to bring peace, but the sword.*** Matthew 10:34

The Word of God, the Bible, at that time the Old Testament, exposes the erroneous ways of people, and at the same time also shows the way out of the multiple human dilemma of godlessness. Jesus wished at that time that the biblical truth, as the sword that exposes everything, namely His divine truth given to man, and would help people to distinguish divine truth from human error.

*The Word of God is alive and effective. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword that cuts through the joints and exposes the marrow. It penetrates to our innermost being and separates the spiritual from the spiritual. It judges and evaluates the secret desires and thoughts of our heart. Hebrews 4:12*

*For I have come to divide a man with his father, and the daughter with her mother, and the daughter-in-law with her mother-in-law. Matthew 10:35*

Often people are so pressed into a collective thinking by family ties that such people can no longer decide freely. A Muslim who becomes a Christian automatically loses his family, and this is a situation that most people cannot cope with. Jesus simply said here that truth should be above family ties because family tradition does not necessarily mean divine truth.

*I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him. John 5:43*

Even though Jesus was man, he was also God, Creator at least of this earth, the Lawgiver, the Reconciler and will also be the Judge in the future. The whole Gospel of John is not a shallow hymn of love, but a declaration of war against all who want to belittle Jesus Christ. The Gospel of John begins and closes with the description that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that is, fully God. Jesus' ministry was immediately overshadowed by the fact that his claim to the sonship of God made the scribes and the Jewish high nobility decide to kill Jesus. And this was decided after only a few weeks of his ministry. Half of John's Gospel describes Jesus' conflict with the super-pious and dogmatically super-knowledgeable. And

John does not miss any opportunity to emphasize that Jesus is God and man at the same time.

*I have come to cast fire on the earth; what would I rather that it burned already!*

Luke 12:49

Jesus wanted people to understand that he is a benevolent God, not a super orthodox according to some credo, a creed. A life with God is an incredibly invigorating state, in reality the fulfillment of human longing. He hoped that the invigorating Spirit of God might touch more people with this realization.

*For I came from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.*

John 6:38

A submission to the will of his father, which was congruent with his will. This was not a rape of himself under an irrational, mindless dictate, but a model for the liberation from the bondage of self-made instruction manuals for us humans. Again, Jesus showed that it takes far more than one's own human limited cleverness. In confessing the necessity of overcoming his own limitedness, he turned to his divine Father and handed over the steps in his service that were not possible for him as a human being.

*Then the Jews murmured against him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven* John 6:41

The Word of God, the speeches of Jesus, his declarations, should give us just as much

be worth as much as the real physically satisfying bread. Knowing how to live successfully, how to balance marriage, children, joys, church, job, career, talent, etc., etc., is an art that no one can do, but with the wisdom and help of Jesus, it is possible. The more honestly we identify our limitation, the faster we can grow by involving Jesus in solving our limitations.

*And Jesus said: I have come into this world for judgment, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.* John 9:39

Divine truth meets the spiritually blind, enables the willingness to look at oneself honestly and to be taught, with the possibility of help from Jesus, which is very comprehensive. Arrogant people, in their tradition-laden Christian way of life, will find it difficult to come under the enlightening influence of the Spirit of God. The wisdom of God is of no use to them, since they already know everything better. The judgment described here is then the consequences that come from such thinking.

*A thief comes only to steal, slaughter and kill. I have come that they may have life and full sufficiency.* John 10:10

This expresses the real gospel. Jesus came to benefit, bless and give real life here and in the new world. Regardless of the circumstances we may find ourselves in. Jesus is simply saying here, I really mean well with all people and not just the so-called good ones. Therefore, let me be a part of your lives.

*Now my soul is full of restlessness. And what shall I say? Father, help me out this hour? But that is why I have come to this hour.* John 12:27

The crucifixion was imminent. Jesus knew that now he would be killed, murdered. How should he behave here? Should he destroy his enemies in lost patience with one word, should he murder his enemies prophylactically, so that he gets away? How then can felons, of whom there were and are enough at all times, how should these understand the love of God, How should they understand God himself, as a God, with whom, when it gets tight, forgiveness, patience, benevolence stops!!! Jesus could have slipped out of the affair in all his power, which he did not do, but he renounced all his special powers and let himself be mocked and tormented without murmuring back, in reconciliation and patience, as the *"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"* proves. Patience and reconciliation until his last breath, this is a God before whom no one need fear. A God who deserves respect and trust and is also worthy of our love.

*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.* John 12:46

The wisdom of God illuminates the dark chambers in our consciousness and conscience. We all understand that when we have a clear conscience, our lives also become bright and light. When we agree with the will of God, we see many things more clearly, as if a powerful ray of light were shining on them.

*And whosoever heareth my words, and keepeth them not, him will I not judge; for*  
*I*

*have not come to judge the world, but to save the world.* John 12:47

Jesus has always wanted people to trust him voluntarily, to choose him and not like Lucifer with his decadent, self-destructive seduction to a super egoism, which is very tempting at first, but afterwards cannot silence the voice of conscience.

Every life choice has consequences, but Jesus' desire is that we choose eternal life with Jesus - but voluntarily.

*This is certainly true and a dear word: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first.* 1Timothy 1:15

Jesus came not to have to pass by any human being. Every human being has access to a life with him. Whether we recognize Jesus theologically or honor him through conscience is actually all the same - at least as far as the final consequence is concerned: eternal life. Nevertheless, the knowledge of the instruction manual - a solid Bible knowledge - for a happy life has great advantages for people, because wrong decisions, which cost a lot of life energy, can be corrected or even avoided. Although Paul was called to be an apostle by Jesus, Paul is modest about his own "holiness," he is only grateful that he understood God's nature very well and can call Jesus a forgiving and blessing friend.

To reduce *"I am come...."* to a substitutionary sacrifice in our place seems intellectually very reduced in view of the many texts with this statement. Even if some texts of Paul and Peter, taken on their own, certainly allow such a statement of a substitutionary death on the cross, but from the words of Jesus himself, this cannot be read out. Therefore, it is always necessary to emphasize that we should turn our backs on a Bible excerpt Christianity and return to a whole Bible study.



## Why was Jesus allowed to rise from the dead?

According to the basis of traditional theology, he was not allowed to do that!!!

According to normal mathematics to the traditional, Christian theology Jesus was not allowed to resurrect. But he is nevertheless. After approx. 40 hrs. of death he has risen. Let's say for 100 000 000 000(100 billion people) penalty assumption of 1.5 days, that is 40 hrs. x 60 min. = 2400 min. x 60 sec. = 144 000 seconds, which means that Jesus was dead for about 2 millionths of a second per person.

Something for the home mind: if I buy something at a fixed price, then I may be able to obtain a maximum discount by bargaining, but the price then fixed must then be paid to the penny, otherwise I will not be able to take ownership of the desired object or receive the benefit.

According to "Christian" tradition, the purchase price was set by God in such a way that any sin separates man from God and is worthy of death. Not death, which corresponds to our human mortality, but the lostness of man for eternity would be the price of sin. Eternal no more would be the price!

So if Jesus had to offer the substitutionary death as solution in his "human salvation program", then this means in normal merchant's German that Jesus had to deposit the full amount, as the price is now given by "God". Jesus as a perfect person dies in the place of an imperfect person, like e.g. my one. I am thus considered by God to be like Jesus, perfectly righteous and good, and Jesus gets what I would get, **eternal extinction**. However, this applies only to me. But what about everyone else?

If I negotiate a price for an object and then become one with the dealer, by depositing the agreed amount and taking the object, can then also my friends say, they also take such an object without paying and then justify this with the fact that I would have paid the agreed price and this payment would also apply to them? The dealer would not agree with this procedure, but would say at best that for my friends the same conditions apply and not one article is paid, for it 100 billion articles are taken. This is the theological calculation in the vicarious death of Jesus.

It obviously doesn't take much common sense to see through this limited math. The millionth<sup>2</sup> second death of Jesus per head and nose is not the price for sinful behavior fixed by "God", but an eternity in non-existence (the variant with the eternally burning hell is too sick for me to mention it every time).

The fact is, Jesus did not deposit the required price for me. He did not remotely die vicariously for me because what He paid was not what was required by "God" as punishment for man.

But Jesus died on the cross of Calvary. It was a great event. The disciples and later the apostles emphasize this event again and again as a central event in the reconciliation with God. **So, objectively, Jesus did not die vicariously for us humans. He did not take the punishment upon himself even for a single human being. I would still somehow accept that the life of a God-man is worth as much as the lives of 500 billion normal people, but Jesus was not allowed to rise from the dead !!!!!. He would have to remain dead if the act of purchase was to be valid.**

According to traditional, Christian theology, it is just as if, 10 seconds after depositing the amount in cash on the table, I take the amount of money away

again on the grounds that the amount was on the table and thus I have fulfilled my debt. The merchant would accuse me of fraud and theft, and would be right to do so. But was Jesus allowed to do this?

According to traditional, "Christian" teachings, Jesus is actually a fraud!!! He simply stole the life back again, although he would have had to deposit it for me, without taking it back again. The dealer, Satan, is of course furious with excitement. He no longer has the sinner and he no longer has Jesus. A mad sly action, an ingenious deception.

With the best will in the world, this "divine honesty" can never be the sustainable basis of an eternal reconciliation with God. But thought differently, if Jesus had really deposited the price demanded by the theologians of "God", he would be extinguished for eternity. Who would feel comfortable in heaven in the environment of "God"?

The God I know did not think of such a thing. God did not have man with his madness in the center at the cross death of Jesus, but his own reputation. Not we are accused before the whole universe as not just, as arbitrary, despotic, biased, unloving, but God himself.

Jesus repeatedly said that he came to present God, contrary to the view of the theologians, as he really is. And these still boasted proudly with the statement:

*"Do any of us then believe in him?"* John 7:48

Their image of God was so distorted and consequently their thinking was so bent that they could not bear the normal message. The God that Jesus embodied was

an abomination to them. Jesus, on the other hand, unmasked the "God, Yahweh," whom they worshiped in the temple, as the prince of this world, the adversary of God, who substituted his character for God's and deceived people into accepting his own corrupt character as the divine one. This also explains why the Romans found no fault with him, but only the representatives of "God". They are and were the ones who demanded Jesus' death because his nature was increasingly unbearable for them.

Jesus, as a simply understandable fact, did **not** die vicariously for us humans because the traditionally demanded price was not paid in any form. No matter if the theologians discuss the quality and the quantity of death to enforce their point of view. Common sense alone forbids such an absurd, perverse and unjustly horse-trading, and no one can accept deceit as the basis of universal peace. People should ask themselves: which God are we talking about? Of the God that Jesus represents, who can also do it with sinful people, that is, is not separate, but who has thoughts of life transformation. This God courts the affection of people without overriding their free will, does not overwhelm people with mindless mysteries! The God who shows by our own lives how He desires the affection of us, His children, just as we enjoy the affection of our children, that we desire and cherish it freely and not by compulsion. Is it the God who is reconciliation personified, while respecting human free will?

Or has the "Christian God", who has the destruction of the people in his main program, with perverted, illogical and grossly wrong views and who in the supernatural theology covers this face with a greasy pudding of a love drivel. This God is the God of the Jewish people's representatives, very soon he was also the "God of the Christians" and today he is the "God of the Christian communities",

the adversary of God, Lucifer, Satan, Baal or whatever the seducer of the people is called, who wants to destroy God's real image.

Even though today many theologians strive in their personal lives to represent the real God in heaven but preach perversion, they should know that Jesus also included them when he asked for forgiveness on the cross.

*"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34*

They, too, are tools seduced by Lucifer, misused to deface the image of the essence of God.

**Since now Jesus did not die vicariously in the thought of a substitute, in somebody's place, Jesus could resurrect.** Here the logic is also no longer raped. He had not deserved a death, therefore Jesus could take the life again for himself without having committed a breach of contract. No cheating!!! **The demonstration of God's justice and patient love was over, and death had no power over Jesus anyway because there was no vicarious sin bargain underneath.** The task to show the nature of God in the most extreme situation, from the side of the tortured and reviled God and from the side of God as a righteous judge, was successfully fulfilled by Jesus. **On the cross there was no substitution, but a demonstration of the answers to the most important question of all times: Can I trust God?** He could go back to God, or remain with men, but only because he did **not** die vicariously for men. So if Jesus was without sin, then death could not hold him, and as the Son of God, he had life in himself that he did not have to deposit vicariously forever. Although Jesus still rested in the tomb on the Sabbath, he also respected this creation holiday for himself, even though his task was completed. Now the whole universe saw:

God has been falsely accused, God is trustworthy!!!

And now the whole thing makes sense again. Jesus will also be there when we will be there and that on the basis of law and not on the basis of a theologian's mathematics, a sly deception. That is why Jesus had to become man. Precisely because, as Godlike, he could not have been killed. **The death of Jesus was from God the only opportunity to show that he is a gracious God, that he accepts the free will of man and does not destroy the one who rebels against God, but that this rebellion destroys the creatures themselves.**

Only in this sense Jesus died the death for all people, so that all people recognize that God is merciful, but shows people the consequence of their own actions. *Jesus' death is a demonstration of God's patient response to an errant creature until their last breath.* On the cross, the eternal God presented his eternally valid program:

Love is life! God's love has no end. God does not lose patience even under the most extreme conditions, but even prays for His murderers.

## Bible texts that invite abuse

Many people know the Bible texts that superficially justify the assumption that Jesus Christ died vicariously for us. They are well-known texts that seem to testify absolutely to many that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross reconciled people vicariously with God, provided people want to accept this reconciliation.

Classic texts are:

*... "It is better that one man should die for all than that the whole nation should be destroyed." Joh. 11. 50*

*"Without shedding of blood there is no reconciliation." Hebrews 9:22*

*Be reconciled to God. For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might have the righteousness that is before God in him. 2 Cor. 5:20, 21*

I have explained the concept of the two possible interpretations in detail in the present chapters. I will comment on these and other texts again in the appendix. But now I would like to make an effort around 2 text groups, which are hardly noticed or even read over, nevertheless can bring very much clarity with exact view. That is the 2nd chapter in the 1st Peter letter and the 3rd chapter in the 1st John letter.

But before I start with the 2 text groups, a fundamental decision is needed. This decision is that of intellectual truthfulness, of intellectual honesty. Today, through

the political outlawing of facts and facts, this is no longer usual, because one has become accustomed to the fact that truth is how one directs it or can also direct it politically.

An example; it generally known: The snow is not black, but white, no matter who or what of us would like to see it differently.

What am I talking about. If we have a concept of salvation in our minds, in which salvation happened on the cross alone, that is, vicariously for me, in order to buy an eternal right to life with God the Father, then we cannot change the concept like a shirt if we want to be considered intellectually upright. That means in other words, one does not turn the conviction like the flag in the wind, as it just fits and is argumentatively useful for us. The conviction on this point, for example, is like a grid that one must be able to lay over all the texts that deal with forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption, and after that the whole thing must still make sense. The classical interpretation of the substitutionary death of Jesus in our place fits naturally over the introductory 3 texts. But now to the 2 text groups

#### 1. Text group

*"And you also, as the living stones, build yourselves up into a spiritual house and holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 2:5 **Luther translation**

*"Be ye also yourselves, as living stones, built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*  
**Detto, Elberfelder Translation**



What is this 2nd chapter about anyway? It begins by saying that Jesus is the cornerstone of the church building and we are also to be living stones in that building. Although Jesus was rejected by his ground staff as this cornerstone, he is still the foundation on which we base our faith. Peter admonishes us to the fact that as Christians we represent the royal priesthood, and there we should conduct ourselves accordingly. We should also behave in a dignified and exemplary manner towards the authorities, so that other people recognize and honor God by our behavior, even if the authorities and superiors or employers do not mean well with us and we innocently suffer misfortune.

*But if someone endures shame and suffering, even though he has done nothing bad, but only good, then this is a gift from God. As Christians, God has called us to this*<sup>1</sup>  
Peter 2:20, 21.

The whole of chapter 2 is about taking Jesus as an example of a successful and spiritual life, Jesus being our example in everything. Verse 5 says we should offer spiritual sacrifices? If Peter means the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, which we should imitate, because the whole 2nd chapter in Peter's letter is about the Christian loving interaction with each other, then one wonders, if with Jesus apparently the fulfillment of the sacrificial death message in the animal sacrifices should be finished, why we should still offer spiritual sacrifices today. So a kind of spiritual, vicarious suicide or even murder!? That's bizarre.

*"For to this you were called; for Christ also suffered for you,  
leaving you an example, that you may follow in his footsteps;"*

1 Peter 2:21

Jesus gave us an example with his self-sacrifice, so we should also sacrifice ourselves and let ourselves be killed?!? Again reduced in the sense of the vicarious death of Jesus, this is a huge nonsense, especially since the whole 2nd chapter now concerns as repetition the way of life of the Christians. Peter then quotes well-known verses from the 53rd chapter of the prophet Isaiah. So we should also become sick, possessed, crippled etc. etc. in order to follow the example of Jesus. Or - are we simply to take the **whole life of** Jesus as an example and also have compassion on people, care for them, make their problems ours too, etc. etc. as Jesus exemplified. But reduced to the vicarious death of Jesus, the murder on the cross, this passage seems completely nonsensical.

## 2. Text group

The 3rd chapter of John's letter is also about taking Jesus' giving love as an example. We, as his children, should also behave accordingly. Children of God observe the commandments of God as a sign of esteem, a life that is pleasing to God like the life of Jesus. By keeping the protective commandments of God, we show whether we are born of God or of Satan. Whoever is born of God loves his brothers and sisters and whoever does not, behaves differently, is called a murderer and is denied eternity. Now comes the text that is very interesting.

*"By this we have known love, that he laid down his life for us: and we ought also to lay down our lives for the brethren."* 1 John 3:16

So again - in the 1st Epistle of John in the 3rd chapter, John describes that keeping the commandments of God, that is, loving and respecting even inconvenient brothers and sisters, was the central concern of Jesus. This sounds superficially as

works righteousness, but if the commandments of God are expressions of the pure loving character of God, to affirm and live out these commandments first is to be one with God, to be reconciled, to be in harmony, to live in the perfection of Jesus, which obviously culminates especially in loving one's enemies. And in the Christian homes, also the Christian communities, there are enough opportunities for such "love of enemies", then the thought in chapter 3:16 comes to the fore:

**...as Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice, so we also should give our life as a sacrifice.**  
1.John 3, 16

So if Jesus had sacrificed his life on the cross, vicariously as a substitute for punishment, and we should also give our lives as a substitute for punishment because we have Jesus as our model, that is, a substitute for punishment for sins of whatever kind for our communities or our family, then there would be deaths without end. Don't we see that this very verse shows the substitutionary sacrifice theology as a perversion?

We know that in the so-called substitution concept the sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient, Jesus would be sacrificed once and for all and there would be no need for further sacrifices, so as a refresher, also no sacrifices by the believers, where they should let themselves be hanged, shot or however killed as a substitute for the families. This text is completely irrational in the middle of the 3rd chapter if we insist on replacement theology with this text.

But if the entire life of Jesus, a great effort, a sacrifice, a  
Atonement of God to us is, then we understand quite well that Jesus had a more pleasant time and worthy respect in heaven than with us, where they accused

him of all sorts of things, molested him, preferred to drag his reputation in the mud and had nothing better to do than to betray him to the Romans and have him murdered, something like that is already a sacrifice, a proper burden. But if we experience this atonement of his whole life, his interest in us, his outstretched hand to us, who are sitting incapacitated in a corner into which we have maneuvered ourselves, then the text is logical and also understandable in the middle of this 3 chapter. Then it also applies to us, to take responsibility for others, to show that we should not be indifferent even to weird birds, to practice kindness even to impossible types, to show ourselves generous even to the ungrateful, in other words to live a life similar to Jesus. Which is also nothing else than taking a great burden on ourselves and making this sacrifice of life. The reward is the joy of some restored relationship with Jesus himself.

A family friend of mine has a lovely adult daughter, but sometimes, when she couldn't get her way, or you repeatedly contradicted her, she would completely freak out. Then it was that time again, words also fell, where you just say: "that's it now, then she should live as she wants and go with her head through any concrete wall". In the first moment the father would have liked to put the adult daughter over his knee - but the father gave up, also told the daughter, now our relationship is over - in a family such abuses do not go at all. She could now be happy in her stubborn way of life. The stepmother of this young woman urged her husband and father of this young woman a little later, despite the unbelievable lapses of the daughter towards the father, to make contact again, to make the first step and to convey to the daughter that he still loves her, which was anything but easy at first. But then he took heart, put aside the personal hurt and visited the daughter, not accusing her of anything, but just showing his interest in her, hugging her and confirming his love for her, despite her impossible behavior. Later she cried and confirmed to the father that she was not able to

approach the father, even though she knew how much she was hurting him, and that she was incredibly grateful that the father took the first reconciliation step, came to her and hugged her, thus making reconciliation possible again. The father of this young, hurting angry wife and daughter gave himself as a living sacrifice, for that was surely a great overcoming to simply forgive and seek real reconciliation. He also did not sacrifice any family member for this kind of forgiveness, but he lovingly and reconciliatory reached out his hand to his daughter in her sulking corner and helped her out again. Today there is wonderful peace again, the daughter has her temper and her choice of words very well under control, because the family is now worth it to her. All of them are happy now and that is because the father overcame his wounded pride and offered his hand to the daughter as a wounded person for reconciliation, so that she has experienced reconciliation and is allowed to live in harmony with the family again.

This is exactly what this entire 3rd chapter in the 1st Epistle of John means.

Are we really so naive as not to be able to see that people often get so carried away, throwing away relationships over nothing, just because they are unable to take back or forgive an offending sentence? How many relationships have been saved simply because parents have reached out again to resentful children because the children have become distant grudges. How many people are grateful for a reconciling, outstretched hand because they themselves could not. Because God also sees us in our dislocation, in our often irrational pride, in being stranded by bad decisions and really charged guilt - that's where he reaches out to us, in goodwill, in friendly helpfulness, in understanding our whole life story, in an invitation to experience his loving kindness and allow him to restore our brokenness, our self-injuries, our self-respect often lost in many areas. **That is**

**reconciliation.** This is what Zacchaeus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, and also the woman at Jacob's well experienced.

The prophet Micah asks in the spirit of God: What is necessary to be in good standing with God?

He offers mass sacrifices, hectoliters of anointing oil and to sacrifice the most precious thing one has, one's own children, just to mention some well-known examples of substitutionary sacrifices, bribes to God, religious free trade. Even the most exaggerated measure of human sacrifice does not impress God, because He never wanted such substitute sacrifices, and at no conceivable time. No shopping with God, no bribes, no manipulations and pseudo-pious actions.

*"With what shall I make atonement to the LORD, bowing down before the high God? Shall I make atonement for him with burnt offerings and calves of the year? Will the LORD be pleased with many thousands of rams, with innumerable rivers of oil? Or shall I give my first son for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? It is told thee, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requireth of thee, to keep the word of God, and to love, and to be humble before thy God."* Micah 6:6ff

What does God want now: to **practice love, to respect God's commandments**, and in the  
apply to your own life (as an instruction manual for a successful life)  
and **be humble before God. Basta.**

In this verse, substitute actions are offered that God does not want at all. That is, all substitute actions contrary to practicing love, obeying God's commandments,

and becoming humble before God have been clearly rejected by God and are in no way considered by God as a suitable means to achieve true reconciliation.

When God says that he does not forgive us according to our sins, then we do not have a mechanistic punishment processing before us, which Jesus would have had to do on the cross, but the reconciliation offer of Jesus is in reality his lived life, as a full demonstration of how God wants us to relate to him! This is a friendly invitation to return to relationship with God and together with Him and His friendly companionship in our lives, to recover spiritually, to rebuild self-esteem, to see destroyed relationship healed again. John describes in this 3rd chapter of the 1st Epistle of John that what we experience with God should also be experienced by others around us, that we should approach others in the same way as God approaches us - because then we would be perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect in loving our enemies.

What did this perfection consist of? By God stretching out his reconciling hand to us and saying: Come we are good again, let us forget what was there and let us start anew. Nothing more, nothing less.

Reconciliation involves action for a peace agreement and this is what Jesus showed in his work in his **33 years of life**, but also as the Creator and Yahweh in the millennia with Israel. That expressed:

*"Taste and see how good the LORD is. Blessed is he who trusts in him!"* Psalm 34:8

So - come and experience for yourself that God is kind and means well with us. The way he approached people with doubtful lifestyles, showed them that God never gave up on them, the many sermons aimed at understanding God better, were all meant as aids to let God approach them more easily. Jesus, in his

acceptance of all people, the so-called good as well as the disreputable, showed that with God all people represented an enormous value. The **life of Jesus was the reconciliation**, his presentation in the work, the discussions, the teaching appearances, the innumerable healings showed a mild, reconciling God. **This life of Jesus is the reconciliation** and not the perverted reduction to the death of suffocation on the cross, as a so-called substitute action. Jesus did not say in vain that he came to show, to explain, to present correctly the truth, the character, the worthiness of love, the outstretched hand of God. This is what the pious caste despised and that is why they wanted to silence Jesus. **The whole work of Jesus was the offer of reconciliation to a new peace with God.**

*...for our Passover lamb has also been slain: Christ.* 1 Corinthians 5.7

*...You know, of course, that you were not delivered from the meaningless life with perishable things like silver or gold, as you had inherited from your ancestors, **but with the precious blood of a pure, spotless sacrificial lamb, the blood of Christ.*** 1 Peter 1:18, 19

*The next day John sees Jesus coming to him and says: "**Behold, this is the Lamb of God who bears the sin of the world!**"* John1, 29

Jesus is the Passover Lamb, but in what sense? If Jesus should have been the **representative Passover lamb**, then one asks oneself also, why John the Baptist does not formulate this differently, like: Here is the lamb of God, **who will carry the sins of the world** - thus in a future form. It is "all" about his death, because apparently according to the principle: "the wages of sin is death" Jesus should let his life stellverttetendend. So Jesus apparently lived only to die, because everything else did not really count. Or did John see in Jesus the personified



interest, the care of God, the compassion and the benevolent sympathy for our problems and madresses and therefore wrote this famous word in the present tense, because just Jesus already carried the sins of the people at all times. (see also the comments on Isaiah, chapter 53).

And what does the Passover lamb have to do specifically with our sins. Was Passover really about our sins or about a visible sign of the sparing of the people of the Israelites by the angel of God? Wasn't Passover precisely the atonement, or in more theological terms, the atonement of God, the means of reconciliation, the sparing of God's people, the caring aspect in the blood on the posts of the doors, where life-sustaining grace with the obedience to follow God's recommendations? A submitting to God is not a mechanistic and materialistic image of God, where punitive substitution plays the central role? Why do people try to bribe God today as they did then? Sacrifice as a means to influence God and to buy his favor In really suitable reconciliation, an all-embracing peace agreement must come out at the end, in a complete harmony, mentally, spiritually and also in the reliable observance of the harmony preserving courses of action, where the needs of the others are investigated and it is tried to put these into action with the help and the power of God - and not to let someone be murdered vicariously!!! **If theologians are so intent on praising these substitutionary thoughts, then I wonder why God says he is willing to forgive any sin, no matter how great, sins that are blood red, capital crimes. Why then does the sacrificial system in Israel not provide for animal sacrifices for capital crimes, but only stoning?** Does the sacrificial system have a completely different explanation for this kind of animal sacrifice?

**If people had no money, why were they allowed to bring flour as a substitute for sacrifice, but flour cannot be slaughtered, there is then also not the famous blood**

that cancels, cleanses or washes away our sins, without which there would be no forgiveness of sins?

When God realized, the people of this world have reached one of the many dead ends in their arrogant self-important, ignorant and in many ways rebellious decisions - Jesus decided to offer himself in a reconciling way and to meet these people, so that they can get again a meaningful perspective for their guilt, their strayness and their social self-exclusion.

*Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world...* that is, Jesus came to us in our insane world and reached out to us and helped us back into a wonderful, godly family life and we are to do the same, that is the main statement in the 3rd chapter of John. Nowhere does it talk about the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ.

*"The love of God toward us was manifested in this, that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we should live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."* 1 John 4:9-18

Another text that gives reason to decide again. What does this text say about reconciliation? God sent his Son to us for reconciliation. We have the choice, either again a reduction to the murder for hire and the suffocation death of Jesus Christ on the cross, as a substitutionary means for the general forgiveness of sins **or the** whole life of Jesus Christ including dying on the cross as the conclusion of this life, but as a demonstration of the love of God, because God forgives from the beginning.

So if God loved us as He showed in His earthly life, then we are to love one another in the same way. We again have the choice of superimposing one of the two grids over this text. If we take the interpretive grid of the demonstration of God's love in the whole life of Jesus without reduction to the death of the cross as a valid means of reconciliation, as an outstretched hand, then John's call to imitate him as he exemplified it makes sense. **But if we take the substitutionary grid and superimpose it over the text, reducing God's courtship to the commissioned murder of the leading theologians, then we should ask ourselves again: should we really kill ourselves for the sake of others, so that we might conform to Jesus' example? Of course not! So, if we operate these texts with the substitutionary grid, then these Bible texts seem completely bizarre and unacceptable.**

Not on the other hand, if we take the demonstration thought in the sacrifices and consider as sacrifice of Jesus his whole life, only then these two chapters with these texts make sense. Because this is only an image and does not actually mean what it says, but as a part of the whole, so the principle of "pars pro toto", includes the whole life of Jesus, including the death on the cross and does not exaggerate the death on the cross with 2000%, but also describes this only as a part of the whole life of Jesus. With good will, it is very easy to see the figurative meaning.

Do we recognize at some point that replacement theology is an intellectual imposition? Do we manage to put the same interpretation grid over all these texts or do we adapt the grid as it suits us or as it has to fit ideologically or better denominationally? Why people are not able to think out of the famous box, that is, to question themselves, is described in the next verse.

*"Fear is not in love, but complete love casts out fear; for fear has torment. But he that feareth is not wholly in love. Let us love him; for he first loved us."* 1 John 4:18,19

It is fear that keeps people from thinking out of the box. Are we Christians allowed to do that? What if it is wrong, if it is error, if it is not true? But what if what is loved can possibly be false, and thus God is perverted, that is, a Satanic face is drawn? What if we have fallen for Satan with replacement theology, what is, what is, what is? Fear rules the famous world. Fear rules in the corona crisis, fear rules in theology too. Fear shows a failure to understand God, that He has no problem when we think. Or are we so detached to think that we humans only think right things about God? **If God deals with us the way Jesus had us deal with sinful people, with people in need, with people in debt, then we don't need to be afraid of God. But if we believe in a God who can only forgive when he sees innocent blood, then we should be afraid of him. Who do we meet in the theological reconciliation grid - God himself or Lucifer.**

God understands our big questions and lets us search. To think that we have summarized our God in a few points of faith that fit into a small, theological matchbox, into a creed, such a small vest pocket God, where everything is reduced to the murder of Jesus, is in reality obsolete. What governs our thinking: fear of possible falsehood or the joy of coming to a possible knowledge of truth, in which God guides us through the Holy Spirit.

*Where among you does a son ask the father for a loaf of bread, who offers him a stone, or for a fish, who offers him a snake... As bad as you are, you know what is good for your children and you give it to them. How much more will the Father in heaven give His Spirit to those who ask Him?* Luke 11:11 - 13

The problem that most theologically denominationally thinking people have is that for them the facts from a whole Bible view do not count and the facts stand in no relation to their supernatural explanations and phantasties. Every non-literate person arranges his life in such a way that experiences as facts form the basis of action, in order to make the somewhat uncertain, future life decisions with this wealth of experience. Traditional "Christian" theology takes a larger number of similarly worded Bible texts, as quoted at the beginning, and does not place them in a context with the real, biblical facts of the entire Bible, but places them above them. Suddenly, contradictions are elegantly declared supernatural and super-logical, and there are no more limits to a theological phantasmagoria. Then still faith is demanded to accept a bizarre and perverted belief system as "divine" truth, which in reality means a theological head shot.

Jesus Christ is the creator God at least for this world, the law giver with Adam and Eve and especially with Moses, he is the reconciler through all millennia, because he has defined the rules for a reconciliation and that all alone without the super theologians, and he will also be the future judge. No matter how the "Christian theology" tries to throw Jesus out even as the law and life norm giver, he still is. **He has written the whole history of mankind mainly responsible and he does not change, no matter which church saints and church prophets would like to have it differently.**

## How should the battle between light and darkness end?

When Lucifer poses as the Messiah at the end of days, he knows this is his last show. It will be bloody. But before that he will ensnare the inhabitants of this earth with an orgy of miracles. He will pretend the return of Jesus and will confirm a kind of world ethics and world morals. Billions will fall for him, worship him and cheer him. But the God he will portray will be the exact opposite of the God we know from a whole Bible study. He will proclaim a cheap smarmy love, but fight everything that can be associated with the real Jesus Christ, especially His creation order. And the Christians will be his most fiery followers.

*But the evil one will appear in the power of Satan with great power and lying signs and wonders and with every seduction to unrighteousness in those who will be lost, because they did not accept the love of the truth, that they might be saved. therefore God sends them the power of seduction, so that they believe the lie, that all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness* 2. Thessalonians 2. 9 - 12

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers and disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. And this is also no wonder, because he himself, Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is nothing great if also his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.* 2 Corinthians 11.13 - 15

*For many a false Messiah and many a false prophet will appear. They will identify themselves by great signs and wonders and would even deceive the elect if they could. Remember, I have foretold all things to you. So when they say to you, 'Look, he is out in the wilderness,' do not go out! Or, 'Look, here he is in the house,' do*

*not believe it! For when the Son of Man returns, it will be like lightning lighting up the whole horizon. Matthew 24, 24 - 27*

*(for repetition in another translation)*

*This lawless one will appear with Satan's help and perform all kinds of deeds of power, signs and wonders and blind people. All those who go to perdition, he will tempt to evil with his seductive arts. They will succumb to him because they have refused to love the truth that would have saved them. For this reason, God delivers them to the power of deception, that they believe the lie. For all who have not believed the truth and have found pleasure in wrong will be condemned.*

2.Thessalonians 2, 9 - 12

If Satan pretends the return of Jesus, then he will need a recognition sign to rally the people behind him! And the address will be especially addressed to the Jews and Christians. There it is not about theological peanuts. A recognition sign must be the core theme of the whole universe and **the core theme of its falsification** through all millennia of its activity - that was and is nothing less than the distortion of the character of God. That which he will portray as God's character is his own deformed Luciferian nature. He will show the face of Baal. Everything that is only somehow reminiscent of the Creator and the principles of creation, as well as the law of God, will be counteracted and eradicated. Luciferian human rights will replace God's law (= God's character). Then it is up to us to make the decision before Jesus closes the chapter world.

## Conclusion

This image of God, elaborated in this book, is in the worst case a theoretical error. But if God made a religious fanatic, Saul, a super apostle after the beating of Bin Laden, after he became an intelligent murderer and despiser of human beings through Jewish synagogues, as today the suicide bombers are equally trained to become mass murderers in their places of prayer, then we can well afford possible theoretical, theological error.

This super apostle, Paul from Tarsus, realized that nothing can separate us from the love of God:

*"I am certain that nothing can separate us from this love, neither death nor life, neither angels nor other powers, neither things present nor things to come, neither heavenly nor devilish."* Own addition: neither truth nor error. Romans 8:38,39

*Test everything, but keep what is good*<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 5:21

And yet, the principle that Paul suggests should be applied to what is new and perhaps to content that raises questions. Even if the price of the new knowledge means dramatic changes in the life of the respective person, perhaps loss of a secure job, loss of friends, perhaps even of the spouse or loss of social recognition. We are well advised not to betray our inner convictions. However, when new insights arise, we should honestly face these insights and integrate them into our lives.



*The Jews in Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica. They listened with great attention and read the holy scriptures every day to see if **what Paul said was true**...Acts 17:11*

But an attitude in this sense will remain an illusion for many people. This attitude of mind demanded by Paul requires a certain degree of reformatory potential. But proportional to the loss of reformation of doctrine and life in the theological circles, the measure of intolerance increases up to persecution, if the time and social circumstances make such means of power possible. And as justification, these circles or churches or communities have theological safety-locks in the form of credos, creeds, according to which these groups function.

The favorite child of these security locks is the biblical text:

*Not even I myself or an angel from heaven may bring you good news that contradicts the one I brought you. Whoever does it shall be accursed, separated from God forever...Whoever brings you a gospel other than the one you have accepted shall be accursed and separated from God forever* Galatians 1:8,9

A perfect safety lock. Who still dares to revolt, if the masses have the vicarious death of Jesus in the program, then this must be the true gospel, the truth about God. Who wants to be cursed, to be annihilated for eternity? Nobody!

*But the cowardly and faithless, the apostates, murderers and adulterers, the sorcerers, the idolaters and all who did not adhere to the truth will find their place in the lake of burning fire. This is the second, the final death."* Revelation 21:8

So it is said that the cowards (Revelation 21:8 perhaps mistranslated, but therefore coherent in content) will not inherit the kingdom of God and this does not mean those who avoid high-risk, no extreme sports, no bungijumping, but those who no longer dare to question theological statements because of full theological pants. To put it harshly, cowardice before the consequences of truth is also an exclusion criterion for eternity - as John puts it in Revelation.

*Whoever honors church brothers more than me is not worthy of me.* Free translation Matthew 10, 37

Jesus saw it this way:

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law, you have taken away the key that opens the door to knowledge. You yourselves do not enter and hinder all who want to enter."* Luke 11, 52

Was not then the same security lock as:

*"Have you also allowed yourselves to be deceived? Does even one of the rulers or Pharisees believe in him (or in what he says?) Only the people do, who know nothing of the law of God - cursed be they"* John 7:48, 49

Error! This safety lock was the **opinion of the mass, the mainstream of the theologians**, but unfortunately not the truth of God. That is, Jesus exposed the opinion of the mass of theologians, the theological mainstream, as the false gospel.

And how is it today?

## Part 2

Is God trustworthy? Deepening the Christian Gospel

## How does the Bible describe Jesus Christ

Within the framework of the so-called message of the 3 angels, set forth in the Revelation of John, 3 warnings come to mankind at the end of time. In this context, the first angel's message demands respect for the Creator. Today one sees and hears similar, namely respect for the nature, because the creator is already abolished, but the first angel in these 3 final messages reminds us again of the creator!

*"And I saw another angel flying high up in heaven, who had received the eternal message of salvation, to proclaim it over those who sit on the earth, over every people and tribe and tongue and nation. And he cried with a loud voice: Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour has come for Him to execute judgment! And bow your knees before him who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of water!*

*And another angel, a second, followed, crying out, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great, who has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication!*

*And another angel, a third, followed them, crying out with a loud voice: Whoever worships the beast and his image, and has a mark put on his forehead or on his hand, will himself also have to drink of the wine of God's wrath, which is mixed undiluted in the cup of his wrath, and will be tormented in fire and brimstone, in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ... Here steadfastness is demanded from the believers, here are demanded those who hold fast to the commandments of God and to the faith of Jesus!"* Revelation 14, 4 - 12

Many Christians ask themselves surprised, why now suddenly this "Old Testament" God Yahweh plays a role again, he was replaced by Jesus, wasn't he? Well, the fewest Christians study the **whole Bible**, for well-known reasons. The Old Testament is known to have "had its day". It should contain mostly only stories, and doctrinal examples, but in such a way, as it is described in the Old Testament, the Bible at present of Jesus, it is not to have taken place. In a time of the superficial science affiliation, where it is claimed that God and science do not go under a hat, even contradict each other, it was not even tried to grasp the real complexity of biology rudimentarily. It is easy to claim, God is not scientific, if one has to complex in the creation no expertise at all. Who had the impudent forehead to take God out of the science equation and to assert with it as the only, unrivaled theory, the creatorless origin of matter and life - as if no other choice existed? This is then called "enlightened", as if God was no longer needed for anything, as if he had become obsolete for survival.

*"But unto the wicked God saith, Why countest thou my statutes, and takest my covenant in thy mouth, when thou hatest discipline, and castest my words behind thee? When thou seest a thief, thou makest friends with him, and hast fellowship with adulterers; thou makest thy mouth to speak evil, and thy tongue to speak deceit; thou sittest and speakest against thy brother, thou slanderest thy mother's son. **This thou hast done, and I have held my peace: thou thoughtest that I was like thee: but I will punish thee, and will set it before thee.** Remember this, ye that forget God, that I take not away, and that there is no deliverer! He who gives thanks honors me, and there is the way that I show him the salvation of God!" Psalm 50, 16 - 23*

Jesus had a small group of very loyal followers during his lifetime on earth with his disciples, or after his resurrection, e.g. with Paul, Silas, Timothy and Barnabas.

These saw Jesus as the one he made recognizable to them, the **Jesus who was murdered as God and Son of God** - out of hatred, jealousy, ignorance, unteachability, theological arrogance and in truth real godlessness with all the pious posturing - or simply out of superficial reasons of state on the part of the Romans.

Below I list the essential texts that describe the deity of Jesus Christ.

*"(Jesus Christ), who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and all things consist in him.** And he is the head of the body, even of the church, he who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might be first. For it pleased God that in him should all fullness dwell, and that through him all things should be reconciled to himself, by making peace through him through the blood of his cross, both things in heaven and things on earth."* Colossians 1:13 - 17

***"Jesus Christ is yesterday and today, and the same forever!"*** Hebrews 13:8

*"But I do not want you, my brothers, to disregard the fact that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. They were also all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and they all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, **for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them. But the rock was Christ.** But with the majority of them God was not pleased; for they were cast down in the wilderness. Now these things have happened as an example for us, so that we may not be lusted after by evil, just as they were lusted after. Neither become idolaters, as some of them did, as it is written, "The people*

sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ...Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and fell in one day of their twenty-three thousand. ***Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them tempted him, and were slain of serpents.*** Neither murmur, as some of them murmured, and were slain by the destroyer. ***All this that happened to them is an example and was written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come.*** Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing, let him see that he does not fall! So far only human temptation has affected you. But God is faithful; he will not suffer you to be tempted above your ability, but will at the same time with the temptation make an exit, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:1 - 13

***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This was in the beginning with God. Everything came into being through the same thing; and without the same thing, not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not."*** John 1, 1 - 5

***"...And he is clothed with a garment dipped in blood, and his name is called, The Word of God."*** Revelation 19:13

***"...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*** Revelation 22:13

***"Behold, he comes with the clouds, and every eye shall see him, even those who pierced him, and all the families of the earth shall beat their breasts because of him! Yes, Amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*** Revelation 1:1, 8

*"And unto the angel of the church in Laodicea write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of the creation of God." Revelation 3:14 -*  
19

*"Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast seen Abraham? Jesus said to them: Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am!" John 8:58*

*"...Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

*But we know that the Son of God has come and has given us a purpose, that we may know the true One; and we are in the true One, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and the eternal life. 1.John 5, 20*

*"For ye ought to be so minded, even as Jesus Christ was, who, being in the form of God, held it not fast as a robbery to be equal with God; but emptied himself, and took upon him the form of a servant, and became like unto men, and being found in his outward appearance like unto men, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him the name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of them which are in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5 - 11*

*Jesus spoke these things and went away and hid himself from them. And though he had done these signs before them, yet they believed not on him,*



*That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he said, Lord, who believeth our preaching? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?" Therefore they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, "God hath **blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart, that they should not see with their eyes, nor hear with their heart, and be converted, and I should help them.**" This is what Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Jesus. John 12, 37 - 41*

Now in view of these texts, the usual excerpt gospel of the pick and choose method looks very weak, a Bible excerpt Christianity where only agreeable texts are selected to be served palate-wise to an unbelieving "Christian" crowd, thought of as biblical tapas. If we look at the confrontation of Jesus with the theological high nobility, the most important thing for the theologians was to catch Jesus in a slip of the tongue and statements about his God-likeness. In John's Gospel, this conflict makes up half of the Gospel. The whole Gospel of John is in reality not a Gospel of love, but a pamphlet, a polemic against the Luciferian church dogmatics, which undermined the Creator and Lawgiver and put human cleverness in their place. **Jesus is God** - that is the statement of the Gospel of John. If you want to read a gospel of love, read the gospel of Matthew, where the friendly and human, but also clear position of Jesus to us humans is described.

**Now what do these texts mentioned above really say? Jesus is not only a nice man who stands up** for the socially weak and preaches love, no, these texts clearly explain that Jesus Christ, besides being the **reconciling God**, is also **the Creator, the Lawgiver with** Moses and in the end he will even be the **judge of all people**.

This biblical fact has been completely hidden in the constant watering down of the gospel - but now many a picture is changing.

**The God (Jesus) who** created Adam and Eve also explained to them the temptation at the tree of "knowledge", the consequences of separating from God. The God who blessed Abel, who did not stamp Cain into the ground, who took Abraham out of idolatrous Mesopotamia, who made Joseph a blessing in Egypt, who instructed Moses to lead his people out of Egypt, who parted the Reed Sea so that the Israelites could get to the other side and be saved, who gave them the divine rules at Mount Sinai and educated them on them, who showed mercy again and again in all rebellion, who did not spurn David's repentant heart, who had a prophet in Jeremiah, who tirelessly called the people to repentance on his behalf, who gave Daniel, the most powerful kings of that time, a faithful, reliable and incorruptible advisor beyond measure, who still acts as an outstanding role model today - **this God was Jesus, Jesus Christ!!!** The God or Son of God, who as Jesus questioned the independent traditions, who by his uncompromising attitude turned the high theologians of that time against himself, until they had him murdered on the cross. He was the one who, just before his death, prayed for his haters, mockers and tormentors for their forgiveness, explained the Scriptures, that is, **the Old Testament**, to the disciples after his resurrection. - Jesus tried to explain his task to so many, even Pilate got to hear that he was trying to testify for the (real) truth of God.

*Let every man be of the same mind as Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not consider it a robbery to be like God, but emptied himself and took the form of a servant, being made like another man, and being found in the likeness of men; he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of them which are in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue*

*should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Philippians 2:5 - 11

Jesus knew the whole story, because he himself wrote it with the people of God.

*"Jesus Christ is yesterday and today, and the same forever!"* Hebr. 13, 8

One more word about God / Yahweh / Jesus: I am not concerned here with Trinity or the triune God of Catholics or Protestants. However we see the relationship between Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit, because this relationship is not revealed to us, we have in the many statements of Jesus a reference to his pre-existent life already before Abraham. What we read from John chapter 1 and Colossians chapter 1, God has given the responsibility, with everything that happens on earth, to Jesus. **In the creation of the earth, even if all the participants of the Godhead were present, in the end the main executor was Jesus, in the OT as Yahweh.** Therefore, it is also important to understand the legislation from the hand of Jesus and also the various judgments on the godless unbelievers, as well as on the people of God was initiated and carried out by Jesus. Jesus is also the Yahweh who spoke with Moses, with Joshua, as well as with all the prophets. **How else is the statement of Jesus to be understood, if he does not have the entire responsibility here on earth, since he is the only God or God's representative, over whom everything that has to do with this earth now runs.**

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* John 16, 6

The composition of God is a vexed matter and the resolution of this problem will certainly be one of the very big questions that will be worked out in heaven. If Jesus is Yahweh, then who is the Father and the Holy Spirit - also Yahweh.

During the time here on earth Yahweh, that is the Father and the Holy Spirit took over the agendas here on earth and after the resurrection Jesus, that is also Yahweh, got this office back. God is consubstantial, the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus are consubstantial, have the same character....

## The freedom of man before God

"In the beginning were the theologians. When God created human beings, He gave them a guardian. With the guardian, he gave people churches and denominations with a fixed super-true theology with an unchangeable creed, the outflow of supreme truth. So that people do not make mistakes, they are indoctrinated according to this creed, the denominational creed. It is obvious - people are a misconception, they cannot think for themselves, from themselves they cannot understand God or recognize God. To recognize and personally experience God via the human mind is a fiction - that is why theologians are needed who know everything exactly and therefore, as the sole guardians of truth, can explain it to people. "

This was the conflict Jesus had with the theologians of his time.

Jesus said:

**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls... Matthew 11:28ff.**

Did Jesus forget to say here, go to your pastors and ministers and ask how you can be reassured religiously? Here Jesus did not mean a theological intermediate host - but directly, without detour of a human mediator, a direct relationship with God.

**But when that one, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you in**

guide all truth. For he will not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and whatsoever is to come, that shall he declare unto you. John 16, 13f

Here Jesus, contrary to the total paternalism of the "infallible" theologians of that time and also of today, explains things to us through the Spirit of God - through the conscience and the mind. Our mind is quite capable of understanding spiritual things and recognizing the Creator, because that is how the Creator has equipped us.

These things have I written unto you of them that deceive you. And the anointing (Holy Spirit of God), which you have received from Him, abides with you, and you do not need anyone to teach you; but as the anointing (Holy Spirit of God) teaches you everything, it is true and is not a lie, and as it has taught you, abide with Him. 1 John 2:26f.

Again John, who had written the Gospel of John as the very last book of the New Testament, knowing about the conflict of the eternal religious paternalism, mentions that Lucifer wants to make clear to us again and again that without a human, superfrom, ecclesiastical, denominational, etc. etc. etc. explanation people cannot recognize God. Explanation, humans cannot recognize God. It is not for nothing that half of John's Gospel is about the conflict with the pious rule keepers and highly "honored" theological patrons. It is no accident that John spends so much time making this conflict of Jesus clear to us - the real enemies of Jesus are the religious, super-pious paternalists. If we read the Gospels, Jesus says to the adulteress: *Sin no more*; to the 38 year old sick/paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda, after healing him in the temple, he said: *Sin no more, lest trouble come to you*; to the lame man they let down through the roof, he said: *Your sins*

*are forgiven* - and that's that! The evangelists report only marginally about conflicts with the "normal" population, but in detail about the conflict with the "all-knowing" patrons.

Conclusion: the Holy Spirit of God, Jesus and the Father are strong enough to make us understand what we should understand.

So our common sense asks us simple questions:

The adulteress was brought before Jesus for stoning. After telling her, "He who is blameless among you, let him cast the first stone," he saved the woman's life and told her that he would not condemn her either, but asked her to change her adulterous behavior.

**How can Jesus ignore the law of stoning for adultery given by God, in reality Himself, in the Torah, and forgive just like that?** How can Jesus forgive, since he has not yet died "vicariously" at this point, just like that as a bad check, hoping to cash it himself. Doesn't Jesus have to defend the justice system of God - or supposedly the justice system of the "god" of the scribes of the time, or as Jesus himself defined it in the 8th chapter of John's Gospel, the belief system of Lucifer?

Harsh threat of punishment, which he himself gave in advance, served as a deterrent for underage adults and to maintain a safe and moral environment for normal people. And, moreover, in this attempt at stoning, it was not the law that was the subject of discussion, but Jesus' benevolent attitude toward the weak and deeply flawed. Jesus probably did not condemn the woman because it could be that she had been a victim of intrigue. Because the man, who obviously must have been there, was not offered to be stoned by the scribes. When Jesus wrote in the

sand, probably the sins of the super-pious, who would have possibly also deserved the stoning, they would have become public, there he answered discreetly this false justice game.

Jesus, as a life counselor, showed the woman that he, Jesus, was interested in life and not in the cruel practice of the law, especially as he had given this law to Moses himself and as this law certainly had its purpose in deterrence and to show the importance of a good marriage. So - Jesus clearly knew about the meaningfulness of this law of stoning. But in a time of religious neglect moral failures are the order of the day and there Jesus in his wisdom looks for other ways to make people accept the real orders of God again. However, the correction of the lost and strayed was the great task of Jesus on earth, as he said:

*"My job is to persuade sinners to change the course of their lives, not those who already know God."* Luke, 5.32

One evening when Jesus was preaching, the roof of the house was covered and a lame man was lowered before Jesus on ropes, Jesus said:

*"Be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven."* Matthew 9. 2

This immediately caused an uproar among the theologians of the time.

**By what right does he forgive sins? First, only God forgives sins, and according to Christian traditional theology, Jesus has not yet paid the price "vicariously" for our sins. How can he forgive sins?**

Another bad check? Or did Jesus see the deep longing in this person for life renewal and comfort him that God has already forgiven him anyway, because God



is total forgiveness. That this God cannot be offended by our sins at all, his honor is not tarnished by our misbehavior at all, he is not soiled in the least by our misconduct and wrong attitudes, because forgiveness of sins is not a problem for the true God, but only the retuning of people to a happy, life-fulfilling path that God has provided for all people. Jesus saw his task in inspiring people not to be fobbed off with discount amounts of life fulfillment, but to expect high-percentage life fulfillment. But we can only do that if we move freely to God and are taught directly by God. Talking to people, no matter how theologically educated they may be, cannot replace this, but such talks can help us to understand God even better.

*I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.* John 10:10

## A song of praise for the grace of God

We believing Christians are often exposed to a roller coaster of emotions. Does God hear us, does he even respond to our requests? Prayers seem to fade into nothingness, requests go unheard. When everything is going smoothly, it doesn't bother much, but when our human capacity for error makes us suffer the consequences of wrong decisions, whether they are human, professional, business, or financial or whatever wrong decisions - the consequences often make us suffer massively. We wish to turn back the wheel of time, but decided is decided, made is made. Especially the believing Christian may well ask then, where was God when we presented these decisions to him, where was he when we asked for wisdom while we were preparing for these "wrong" decisions. Why didn't he help us see the essential details, why did he let us run into these consequences. Why doesn't God, in His love for us, prevent this? Does he even care about our simple life? No matter how a life goes, it is paved with wrong decisions big or small, but - also with good decisions that deeply satisfy us.

As God-seekers we experience again and again surprisingly, but all the more personally touching, the friendly hand of God. We are then overwhelmed by the closeness of God, by the perfection of his help and the knowledge - he is not indifferent to us, he obviously already has our lives under control, including the consequences of our wrong decisions, which cost us a lot of life substance.

Jeremiah did not want to be a prophet of God, he hated his life at times, often sank into deepest disappointment and reproached God for the hard life he went through precisely for the sake of his prophethood. The persecutions, the humiliations that hardly anyone else suffered as he did.

*I am the man who has seen misery through the rod of his fury. He has led me and guided me in darkness and gloom. Only against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day. He has made my flesh and my skin decay, my bones he has broken. He has built bitterness and toil against me and surrounded me with them. He made me dwell in darkness, like the dead of the primeval times. He has fenced me in that I cannot come out; he has made heavy my bonds. Though I cry out and shout, he restrains my prayer. He has walled up my ways with ashlar; he has turned back my paths. He is a lurking bear to me, a lion in hiding. He has cut off my paths and mauled me, laid me waste. He has strung his bow and set me like a target to the arrow. He hath caused the sons of his quiver to enter into my kidneys. To all my people I have become a laughing stock; I am their strings all day long. With bitterness he hath sated me, with wormwood he hath watered me. And he has crushed my teeth with gravel, he has pressed me down into the ashes. And thou hast cast away my soul from peace; I have forgotten goodness. And I said, Thither is my life, and my hope in the Lord. Remember my misery and my wandering, the anger and the bitterness! Constantly my soul thinks of it, and is bowed down within me. Lamentations 3, 1-40*

This is the experience of many who almost sink in their problems, cry out to God and do not feel heard. But Jeremiah, too, experienced again and again that in spite of all apparent abandonment, God worked in his life, gave him hope at the decisive moment, showed him that his life was very safely secured in the hand of God, despite the seemingly experienced opposite. These repeated confirmations made him become an overwhelming, devoted, deeply trusting person, made him forget the darkness of personal suffering, and made him speak the following great words:

*This I will take to heart, therefore I will hope: It is the goodnesses of the Lord, that we are not worn out: for his mercies are not ended; they are new every morning:*

*thy faithfulness is great. The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Kind is the Lord to them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh after him. It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone and keep silence, because he has put it upon him; let him put his mouth in the dust; perhaps there is hope. ... For the Lord doth not cast off for ever: but when he hath afflicted, according to the multitude of his kindness he taketh mercy. ... What does the living man complain of? Over his sins does the man complain! Let us examine and search our ways, and let us return to the Lord!* Lamentations 3, 1-40

The Psalms are also full of the exuberant joy of God's grace:

*He has forgiven all my guilt, he has healed me from all sickness, he has snatched me from the grave and showered me with goodness and mercy. By his gifts he provides for my life....* Psalm 103, 3-5

David writes this in the knowledge that he is king of Israel, but at the same time he also knows that through his largely incompetent actions as head of the family, as husband of many wives, as treacherous adulterer, as betrayer of friendship, as perfidious intriguer, as mass murderer through the living out of his great-man addiction - he has left behind him a trail of insane blood. All the more he thanks God that God has forgiven his enormous human failure and is ready to reconcile with him.

Isaiah writes words of encouragement to an apostate people serving bestial idols.

*Here is my commissioner, behind whom I stand. I have chosen him and my love is for him, I have given him my spirit. He will proclaim my new legal order to the peoples of the world. He will not shout and make noise, he will not make loud*

speeches in the streets. *The bent reed he will not break and the smoldering wick he will not extinguish.* He will not grow weary or break down until he has made my law prevail among all peoples.... Isaiah 42:1-4.

*He leads his people like a good shepherd who takes the lambs in his arms and carries them at his breast and gently guides the ewes.* Isaiah 40:11

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good to us; his love never ceases!* 1 Chronicles 16:34

*Oh Lord, that is exactly what I suspected when I was still at home! That is why I wanted to flee to Spain. I knew it: **You are full of goodness and mercy, Your love has no limits.** You always change your mind and you do not make good your threats.....*  
God answered: *Do you have a right to be angry? ... **And I should not feel sorry for this great city of Nineveh, with more than 120,000 people who do not know right from left, plus all the livestock?*** Jonah 4

There are countless texts about the love of God and his grace for the lost people. A God who always tries to make people understand his interest, who does not treat people according to their sins, but does not impute their sins to them.  
*He does **not** punish us according to our sins, he does not make us pay for our wrongs. **As immeasurably great as the heavens are, so great is the goodness of God to His own*** Psalm. 103:10,11

With so much love, questions naturally arise. Questions that would be asked immediately if, for example, parents set an example in words, but this does not correspond to the expected caring behavior towards the children. On the other side questions come, if from one and the same God petty offenses, like e.g. a

short unkindness, of which we produce consciously and unconsciously a lot in our life, are to be punished with the death penalty, after classical reconciliation theology!?

Somehow this seems like the "game" of good cop, bad cop, but from one and the same God. This is deeply unsettling. Can we trust a God like this, who represents super love on the one hand, and the harsh justice of a super holy, super pure and unapproachable God on the other. Which is true now? Can both be present in a God - the super father and mother love and at the same time an unapproachable justice fetishist. For people who behave like this, we have terms like: "double bottom", "Pharisee", "false", "unpredictable", "hypocritical" - in one word, such a person is *unworthy of trust*.

If the grace of God is shown extremely wide in Cinemascope size, why suddenly this narrowness of real reconciliation and assurance of salvation - this eye of the needle of salvation? On the one hand, God forgives a criminal on the cross in the last second and assures him of eternity, on the other hand, people are supposed to be lost because they did not fully put their knowledge into practice. Really??? If God punishes the smallest sins with death, how can Jesus ask God to forgive the knowing scribes and theologians who actively opposed Jesus, because they did not know what they were doing - and if they did not know what they were doing? They knew exactly that this death of Jesus was a cowardly murder, a very rotten action. If God forgives them, how will he deal with the followers - not much more merciful?

Thus it came about that many people rejected this one God and began to mock the God described in the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. Believers are perceived as infantile and slightly retarded, because as a doctor once put it - "a normal thinking

adult person rejects such bizarre childish beliefs". Rejecting the biblical God, meanwhile, is something like a maturity test in growing up. So the call of God is not supreme.

## How did God get his dubious reputation?

The living God created heavenly beings for various functions. Lucifer was obviously a creative masterpiece. But God has built into all his creatures, as we ourselves know very well in our life, a weak point, the ability to **decide freely**, for something or against something, for God and his nature or against God and his nature. For what is respect for God worth if it is not voluntarily rendered out of deep inner conviction? What is a love worth if it is not given away willingly and voluntarily. What is trust worth if this trust was forced by a lack of freedom of will and decision.

*"You morning star, how could it happen that you fell from the high heavens. In your heart you decided: I will climb higher and higher, all the way to heaven. Up there I will establish my throne. I will be even higher than God's stars.... I will climb higher than the clouds reach, then at last I will be like the Most High."* Isaiah 14:12-14

*"You were perfection itself, full of wisdom and exquisite beauty. In Eden, the garden of God, you lived. Your garment was set with precious stones of every kind.....with gold you were adorned on the day I created you. I had appointed you protector of the holy mountain of God. There you lived in the midst of fiery (glorious) stones. Perfectly I created you, and you remained so until you fell into sin."* Ezekiel 28:11-15

Here Lucifer is portrayed as a glorious angel of God who expected his career to end in Godlikeness. Apparently, his calculation did not work out and he instigated a rebellion among the angels in heaven.



*"Then a battle broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon fought back with his army; but he lost the battle and was no longer allowed to stay in heaven. The great dragon - it is none other than the devil or Satan, who as a cunning serpent deceives the whole world into evil - he was cast down from heaven to earth with all his angels." Revelation 12:7-9*

But before that Lucifer, Satan or Diabolos (muddler, confounder) had access to God. Lucifer had certainly been subjected to a correction talk, because he was obviously not yet outlawed. God was still struggling for the conversion of Lucifer. Nevertheless, Lucifer has loaded guilt on himself with his rebellion.

*"One day the sons of God came to the heavenly council...Among them was Satan.... The Lord asked: Have you also seen my servant Job. As blameless as he, there is none else on earth.... Satan replied, "Would Job obey you if it did not pay?"*  
Job 1:6-12

In other words, "God buys people's love. People do not love God for His essence, but only for the sake of the benefits they enjoy through God. God buys people's "love," that is Satan's view. Not only did God have a dubious reputation among people, but also in heaven.

## Yahweh against "Yahweh", God against "God".

Years ago I heard a story about Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus of the Christians. Every year after his ascension, Jesus of Nazareth came to the Garden of Gethsemane and met with the Jesus of the Christians. In the beginning, of course, it was bliss and sunshine, but as the years went by, there were more and more emotionally charged discussions. Once again, Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus of the Christians talked passionately about the great success, but finally they came to talk about several points that Jesus of Nazareth wanted to see corrected. Repeatedly he urged the Jesus of the Christians to remain with the real truth, to represent him, the creator God, as he really is, and not as he would fit well into the culture wherever. That annoyed the Jesus of the Christians in such a way that he experienced in the last years more rebuke than appreciation, until he exploded and brought it clearly on the point: Either, Jesus of Nazareth, you support me or I will fight you. Sadly, Jesus of Nazareth stated: "You've been doing that all along!

Are there now two gods with the same name, Yahweh? There is an answer to the question in the Gospel of John in the 8th chapter. Here Jesus explains very directly that there is one **YAHWE**, the Father in heaven, the divine "Father" of Jesus Christ of Nazareth and *another* YAHWE, who at the same time allowed himself to be worshipped in the temple by the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.

This YAHWE, alias Satan, represents **one** image of God, and Jesus as the representative of God, the true God in heaven, the God who said he was the Living One, the Existent One, the pure Life - represents **another** image of God.

So who is the true God (Yahweh), and even more, what is the true God (Yahweh) like?

*"Of course, I also know that you are descendants of Abraham. Yet you want to kill me because you reject my words. I speak of what I have seen **in my father** and you act according to what you have heard from **your father**. Our father is Abraham, they explained. No, Jesus replied, if it were really him, you would also act like him. Because I tell you the truth that I have heard from God (Yahweh), you try to kill me. Abraham would never have done that. No, you act just like your father. They replied: We do have a father - God (Yahweh) himself! Jesus replied: If it were so, you would love me, for I come to you from God (Yahweh) - on his behalf and not of my own accord. But I will tell you why you do not understand me, because you cannot hear my words at all. Because you are **children of the devil**. And therefore you act as it pleases **your father**. He was a murderer and an enemy of truth from the beginning. The lie belongs to his nature, because he is the liar par excellence, yes the father of the lie. For he who has God (Yahweh) as his father understands what God says. But you do not have God (Yahweh) for a Father, therefore you do not understand His words."* John 8, 37 - 47

And this is what those had to listen to whose profession was to serve the God Yahweh, they were the theologians of that time: priests, scribes and especially pious of this caste, the Pharisees and Sadducees. These priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees were rock-solidly convinced that they served the living God.

But Jesus held it against them a few times that they were really worshipping a false god (Yahweh).

*"...You hypocrites, the prophet Isaiah has spoken well of you: This people honors me with lips, but the heart is far from me. **All their worship is useless. for they teach only commandments which men have devised.**"* Matthew 15:7-9

Obviously, just in the time of Jesus, there are several times a dispute about the authenticity of the living God. Jesus proclaimed that he correctly reflected the true God (Yahweh). But the theologians at the time of Jesus rejected such a God (Yahweh) and claimed that their worship was in the sense of the true God, according to them Yahweh, but according to the statement of Jesus this worshiped "Yahweh" - Satan.

The question that arises: **Obviously there are two gods of the same name, two Yahweh's - an original and a copy, which obviously very successfully set itself the goal to change the image of the original beyond recognition - even more, to mutilate it to the point of total rejection.**

How much the false Yahweh hated Jesus, we see in the course of the cowardly murder, which the false Yahweh ordered against the messenger of God, Jesus Christ. So what are the characteristics of the original Yahweh, who is this **living God, only God of heaven and earth, Yahweh, who** revealed himself to mankind through Jesus Christ - and - which God do I serve? Or more modernly expressed, which Jesus Christ do I serve. Is it possible that the image of God has been damaged after centuries of seemingly Christian preservation of theological tradition? After millions of murders of simple believers, persecuted by the Catholic clergy, later no less brutally by Luther, Zwingli and their Reformation comrades-in-arms and especially by the Puritans in the New England states in the great land of freedom, the USA?

Even if we do not always understand the actions of God in our lives, we can still unabashedly think through what God gave to understand about himself. It is justified, even more - necessary to question the traditional traditions about the image of God!

God an understanding humanitarian, but despised by the religious "nobility

But the very doctrinal sermons in which Jesus presents divine justice show that God, contrary to the theology of his religious, academic contemporaries, the scribes, is a God of kindness.

*"Try it for yourselves and experience it: the Lord is good."* Psalm 34:9

The true God understands people's weaknesses, but He also shows them that these weaknesses can be overcome with a personal relationship with a supportive and non-condemning God, and this is what He expects.

*"Full of great goodness and mercy is the Lord, full of boundless love and patience. He does not accuse all the time, he does not bear grudges forever, he does not punish us even though we deserved it, he does not make us pay for our wrongs, as immeasurable as the heavens are, so great is God's kindness to his own. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our guilt from us. The Lord loves all who honor him, as a father loves his children."* Psalm 103, 8-13

"The Lord loves all ... as a (loving) father loves his children". No loving father or mother has anything like wounded pride or wounded "holiness" in young children. Only mentally ill adults do not have a conciliatory attitude while raising young children. And God looks at us like such children. Can this ever be misunderstood? In this psalm we have again a comparison from everyday life, a reference to the character of God, who, unbent

through traditional, theological interpretation, can be understood by everyone and brings about **trust**.

Jesus also showed a God who **forgives** and **forgets the** transgressions, does **not rehash** them, but trusts the stumbled people despite their past and gives them responsibility again. Peter gets responsibility again after Jesus' resurrection at the lake of Tiberias, after Jesus asks him three times if he likes him. And this after Peter shamefully betrayed him three times. John 21,15 - 19

Jesus knows the divine Father. He never tires of portraying the mild nature of this God, especially when it comes to building up weak people or people bound in sin. But Jesus also presents God as a very consistent God, so as not to give rise to the idea that God is a puppet who can be pushed around at will, as the whims of men please.

We can see a very hard side to Jesus when Jesus denounces the perversion of contemporary theology. **Since it was precisely the practical consequence of this theological deformation that drove many people away from God, made them give up, and drove them even deeper into their failure of life's purpose. Here Jesus had harsh words**, the kind that make one's breath catch. Jesus made crystal clear attacks against the theological edifice of the Pharisees, Sadducees and all other scribes. He also left no doubt that this theological system at the time of Jesus was not godly, i.e. did not have the origin of the divine Father of Jesus Christ.

*"Then Jesus turned to the crowd and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees," he said, "are sitting today on the chair of Moses. Therefore, judge yourselves according to what they say, but do not follow their actions. For they themselves do not act according to what they tell you. They burden the people*

*with heavy, almost unbearable burdens, but do not think of touching the same burden even with a finger. And what they do, they do only to impress people. Thus, they make their prayer straps extra wide and the tassels on their robes extra long. At banquets and in synagogues, they love to take the places of honor. They enjoy being greeted reverently on the street and being called rabbi. You, however, should never allow yourselves to be called rabbi, for only one is your rabbi, and you are all brothers. Nor should you address any of your brothers on earth as 'Father', for only one is your Father, the One in heaven. Neither let anyone call you teachers, for only one is your teacher: the Messiah. The greatest among you shall be your servant. For he who exalts himself will be humbled by God, but he who holds himself in low esteem will be exalted by God.*

***Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, hypocrites! You close the kingdom of heaven to people, because you yourselves do not enter, and those who want to enter, you do not let in.*** Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single person for your faith; and when you have won him, you make him a candidate for hell twice as bad as you. Woe to you, you deluded leaders! You say, 'If a man swears by the temple, he need not keep his oath; but if he swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by the oath.' You deluded fools! Which is more important: the gold or the temple, which sanctifies the gold first? You also say, 'If a man swears by the altar, he need not keep his oath; but if he swears by the sacrifice on the altar, he is bound by the oath.' How deluded you are! Which is more important: the offering or the altar that sanctifies the sacrifice? Surely he who swears by the altar swears not only by the altar but also by everything on it. And he who swears by the temple swears not only by the temple but also by him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by him who sits on it. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, hypocrites! You tithe the garden mint, dill and caraway seeds,



but you disregard the more important demands of the Law: justice, mercy and faithfulness! The one you should have done and the other you should not have left out! You blinded leaders! You sift out the gnats and swallow the camels. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and bowl, but what you have inside shows your greed and intemperance. You blind Pharisee! Wash the inside of the cup first, and then the outside will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You are like whitewashed tombs: from the outside respectable, but from the inside full of dead men's bones and all kinds of filth.** From the outside you appear righteous to men, but from the inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build the tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous.<sup>30</sup> And then you claim: 'If we had lived in the time of our ancestors, we would never have participated in the murder of the prophets. By doing so, however, you confirm that you are the descendants of the murderers of the prophets. Yes, just fill up the measure of your ancestors! **You vipers and brood of poisonous snakes!** How will you escape the judgment of fire? Therefore, listen: I will send prophets, wise men and true teachers of the law to you. Some of them you will kill, even crucify, others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from one city to another. Thus you will eventually become complicit in the murder of all the righteous, from righteous Abel to Zechariah Ben-Berechiah, whom you killed between the altar of burnt offering and the house of God. I assure you: This generation will receive the punishment for all this. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you kill the prophets and stone the messengers who are sent to you. How often I wanted to gather your children as the hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you did not want. Behold, your house shall be desolate and forsaken. For I tell you, from now on you will see me no more, until you cry out, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'" Matthew 23:1 - 39

*Some Pharisees and teachers of the law from Jerusalem came to Jesus together. They had seen that his disciples were eating with unclean, that is, with unwashed, hands. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat anything unless they have first washed their hands in the prescribed manner. Thus they adhere to the traditions of their forefathers. Even when they come from the market, they do not eat anything without first undergoing purification. Thus they follow a number of other ancestral precepts about cleaning cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and seat cushions. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow the regulations handed down to us from the ancients, and eat with unclean hands?" "You hypocrites! What Isaiah prophesied applies to you exactly," Jesus replied. "For thus it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.' Their service to me is without value, for they teach what men have devised.' Yes, you abandon God's commandment and keep for it the precepts that men have devised. " Then Jesus added: "Very skillfully you abandon God's commandment and keep for it your own precepts. Moses, for example, said, 'Honor your father and mother!' and 'Whoever curses father or mother will be punished by death!' But you teach that one can say to his father or mother, 'What you ought to get from me I have appointed as an offering to God.' In this way, you leave him with nothing to do for his parents and thus invalidate God's word by your own regulations. This is just one example of many. " **Then Jesus called the crowd back to him and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand what I am saying to you! Nothing that comes into a man from without can make him unclean in the sight of God. Only what comes from within himself makes him unclean."** When he had withdrawn from the crowd and gone into the house, his disciples asked him what he meant. "Have you not understood this also?" replied Jesus. "Do you not understand that whatever comes into a man from without cannot make him unclean?"*

*For it does not enter his heart, but goes into his stomach and is excreted in the privy." With this, Jesus declared all food to be clean. Then he continued, "Whatever comes out of a man makes him unclean. For from within, from the heart of man, come evil thoughts, and with them all kinds of sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, covetousness, and wickedness. In addition, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, arrogance and unreasonableness. All this evil comes from within and makes man unclean in the sight of God."* Mark 7:1-23

*"Hear another parable: There was a householder who planted a vineyard and built a fence around it, and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and leased it to husbandmen, and went out of the country. When the time of fruit came, he sent his servants to the vinedressers to receive his fruit. Then the husbandmen took his servants; one they beat, another they killed, and the third they stoned. Again He sent other servants, more than the first, and they did the same to them. Then he sent his son to them, saying, "They will be afraid of my son. And when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us take his inheritance. And they took him, and thrust him out into the vineyard, and slew him. Now when the Lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to these husbandmen? They said to him, He will kill the wicked evil-doers and will rent his vineyard to other husbandmen who will give him the fruit in due season. Jesus said to them: Have ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the corner stone. From the LORD this has come to pass, and it is marvelous in our sight"? Therefore I say to you: The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who bear its fruit. And whosoever shall fall upon this stone shall be dashed to pieces; but upon whomsoever it shall fall, it shall crush him. And when the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they understood that he was speaking of them.<sup>46</sup> And*

*they sought how they might lay hold on him; but they feared the people, because they took him for a prophet."* Matthew 21:33 - 45

It is understandable that his uncompromising stance on the image of God challenged a decision by the theological bullies of the people at the time (and I suppose today the Christian theologians would react in completely the same way). The decision is familiar to all of us. They demanded his death, in jealousy, in fear of losing influence over the people.

*"A great crowd of Jews heard that he was there, and they came, not for Jesus' sake alone, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests counseled that they should kill Lazarus also, because many of the Jews went and believed in Jesus for his sake."* John 12:9 - 11

*The next day, when a large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel! And Jesus found a young ass, and sat upon it, as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Zion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting upon an ass's colt." This [but] his disciples did not understand at first; however, when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this was written of him and they had done this to him.*

*The crowd that was with him testified that he had called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. Therefore the crowd also went to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign. Then said the Pharisees one to another, Ye see that ye do nothing: behold, the world is gone after him."* John 12:12 - 19

*Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council together and said: What do we do? **This man does many signs. If we leave him like this, they will all believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take our land and people.** But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them: Ye know nothing; neither consider ye: it is better for you that one man die for the people, than that the whole nation perish. Now he did not say this of his own accord, but because he was high priest that year, he prophesied. For Jesus was to die for the people, and not for the people alone, but also to gather together the scattered children of God. **From that day it was firmly determined for them that they should kill him.** John 11:46 - 53*

They rejected his calls for correction, rejected the God he represented, and in identifying with the "God" they worshipped though by the same name, they were willing to find an innocent man guilty, first after false testimony, then because he represented himself for what he was, the Son of God, the representative of the Father in heaven. **Jesus represented a God who was repugnant to them.** Jesus was an innocent pawn sacrifice that they needed to restore the social order and they enthroned again the "God" that corresponded to their idea of God, a "God that Jesus called the prince of this world and in John, chapter 8, the father of lies, the enemy of God, the author of all strife and injustice, namely Lucifer.

## Condemnation of the blameless, clannishness and vicarious punishment

The theologians at the time of Jesus used the knowledge that the life, especially of a Jew, was not worth much to the Romans, so that innocent people could be killed if it was advantageous. A principle that is clearly rejected again and again in the Holy Scriptures.

The temple guards were supposed to arrest Jesus, but were themselves so fascinated by Jesus' speech that they could not bring themselves to arrest Jesus. The Pharisees were very upset about this and reproached them with the following:

*"Do you know a member of the council or a Pharisee who stands by Jesus? The crowd does, for they do not know the Law of Moses and are therefore under God's curse." Then Nicodemus, who was himself a Pharisee and had once sought Jesus out, says, "According to our law, we cannot condemn anyone without interrogating him. First we must determine whether he has committed an offense."* John 7, 50.

51

When Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor of California, the Simon Wiesenthal Institute, which dealt with the crimes of the Nazi era, emphasized that according to Jewish law, i.e. the Old Testament, the son cannot be held responsible for the mistakes of his father and vice versa, i.e. no clan liability. Arnold Schwarzenegger's father was a supporter of the NSDAP, not a criminal, but even if he had been, this principle would have applied.

*The son should not atone for the father, and the father should not atone for the son.*

This concept is described in detail in Ezekiel 18. 1-32.

*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, What need ye of a proverb in the land of Israel, which saith, If the fathers eat sour grapes, the children shall have dull teeth? As I live, says the Lord God, you shall no longer need this proverb in Israel! Behold, all souls are mine! As the soul of the Father is mine, so also the soul of the Son is mine. The soul that sins shall die! But if a man be righteous, and do justice, and do righteousness, and eat not sacrificial flesh upon the mountains, and lift not up his eyes unto the idols of the house of Israel, and defile not his neighbor's wife, and go not to his wife during her uncleanness; not oppressing anyone, returning his debtor's pledge, not robbing anything, but giving his bread to the hungry and clothing the naked, not lending on usury and not taking usurious interest, keeping his hand from wrongdoing and letting everyone have his due, walking in my statutes and keeping my judgments and observing them conscientiously: such a one is righteous, he shall surely live, saith the LORD God. Now if this man beget a violent son, who sheds blood, or does any of these things which that man did not do, who eats on the mountains, weakens his neighbor's wife, oppresses the poor and needy, does not return the pledge, lifts up his eyes to idols, and commits abominations; lends on usury, takes usurious interest: shall such a one live? He shall not live; he hath done all these abominations, therefore shall he surely die; his blood be upon him! And, behold, if he also beget a son, who seeth all the sins of his father, which he hath done, yea, if he seeth them, but doeth not such: Not eating on the mountains, not lifting up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, not defiling his neighbor's wife, not oppressing anyone, not distraining anyone, not robbing, but giving his bread to the hungry and clothing the naked, not laying his hand on the poor, not taking usury or interest, observing*

my statutes and walking in my judgments: he shall not die because of his father's iniquity, but he shall surely live. But his father, which hath done violence and wrong, and hath robbed his brother, and hath done that which is not good among his people, behold, he shall die in his iniquity. But ye say, Why shall not the son bear the iniquity of his father? Because the son has done what is right and just; he has observed and kept my statutes; he shall surely live! The soul that sinneth, it shall die! ***The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, and the father shall not bear the iniquity of the son! On the righteous be his righteousness, and on the wicked be his wickedness! But if the wicked forsake all his sins which he hath committed, and observe all my statutes, and do that which is right and just, he shall surely live; all his iniquity which he hath committed shall never be remembered! He shall live because of the righteousness he has done! Or have I pleasure in the death of the wicked, saith the LORD God, and not rather that he turn from his ways, and live?*** If, on the other hand, the righteous turns from his righteousness and does wrong and acts according to all the abominations of the wicked, should he live? No, but all his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; in his transgression wherewith he hath transgressed, and in his sin wherewith he hath sinned, shall he die! Yet ye say, "The way of the LORD is not right!" Hear then, ye of the house of Israel, My way shall not be right? Are not your ways wrong? If the righteous turn from his righteousness, and do iniquity, he shall die for it: for the iniquity that he hath done he must die. ***But if the wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall have his soul alive. Because he has seen it and has turned away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live and not die.*** But the house of Israel says: The way of the Lord is not right! Should not my ways be right, house of Israel? Are not your ways wrong? Therefore I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel! says the LORD God. Return and forsake all your transgressions, and iniquity shall not be your downfall. Cast away from you all your transgressions



*with which you have transgressed, and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why do you want to die, you of the house of Israel? **For I have no desire for the death of the dying (acting against the character of God, the commandments of God), says the LORD God. Return, then, and you shall live!***

It was therefore frowned upon according to Israelite legal understanding to condemn innocent people, just as the summary condemnation of Jesus showed.

In a speech against Jerusalem, God says the following:

*"...Therefore I give you up to disgrace, all nations near and far will mock you. Everywhere you have brought yourself into disrepute; you are famous for your crimes. **Your leading men abuse their power to kill innocent people.** Your inhabitants despise father and mother, they oppress the stranger and deny widows and orphans their rights...**Because of slander innocent people are condemned to death.**" Ezek. 22, 5-9*

This statement of God - to a unfortunately also in the today's time current moral picture - shows that the **condemnation of an innocent one was not object of the will of God**, it was the act of religious leaders and politicians to get rid of a problem and nuisance with a murder. Jesus was not killed because it was God's will to make innocent people bleed for guilty people, but it was in accordance with all jurisprudence since the beginning that only the guilty person has to bear consequences for his deeds and not the father for the son or the son for the father. Even when the sons of Jacob (Israel) avenged the rape of their sister with a clan murder, Jacob condemned this shameful act of his sons. And this was long before God communicated his view of law and order to the people of Israel in the Sinai desert via Moses. Knowledge that is still in large parts the basis of today's understanding of law by normal citizens. Unfortunately, this understanding of law

no longer applies to those who act at the levers of power and law. Jesus was innocently condemned and deeply humiliated at a stigma that was reserved only for despicable people, the cross.

The vicarious death of Jesus, the killing of an innocent son of God, was fundamentally not the solution that God sought in wooing the people of his time. The cross was a premature termination of the work of Jesus, a muzzling of a man who attracted so much attention with words and deeds that the Jewish representatives of the people, in their view, pulled the emergency brake to prevent an escalation in the sense of their "God". Of course in the deluded opinion to do a great service to God with this means, which was forbidden according to their own laws. The theologians at the time of Jesus were prepared, because Jesus predicted their actions exactly and he also told them in advance that this will have consequences. Consequences that will not be to their liking.

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you kill the prophets and stone the messengers that God sends to you. How often I wanted to gather your inhabitants around me like a hen takes her chicks under her wings. But you have not wanted. Therefore God will leave your temple." Luke 13:34, 35.*

And in Matthew 23:36 Jesus assures the leaders of the people, the teachers of the law and the Pharisees:

*"I assure you, in this generation you will still bear the consequences for all these outrages..." Matthew 23:36*

*For what men can know about God has been made known to them...But though they knew God, they did not give Him the honor due to Him, nor did they give Him thanks. They imagined something about their cleverness, but in reality they became fools... **Therefore God gave them up to their passions, so that they defiled***

*their own bodies...Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie, **he delivered them up to dishonorable passions....** Because these people found it unnecessary to ask about God, **God abandoned them to their unfit minds, so that they do what is not proper.** Romans, 2, 19 - 28*

Moses was a living example of this sense of God. Moses was a friend of God. And yet it is also known that God did not want Moses to enter Canaan because he portrayed God as a harsh angry God rather than a benevolent God, in that he did not address the rock as asked, but struck it angrily so that water would flow from it. For many Christians, this is a hard choice in dealing with friends. But with all irritation the end should be considered. Immediately following the death of Moses, God raised him up and received him into his presence. God had to act consistently, even on his friend.

*And the congregation had no water: therefore they gathered themselves together against Moses, and against Aaron. And the people disputed with Moses, saying, Alas, that we had perished, when our brethren perished before the LORD! And why have ye brought the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, we and our cattle? Why have ye brought us out of Egypt into this evil place, where there is no sowing, where there are neither fig trees, nor vines, nor pomegranates, neither water to drink? And Moses and Aaron went away from the congregation unto the door of the tabernacle, and fell upon their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather the congregation together, **thou and Aaron thy brother, and speak unto the rock before their eyes, and it shall give them water.** So you shall get them water from the rock and water the congregation and their cattle. Then Moses took the staff before the LORD, as he had told him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said, Hear now, ye*

*rebellious: Out of this rock shall we get you water? And Moses lifted up his hand, and **smote the rock twice with his staff**. And there flowed out much water; and the congregation and their cattle drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "**Because you have not trusted in me to sanctify me before the children of Israel, you shall not bring this congregation into the land that I will give them.**" Deuteronomy 20:2 - 12*

Again and again God left people, kings, prophets and army commanders to Lucifer, the prince of this world, when they resisted the living God after much wooing, rejected him or even persecuted his faithful messengers. God overlooked a lot of ignorance, a lot of deception and delusion by Lucifer, the prince of the world, but there was always a point where God respected the free will of these people, withdrew his protection with the corresponding consequences, which were not to the liking of the people.

The High Council, and the mob that condemned Jesus, wanted to be ruled by **their** King. **So God gave them to do what was not fit**, to experience the reward of their error on themselves and their king, the "YAHWE" glorified by them, in reality Lucifer, then poured them vigorously.

*Because his invisible reality, his eternal power and his divine nature can be seen in his works since the creation of the world. Therefore, people have no excuse. Despite everything they knew about God, they did not honor Him as God and did not give Him any thanks. Instead, their thoughts were lost in nothingness, and darkness fell in their undiscerning hearts. They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God with images of mortal men, with images of birds, four-footed and creeping animals. Therefore, God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts; he gave them over to their immorality, so that they defiled their own bodies. **They exchanged the truth of God with falsehood. They worshiped the creatures and***

*worshipped them instead of the Creator, who is to be praised forever and ever. Amen! Therefore, God delivered them to dishonorable passions... Thus, they received the due reward for their error in themselves. And because they did not think it good to acknowledge God, God delivered them up to a rejected thinking, so that they do what must not be done.* Romans 1, 20 - 28

But who was blamed for the destruction of the temple and the slaughter of the inhabitants of Jerusalem after senseless rebellions against the Romans? Of course, the God they did not want. This is so easy, much easier, than to think and correct the way of life according to clear knowledge. One rather disposes of the "troublemakers" and if that no longer works, one simply accuses God and rejects him.

For many, acting consistently is very close to punishment and is probably intended by God to be so. But what is the meaning of punishment? I'm not talking about capital crimes, morality-destroying behavior, where God intended life-ending consequences. But most of what we use as punishments, for example with our own children, are corrective consequences that are felt and motivate children to rethink. Some consequences are suspended because the child's behavior is extremely positive, again other times consequences are followed up when the response to change of heart is very hesitant or children are massively defiant. Depending on the behavior and the responsiveness and sensitivity of the child, we seek to intervene in a corrective way with a single goal: **all corrective calls and corresponding conversations seek to communicate the limits that God, as our Creator and Constructor of man, presents as suitable, meaningful, life-sustaining and deeply satisfying for a happy life.**

It is like a fine drink from a fine glass. The drink is the same, but poured on the ground and licked up with the tongue, the pleasure is decisively different from

that drunk from a very fine glass. The essential difference is not in the drink, but the **glass represents a delicate form of boundary**, fragile but enhancing pleasure. The spilled drink represents maximum personal freedom from all limits - transferred - freedom **from** God's recommendations for life happiness. God presents the consequences especially in the 18th chapter in the book of Ezekiel.

In many places in the Bible there are words like:

*But if the wicked forsake all his sins which he hath committed, and observe all my statutes, and do that which is right and just, he shall surely live; all his iniquity which he hath committed shall never be remembered! He shall live because of his righteousness which he has done!* Ezekiel 18:21, 22

*For I have no desire for the death of the wicked, says the Lord God. Return, then, and you shall live!* Ezekiel 18, 32

*Wash, purify yourselves! Remove from my sight the evil you have done; stop doing evil. Learn to do good, search out justice, punish the violent, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Come, let us reason together, says the LORD: If your sins are like scarlet, let them become white as snow; if they are red like purple, let them become like wool.* Isaiah 1, 16 - 18

God even offers judgment to do right to the guilty, to defend the guilty if the guilty repent and give up their ways of acting and thinking that are contrary to God's character. God assures complete forgiveness when people humble themselves before God and acknowledge that God means well for them and adjust their way of life according to this new realization in respect for the character of God. In biblical words - **those who do the man-friendly will of the Lord**. These are the ones who drink happiness of life from a very delicate, fragile "glass", and accept that

God, as the Creator of man, surely knows best what limits allow man the maximum of happiness, satisfaction and mental and physical health, with all genetic degeneracy.

*...turn then, and you shall live!* Ezekiel 18, 32

It can't be simpler - and it can't be easier for a person to understand. Exactly this elementary rule of reconciliation, behavioral insight with correction of a wrong behavior, is the basis for every relationship happiness. Here wise self-knowledge is required as well as concrete steps of a change of thinking with clear practical consequence. This is not about changing behavior to make a good impression on others or to manipulate others in their decisions. No, this is primarily about changing the attitude that previously caused a person to act against the will of God and thus hurt himself or other people or provoked God.

**Where on earth does it take another vicarious death to make this sensational offer from God even better????**

## What about the firstborn?

Abraham was asked to sacrifice his firstborn son because of personal idolatry. Was Abraham aware of this? Anything that helps us better understand this weird sacrificial story promotes **trust in God that** He does not set arbitrary actions, but His actions are good to follow and do not offend reason.

Until recently, the issue of firstborn children was also an important component in Europe in the inheritance of house and farm, in the transfer of a farm business. This has changed massively with the technical and academic revolution. Today, no one needs to say: I couldn't study because we had no money and only the oldest brother was allowed to get an education. In Uganda, you still hear that, but even there, the academic career of exemplary students is open and usually free of charge. In the case of lawyers, doctors and engineers, there is no longer any need for a clear succession, such as: the farm goes to the eldest and the other children get good pocket money. It is also no longer necessary that the first born get the double inheritance, because it is no longer about the painful dismemberment of a farm and the double inheritance was necessary to be able to take over and continue the inheritance in the first place. If today all children can be given a good education, then the right of leadership that parents have towards the children is respected and it is then up to the children to make the best of their lives.

But in biblical times, the birthright was more than just the double inheritance from all the children, it was also an obligation to bind the family to the laws of the land, one was something like a "company" boss or "clan" boss and if a family had incurred massive debt, then the firstborn had to die, one for the entire family.



*When the king of Moab saw that he could not hold the city much longer, he gathered 700 swordsmen around him and tried to break through to the place where the king of Edom was standing. But they did not succeed.<sup>27</sup> Then he took his firstborn son, who would one day be king after him, and burned him as a sacrifice on the city wall, so that great wrath came upon Israel. They broke off the siege and returned to their land.* 2 Kings, 3, 27

Reuben was firstborn as the eldest son, but because he made a pass at one of Jacob's concubines, this birthright was taken away from him and transferred to Judah, who also did not necessarily lead a God-oriented model life, but in his old age did understand what life was all about.

When the people of Israel wanted to be led out of Egypt by Moses, the Pharaoh of that time stubbornly refused to let the people go during 9 plagues of God. But when all Egyptian firstborn died, even the most narrow-minded among the Egyptian elite, i.e. the Pharaoh, understood that this was now really the punishment of God, because after that the Pharaoh released the people of Israel. His sun god, who was supposed to protect all the firstborn, the hope of every country, failed against the God of the Israelites and he had to grudgingly acknowledge that the God of Israel was stronger than the incompetent idols of Egypt.

40 years later, when Jericho was taken, Joshua pronounced a curse on the person if Jericho was ever rebuilt:

*At that time Joshua made the people swear this oath: "Cursed be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city of Jericho! If he lays its foundations, it will cost him his oldest son, and if he sets its gates, his youngest."* Joshua, 6, 26

*During his reign, Hiël of Beth-El rebuilt the city of Jericho. When he laid the foundations, it cost him his eldest son Abiram. And when he set in the gates, it cost him his youngest son Segub. Thus was fulfilled the word of Yahweh, which he had caused to be spoken through Joshua Ben-Nun. 1 Kings 16:34*

Firstborn also means understanding the dignity of the position expected of a firstborn. If you look at current developments, you have the strong feeling that the power elites no longer have anything in common with God. Jesus allows this for a while - in moderation, but when it seems that Lucifer has everything under his power, then it is taken away from him dramatically and surprisingly for all people and not bringable again.

In admonition to the events at the exodus from Egypt, to the death of the firstborn, to the sparing of the firstborn of Israel at the exodus from Egypt - provided they put the blood of the Passover lamb on the posts of their doors - and I am convinced, there were also at that time and there are also today again and again know-it-alls who ignorantly want to live out their self-determination - God demanded from the Israelites the firstborn sons, not as a sacrifice, not to kill them, but as a representative "offering" of the family property back to God. These children were not killed, but were to serve God, as it was long desired in Catholic families that the eldest son become a priest or simply a clergyman. Passover is the basis for living vicariously for God, not dying vicariously for our sins.

God replaced this arrangement by a people of the Levites, who were obligated to the service at the house of God, and this also instead of all other families of the other 11 tribes of Jacob. But this was not free of charge, God demanded a ransom from the obligation to enter full-time into the service for God, as God's claim to

ownership of such a family. Today such laws seem strange to us, but not if one thinks this topic thoroughly to the end.

*This is how you are to explain it to your son: 'We are doing this in remembrance of what Yahweh did for us when we came out of Egypt.' This shall be to you as a sign on your hand and forehead, that you may keep the law of Yahweh in your mouth! For Yahweh brought you out of Egypt with a strong hand. Year by year at the appointed time you shall keep this ordinance!" Moses went on to say, "When Yahweh brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he swore to your ancestors and to yourselves, you shall give every firstborn male to Yahweh. Every first male litter of a dam also belongs to Yahweh. Every firstborn of a donkey you are to redeem with a lamb. If you will not do this, you must break the foal's neck. You must also give Yahweh a substitute for your firstborn sons. In the future, when your son asks you what this means, you are to tell him, 'Yahweh brought us out of the slave house of Egypt with a strong hand.' For when Pharaoh refused to let us go, Yahweh killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt among men and cattle. Therefore I sacrifice to Yahweh every male firstborn, but my firstborn son I redeem by a substitute sacrifice.' Exodus 13:8 - 14*

*Do not withhold the yield of your fields and vineyards. Your firstborn sons you shall give to me. Exodus, 22, 28*

The firstborn has advantages, but also disadvantages, Abraham knew about all this anyway. And he knew that in case of massive offense, the firstborn will have to give up his life. But in the ransom procedure for the Israelite firstborn, God had an easier solution, the ransom of the firstborn by an animal sacrifice or to pay a certain amount.

However, being firstborn still means being the most important person in one or more areas.

*Then you shall proclaim to Pharaoh, 'Thus says Yahweh: Israel is my firstborn son.  
Exodus 4:22*

The people of Israel were by no means the first people on earth, but for many incomprehensible reasons, or simply because of their friendship with Abraham, they were the most important example people.

*For through him (Jesus Christ) all things were created that exist in heaven and on earth: things visible and invisible; things that sit on thrones and things that rule; powers and authorities; all things were created through him and for him. He is above all and all things exist through him. He is also the head of the church, and the church is his body. **He is the beginning, and he is the first (firstborn) to rise from the dead to an incorruptible life. In every way, he was to be the first (firstborn).** For God wanted to dwell in him with all his fullness. Colossians 1, 16*

Jesus was not the first to be resurrected. The young man at Nain, The daughter of the synagogue ruler, Lazarus, the son of the widow in Zarepta, Moses himself- and I am convinced that this list is still incredibly long, but it is not the chronological importance that is addressed here, but the importance of the acting person, namely Jesus Christ, alias Yahweh, the LORD Adonai and Zebaoth, the Creator God and Lawgiver with and through Moses and very soon also the Judge of all men.

## What is positive about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

The Christian theologian Graham Maxwell described this by means of an impressive story. I have taken the liberty of modifying his concise narrative very freely, but have not changed the sense originally given.

A father had an 8-year-old son who was very inquisitive and looked closely at everything the father did. Since rats made the house unsafe, the father bought rat poison and stowed the rat poison safely in the garage. One day the father came home and wondered why the son did not run to meet him whistling as usual. The father searched for the son and finally found him in the garage just as he was about to take the can of rat poison from the highest shelf. Patiently, the father explained to the son the problem with the rat poison containing cyanide, that "touching" it would cause extreme damage to health, and if too much of the rat poison came in contact with a human being, the human being must die in agony. The son assured that he would leave the rat poison alone. But just a week later, the situation was similar again. Instead of meeting the father, the son was again in the garage. Only this time, the son had already taken the can from the shelf and tried to open it with a screwdriver. The father gruffly took the can away and the boy's rebuke could not be overheard in the surrounding area. Since the garage door was open, neighbors passing by saw the scolding father and said, "And that wants to be a loving father. Scolds loudly with the son, of whom he says he is his everything."

The father thought that this verbal thunderstorm had done its work and caused the son in his unreasonableness to obey at least before the threatened beatings, if before that already his explanations could not cause that. 14 days later, the father found that the son was again tampering with the rat poison in the garage.

This time the father not only scolded the son, but also gave him a beating, which made passing neighbors feel sorry for the son and made the father look like a heartless hypocrite. This incident was then the occupation of the neighbors for the next time. The father thought that with the pain he had caused the underage, stubborn son, the son would think twice before touching this life-threatening poison again. For a few weeks this calculation seemed to work out, but late one evening when the father returned home, he feared the worst. He ran into the garage just in time to see the son with the can of poison open in front of him and taking such a liking to the colored bullets that he wanted to take them in his hands. The father was desperate, his son, his everything, was so stubborn that he was just in the process of total self-destruction, unless something extraordinary happened.

The father loved his son, he scolded him, not because he did not love him, but because he hoped to save the immature son, who did not respond to arguments, at least with fear, from self-destruction. The same with the beatings, he thus increased the fear of consequences. But now he had no means to intimidate the son, to keep him on a time of reasonable coexistence. The father no longer scolded. He sat down with the son, explained once again exactly what the rat poison was doing to the human being, and told the son to watch carefully what was happening now. The father took the poison balls in his hand, whereupon the son reminded him in amazement that a human being dies when he comes into contact with this poison. The father answered the underage son: "You shall now see with your own eyes what happens when you take the poison in your hand, so that you also believe what I have told you over and over again: Do not touch this poison, it will kill you". The father already began to breathe heavily, the son panicked, he wanted to get help, but the father told him that when a person has gone that far, any help is too late. So the son had to watch his father die in agony

so that he understood that touching this poison is deadly and with this experience his life can be preserved. The father died not because the punishment for opening the poison can was death, that is, vicariously, but to spare the son the consequences of persisting along an ignorant, stubborn path to perdition. The neighbors, seeing the dead father, mocked the man as a failure: "Because he could not raise the son properly, he had killed himself."

Even though the comparison in this story is very lame, and we would probably not leave the "rat poison" lying around freely, which would probably not be fatal with the simple touch, but with us humans a similar situation is that we are constantly surrounded with temptations, whose "can contents" we are all too happy to open and taste. In the Old Testament there were a myriad of sacrificial laws designed to teach a vivid lesson to people who transgressed against the nature of God and to illustrate the **consequences**. Persisting in this mindset causes death. This is exactly what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote:

*Sin pays its wages, death.* Romans 6, 23

in other words - life goal failures, violations of God's protective commandments for our life security, which is always abbreviated as sin, lead directly to perdition, eternal death.

## How does God deal with God-rejecters?

Some people are moved again and again by the question, what does God do with the wicked or with the ringleader of the wicked, with Lucifer. Because what he does with this, he does somewhat weakened perhaps also with me. Does the offer of reconciliation also apply to him or is there an exception with this former archangel, a judgment of wrath, an eternal punishment in hell, a final act of revenge, a divine letting go?

God in heaven allowed his chosen people to reject him and the person who represents him in the same way, Jesus Christ, to revile him, to provoke him to the utmost on the cross, only to make it clear that even if he had to die in unspeakable agony, he will be reconciling until his last breath.

It is His essence and God could not deny Himself in the incarnate person of Jesus. Thus Jesus spoke the greatest words of all times, namely:

*"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."* Luke 23:34

He kept to his statements in the Sermon on the Mount, even during the most extreme provocation, to the love of enemies so often quoted: **"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."** This was the representation of the real character of God. The people present at the crucifixion clearly understood what was going on. Even the Roman centurion in charge, otherwise not a squeamish man who implemented orders, including killing innocents, without batting an eye, understood that Jesus was the ultimate of a good man, and he therefore said the famous words:



*"This man was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54*

*The Roman centurion who was in charge saw all this and gave God the glory: **this man was certainly innocent**, he said. Even the people who had come here just to look saw it and went away deeply affected. Luke. 23:47,48*

This Roman swashbuckler did not miss the taunts of the Jewish leaders, the mockeries of the Sonship of God. This longsuffering of Jesus was a lesson not only for the bystanders and for us who read about it, but also for the entire beings of the universe. These were able to see that **God does not strike back**, that under the most extreme conditions He remains a gracious, understanding God who rightly deserves the song of love in 1 Cor. 13.

**This demonstration of the ultimate nature of God's grace and patience is the basis for eternal peace throughout the universe.**

This voluntarily shed blood of Jesus (to use a theological expression now) is therefore the central pivot for the future reunion with all creatures, because this blood of Jesus means the following:

**God does not impute evil, he forgives everything, he tolerates everything, also the sins of men, he does not seek his own, thus no justice demanding atonement, no revenge, no punishment after lost patience. Jesus obtained a basis for a comprehensive reconciliation also with the creatures of heaven, the majority of which did not need forgiveness of sins, but should also recognize that God behaves contrary to Satan's accusations as he has always said about himself.**

*"It seems to me that God has assigned the very last place to us apostles. We stand there like criminals condemned to death in the arena. **A spectacle we are to the whole world, to angels and men.**" 1 Corinthians 4:9*

But this blood does **not** mean a **substitutionary death** for my sins. The cross does not solve the problem of my personal aberrations or sins, but restores the call of God.

**The cross restores the call of God!**

Because in the whole dispute between good and evil, God is accused and not us. His justice, his love, his reconciliation is the object of Satan's and most people's criticism. At the cross it is not about the amount of human failures, but about the credibility of God. At the cross, God corrects the picture that Satan has drawn about him. A distorted image that is still in the minds of most Jews and Christians today. A God who is unpredictable in the last consequence, who can be trusted with everything, and who does not deserve the trust of his creatures, despite all the love talk that one hears from the pulpits and pastors' desks. **Just this contradictoriness is the best elixir to catapult God out of the heads of thinking people.** An image of God coupled with the medieval bloodlust of the self-declared orthodox (no matter what denomination) has contributed its share to the fact that the Christian trust in God has degenerated into ridiculousness.

The events at the cross, the huge humiliation of God, the taunts of the religious leaders, the disrespect of a Pilate for the life of an innocent condemned, the callousness of the soldiers at the crucifixion, the care of Jesus for his mother, the words of forgiveness at the height of the blasphemies, the threatening darkness in the middle of the afternoon, as confirmation, that the light of the world was extinguished in Jesus, the signs in the temple when the curtain separating the

Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was completely torn from top to bottom, the realization of the officer on duty who presided over the crucifixion that Jesus was the Son of God, the consternation of the onlookers at the crucifixion, and much more, moved many people to revise their image of God. God was in the pillory and not man in his arrogance. It was not man who was at the center of the crucifixion. Although Satan wants to suggest to man again and again that in this universe everything revolves around the navel of man. Man is important and God has taken much upon Himself to advertise man's free affection, but man is only an extra in this insolent challenge of Satan to God.

The cross was a means to show the universe and also the people who want to understand that God is better than his sullied reputation. To show that he is not a God of arbitrariness, that his grace is there for all creatures. Even if some creatures in their godless zeal reject God's essence, his character.

### GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY!!!!!!

*"He does **not** punish us according to our sins; he **does not** make us pay for our wrongs. As immeasurably great as the heavens are, so great is the kindness of God to His own."* Psalm 103:10, 11

For the human aberrations, of course, God also has a concept and He has repeated the same life-changing concept over and over again:

*"But if the wicked forsake all his sins which he hath committed, and observe all my statutes, and do that which is right and just, he shall surely live; all his iniquity which he hath done shall never be remembered! He shall live because of his righteousness which he has done!"* Ezekiel 18:21, 22

For as God says through the prophet Malachi 3:6

*For I am the LORD, and do not change!*

God promises that when people respond to God's voice, which we hear largely through our conscience, then He vouches to let the person feel His life-giving kindness and boundless compassion. The person then knows himself or herself secure in the hand of God, he or she is safely accepted with God, no matter what life circumstances come upon this God-trusting person.

*"You speak harshly against me," says the LORD. Thus say ye, What speak we against thee?" So that ye say, It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we keep his commandments, and live a hard life before the LORD of hosts? Therefore we praise the scornful; for the ungodly increase; they tempt God, and all things go well with them. But the godly comfort one another, saying, The LORD heareth and heareth: and there is written before him a memorial for them that fear the LORD, and remember his name. They shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in the day that I will make them mine; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his son that serveth him. And ye shall see the difference again between the godly and the wicked, and between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."* Malachi 3:13 - 18

## What punishment is appropriate?

According to traditional, Christian theology, **all** people, from the angry kicking infant to the old man, are guilty of death, condemned to death by "God", not because of great offenses, for example, but already because of trivial offenses, because of the smallest unkindnesses and one wants to see this theologically even with small children - although Jesus says to the children:

*"Let the little children come to me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 19:14

Why does Jesus say that? Does Jesus not know how children can be? Because children are perfect, never annoying, always obedient, a paragon of perfection, moral perfection, full of love and devoid of strife? No, because the majority of them are open to the good and the pure, grateful for genuine, caring love, as long as it is not abusive.

Punishment and consequence are not infrequently very close in the experience of suffering, but in concept there is a world of difference.

*"How now? Are we ahead of the game? Not at all! For we accused both Jews and Greeks earlier that they are all under sin, as it is written: "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none understanding, not one asking after God; all have gone astray, they are all together good for nothing; there is none doing good, not even one! Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they deceive; viper's poison is under their lips; their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness, their feet are in haste to shed blood; desolation and misery mark their path, and the way of peace they know not. There is no fear of God before their eyes." But we know that the law saith*

*all things to them that are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and that all the world may be guilty before God: because by works of the law no flesh can be justified before him: for by the law cometh knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:9-

20

*"But now we are all like the unclean, and all our righteousness is like a stained garment. We are all withered like the leaves, and our sins carry us away like the wind."* Isaiah 64:5

*"I, I blot out your transgressions for my own sake, and remember not your sins."*

Isaiah 43:25

*"I wipe out your iniquity like a cloud and your sins like the mist. Turn to me, for I will deliver you!"* Isaiah 44:22

According to "Christian" tradition, everything that is not perfect in human life means a death sentence. Some add an eternally burning hell, others an eternal extinction, to name two of the most striking variants.

With henchmen from the entourage of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao, Idi Amin, Bin Laden or their many, we are quickly at a radical condemnation and a strong punishment. Toddlers, on the other hand, who are very quick to see how they can get their advantages and combine extortionate screaming with angry kicking to push their interests through, can sometimes gnaw quite a bit at the nerves of their parents, but loving parents by no means see this as worthy of death. In between these extreme groups, we lie as "normal" people. A life accumulated with varying degrees of life success and failure, failure and misbehavior. What do

we deserve? The death penalty!? According to traditional, Christian theology, it is just that!

*"The wages of sin is death."* Romans 6:23

Traditionally translated: The punishment for sin is death!!! And that already for the smallest sin.

We still allow the death penalty to pass emotionally with Pol Pots or Saddams and Hitlers, but definitely not with toddlers. To sentence a toddler to death because of angry behavior, no matter how the parents control it, is unacceptable, to say the least. Who can think of such a thing. That which does not occur to any normal human being, provided he or she is psychologically halfway healthy, that theologians can sell to the people and the people buy and swallow it, without chewing it with their minds, simply down, blindly, because chewed a thousand times before. It is like eating and drinking unloved food, a little spice on it and then away with it. In theology, there is love ketchup over something so indigestible, and amazingly, this makes it swallowable for millions - more than that, it even becomes a delicacy for the most loyal of these Christians. Millions of people have stopped to ask, how can this God be love, if he simply condemns infants. Is it still surprising that still **thinking non-Christians** regard this theology as stupid child faith, to put it mildly and more strongly, as perverse rape of the common sense, the common sense. If something is so repugnant to our system of justice, God would have to have a good explanation to make such a judgment palatable to us.

**Once we question traditional Christian theology, the worst thing that can happen to us is that we are wrong.** But error does not separate us from God.

*"I am quite sure that nothing can separate us from His love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons nor other powers hostile to God, neither things present nor things to come, neither heaven nor the realm of the dead. Nothing in all the world can ever separate us from the love of God, which is vouchsafed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord."*Romans 8:38,39

A rift in the relationship with God or in any relationship is only set by consciously doing the opposite, which we know is not right, acting against our inner conviction.

The question that comes to my mind is, "Do I want to live in the presence of a God who has no corrective program for an angry toddler other than to kill him? Is the environment so sacred with God that there is no place for flawed people?"

The Bible describes three people whom God took close to him. Enoch, Moses and Elijah. With none of them I have read that they were perfect. They were godly, very much so, but not perfect. Since Jesus has not yet given his life as payment for entering the presence of God, it would be a pure plague for God to have to endure imperfection in his presence. Why does God do this to himself to take an emotional, sometimes very angry person like Moses to himself. For the universe, a bad check. What would have happened if Christ had gotten off at the cross? Would God have banished these three again for impurity after well over a thousand years of fellowship from His nearness, to great humanity? How then does God stand. As a kind, loving, caring, forgiving, long-suffering, patient Creator, or as an arbitrary, unforgiving, autocratic tyrant.

Then why is God not able to let people near Him, simply because these people love His nature and want to live near Him. Surely God expects the same from us



towards our fellow human beings? A God who would be too holy to let people near him would obviously sit on an extremely high horse, we would say according to the vernacular, and would deserve no worship and never our love. And his punishment would be that he would be alone in his super holiness.

**These are not speculative questions or thoughts, but arise from the eternal realization that every really deep trusting affection must be preceded by esteem and respect.** With such a self-important jurisdiction it puts every normal thinking person all hair on.

When Jesus went in and out with tax collectors, the theologians of his time accused him of defiling himself with sinners, because in their image dealing with people of questionable life planning is defilement. But just Jesus signals that God has no fear of contact with such people, because how can such people learn to appreciate and love the essence of God, if a super-pure and holy God unapproachably watches over them with the death club, so according to the **traditional, Christian love motto - Love me or I'll kill you. - An insane love proposal of "God" to the people.** No, Jesus came to make the nature of God tangible for people. He said that he did not want to present himself to the Father on behalf of the people, because God the Father likes the people himself.

*"I do not say that I will ask the Father for you, for the Father loves you Himself."*

John 16:26,27

Countless times he assured them that when they see him, Jesus, they see the essence of God, the Father in heaven. (John 14-16). So - the Father has an identical interest in man and the same sociability to ordinary people as Jesus had in the tax collectors and prostitutes. Therefore, no one needs to be afraid of the divine Father.

A God who can with different people interested in God and guilty, a God who says the same thing as:

*Come unto me, and I will lighten your burdens* - he who wants to help and not destroy, torment or humiliate, he wants to right and not condemn, he wants to take in the guilty to himself in a loving embrace and support them and realize his character in their lives.

How can Jesus say that God has the same affection for us when the theologians tell us that God cannot be close to people because he is too holy and too clean? Isn't it just this cult of purity that Jesus is violently offended by, in which he takes the theologians of Jerusalem and thus also the holiness fanatics and sin purity fetishists properly to the chest and presents this theology to them as perverted, unloving and never wanted by God!

*"One day some teachers of the law came from Jerusalem and met with the Pharisees at Jesus' house. They noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, they had not washed their hands before eating according to the religious regulations....Jesus replied:... "All their worship is useless, for they teach only commandments that men have devised...Listen and understand: Nothing that a man takes into himself from without can make him unclean, only that which comes from within himself makes him unclean.... For out of himself come evil thoughts, and with them fornication, theft, murder, adultery, covetousness, and other evil things, such as deceit, lasciviousness, envy, slander, arrogance, and unreasonableness. All these come from within a man and make him unclean."* Mark 7:1-23

Jesus still had very powerful descriptions for such incompetent God's representatives who exchanged God's commandments of care into theologically refined selfishness. These "learned" people thought that if Jesus was a righteous man, he would not defile himself on these people, such as the traitors of the people, the tax collectors or the harlots.

*"...Later Jesus was Matthew's guest. There came many tax collectors and others who had an equally bad reputation to eat with him and his disciples. Some of the Pharisees saw it and asked the disciples: 'How can your teacher sit down at the same table with tax collectors and the like?' Jesus heard it and answered, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.'"* Matthew 9:10-12

Jesus answered that man is only defiled by what comes from the respective heart. **This also applies to God.** God can also be defiled only by what comes from His heart, that is, arises in His thought world? But if God has thoughts of peace, of caring, of cheering up, of comforting, of encouraging, of helping us to cope with life, then surely He cannot be defiled by what is on the outside, especially by dealing with us flawed people?!!! **If God is not defiled by us, then no one else needs to be killed who is pure and holy enough to then transfer this holiness to me vicariously.** God has shown it 100 times by the example of Jesus, that he, God, can with the people also in such a way, without death threat or blood of a substitute, because Jesus said, he and the father are one, wesenseins. He also said that he will not be our representative with God, because God, in this case the God "Father" likes the people himself, without Jesus having to put in a good word for us. Joh. 16, 26.27

A very touching story is the leper who is healed by Jesus.

*"When Jesus had come down from the mountain, he went on his way, and a great crowd followed him. Then a leper came to him and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' **Then Jesus touched him with his hand and said, 'I will, be clean!'** Immediately the leprosy disappeared, and he was clean. Jesus inculcated in him, 'Be careful not to tell anyone about this! Instead, go to the priest, show yourself to him, and bring the sacrifice for your cleansing, as Moses ordered! Let this be a proof to them.'" Matthew 8:1 - 4*

It was not that the leper asked Jesus, can you make me well and Jesus makes him well, but Jesus touched the leper and assured him, ***yes I will, be clean.*** Jesus touched the unclean, highly infectious leper and bridged the social and theological distance that marginalized lepers as the dregs of society. It was Jesus' touching touch that showed all the disciples and the women who walked with Jesus that he would not be defiled by the leper's life story with its obvious consequences, but the lost and outcast needed this touching closeness far more than many of the pious and blessed beyond measure believing people at all times.

Well, if God does not defile himself by our presence, then he also does not need a dead man in my place, then he surely also does not need a death penalty for the angry infant. And then also with us the matter is not yet lost, not even for the Pol Pots, Hitlers, Mengeles and Co. Jesus asks on the cross:

***"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"*** Luke 23:34

For although these theologians with full consciousness handed Jesus over to the Romans for death on the cross, according to the deeper understanding about this event, these theologians in all their rushing against God, nevertheless acted in

ignorance, as seduced and not primarily as seducers. A God who thus prays for his enemies, asks for mercy for his henchmen, does not have death sentences ready for all people in a bucket-pouring manner.

## But how does God deal with the sins of human beings?

As described earlier, Jesus Christ and the real God, whom Jesus called his Father, has no problem with the forgiveness of sins. This does not mean that our sins do not sometimes cause Him great trouble.

*"You have given me a trouble with your sins and have troubled me with your criminal deeds. I am under no obligation to you, yet I have forgiven your sins and remember your transgressions no more, because I will..."* Isaiah 43:24, 25

When people plow through life like blind bulls, God sets warning signs and sometimes God pulls out such life-ignorant people, who forget that they are creatures and just do it too colorfully. Just by reading the two books of Chronicles in the Bible, one can well see the action on the powerful. This is recommended literature for all who have influence.

But if such people are sorry for their behavior, the guarantee statement of forgiveness applies:

*... "When you stretch out your hands to me and pray to me, I look away. And no matter how much you besiege me with requests, I do not listen to them, because there is blood on your hands. Wash yourselves, purify yourselves, put an end to your doings, stop doing wrong before my eyes. Learn to do good, establish justice, put the violent in check, help the fatherless and the widow get their due." The Lord says, "Come, let us test which of us is right, you or I! Your crimes are red like blood and yet they could turn white like snow. They are red like purple and yet they could become white like pure wool - if only you would obey me. Then you could enjoy all*

*the good things that the land produces. But if you refuse and remain stubborn, the sword will destroy you. I, the Lord, say so."* Isaiah 1:15-20

Every time God withdrew his merciful hand, the surrounding nations fell upon Israel and they were not squeamish. The **harshest punishment for man is when God respects the "I don't want God to tell me anything"** and man, in his delusion, is surprised that there are consequences.

*... Woe to him who despises God, his deeds fall back on himself!* Isaiah 3:11

Over and over again, God woos us to share life in close fellowship with Him in order to experience the maximum blessing and enjoy the joy of the fruits of doing right. And this courtship of insight and life in intentional communion with God has existed since the first human couple.

Jesus explains this communion with the example of the vine and the branches not only to the people who "know nothing" about theological things, but he also explains it to the ever-present, ever-learning, but still unteachable, "knowing" theologians.

When the *branches* are in a close relationship with the *vine*, when the sap of mild, patient, divine rebuke and life motivation can flow, then fruits of divine character become visible on the *vine*.

*"I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. He removes every branch in me that does not bear fruit, but the fruit-bearing branches he purifies so that they bear even more fruit...Remain united with me, and I too will remain united with you. Only if you remain united with me can you bear fruit, just as a branch can*

*bear fruit only if it remains on the vine...He who remains in me, as I in him, bears abundant fruit...If you bear abundant fruit, you prove to be my disciples, and so the glory of my Father becomes visible...I have told you these things so that my joy may fill you and that nothing may be lacking in your joy."* John 15:1- 8

God's prescription for the restoration of character according to God's conception and for man's true joy lies in a close personal relationship with God, **not** in a vicarious death of an innocent person.

This does not mean total piety, but the deep awareness that our life is safe in the hand of God. In order not to forget this, God has erected a monument of time, the day of rest, when man, freed from his many everyday occupations, remembers that God is not only the creator of the universe, but also its new creator in character. On this day, God wants us to relax from the mundane, to give increased attention to these thoughts.

What God would like to have corrected, we actually know ourselves without having to think much. Paul formulates this as follows:

*"Human selfishness fights against the Spirit of God, and God's Spirit against selfishness...Where human selfishness leads, everyone can see: to fornication, corruption and debauchery, to idolatry, sorcery, strife, spitefulness, rivalry and irascibility, the desire for recognition, disunity, divisions, envy, drunkenness and gluttony, and many other such things..."* Galatians 5:19-21

What God suggests to man is described by Paul in this way:



*"The Spirit of God, on the other hand, causes to grow as fruit an abundance of good things, namely love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, forbearance and self-control. If therefore God has taken possession of us, let us also by this Spirit lead our lives." Galatians 5:22-25*

We are guided by God in our conscience, not according to a uniform creed, but God helps man to recognize his individual measure of generosity, of modesty, of luxury, of X-pleasing. Not white or black is the life program of God's commandments, which are anyway only headings of a life concept pleasing to God and man, but in the coordination of the shades of gray of the respective life circumstances, God works through the conscience, leaving enormous freedoms. But just these freedoms are questioned and rearranged piece by piece by the soft guidance of God and then practically ranked in life by man. And some freedoms, which are not beneficial to man, are left, voluntarily, in increasing wisdom of life and knowledge of God and not out of denominational dictates of a lobby of self-righteous truth apostles, whose appearance, as at present of Jesus, is framed with great "piety and modesty".

*"Then a poor widow, after many wealthy people had generously thrown money into the offering box, came and put in only two small copper coins. Then Jesus called his disciples over and told them: I assure you, this widow has given more than all the others. They merely gave from their abundance, but this poor widow actually sacrificed all she had to live on. Mark 12:41 - 44*

The absolute donation amount of the poor widow seems little, as in the example above. But in terms of possibilities, these coins are like a super class car for a wealthy person, but their donations are something like reducing the weight of the purse, even if the donations are or were not small amounts in absolute terms.

Even if the headings of the commandments are the same for everyone, the keeping of these commandments is in the things that are between the lines, in the individual situation, which is never the same, nor comparable. In these intervening tones of life, man is cut by God through the conscience like a precious stone.

The reward of such a life in union with God is an increase in self-respect and in real joy of life. Joy in the fruits of a correct life. Not pride in one's own goodness, something like making an impression on God, no, simply the joy in the security of God and the joy from the growth of personality fostered by God. The greatest reward, however, is the joy of God in such a person, which can be experienced and seen in the individual blessing of God.

Theologians immediately warn against works righteousness or legalism here. The risk certainly exists insofar as people imagine something when they do the will of God, namely keeping the laws of God, **the headings of the real laws of God**. Jesus, however, makes it clear to us humans that keeping the commandments of God, commandments of life, is expected of us and of those who bear his name:

*"If you love one another, all will know that you are my disciples." John 13:35*

*"A teacher of the law wanted to put Jesus to the test: Lord, what must I do to have eternal life? Jesus answered, What is written in the law? What do you read there? The man answered: Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your will, with all your strength and with all your mind. And: Love your fellow man as yourself. Answered correctly, Jesus said. Act like this and you will live." Luke 10:25-28*

Through the Sermon on the Mount, God did not leave people in the dark. Here suddenly contents, which are between the lines of the law texts, were commented and this extremely understandably: love of enemies, true piety, clean and unclean, judging and condemning, greed and sharing, daily worries, praying, sense of the day of rest, dealing with subordinates, truth, swearing, sense and danger of wealth, responsibility among brothers and sisters, true worship, real world peace, retaliation, divorce, etc. etc. etc....

*"Do not think that I have come to abrogate the Law of Moses and the instructions of the prophets. I have not come to abrogate them, but to give them full validity. I assure you that as long as heaven and earth remain, the last dot of the i in the law will remain."*

*"But whoever obeys the law and leads others to obedience will be highly regarded by those who will live in the new world."* Matthew 5:17 - 19

*"Where have they gone? Is there no one left to condemn you?" "No one, Lord," she replied. "Well," Jesus said, "I won't condemn you either. You can go, but don't do it again."* John 8:10. 11

Jesus did not say anything else to the woman like: Observe the Law of Moses especially on this point.

*"But if we confess our sins, God shows himself faithful and just: he forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

*"He who conceals his sins does not fare well. But he who confesses them and forsakes them, on him God has mercy."* Proverbs 28:13

*"Like a cloud I sweep away your transgressions, like a mist your sins. Turn back to me, for I have redeemed you!"* Isaiah 44:22

*"I, it is I after all, who erase your offenses. For my sake I no longer remember your iniquity."* Isaiah 43:25

*"Through the law only the power of sin becomes visible..... God accepts people even though they have not fulfilled the demands of the law.... "I am accused of setting aside the law in this way. The opposite is true. Just so I bring to bear what the law says."* Romans 3:20, 28, 31

There is a huge difference between accepting the reconciler into God's nearness (a priori reconciliation, a reconciliation from the beginning) and restoring man's character (sanctification, transforming our character into God's character).

*"If you do what I say, you will live."* Proverbs 4:4

*"The customs of the peoples of Canaan are none of your business. You shall follow my ordinances and obey my commands. I am the LORD your God. Whoever follows my commandments and instructions preserves his life. I am the Lord your God."*

Deuteronomy 18:3-5

It seems as if God had to sign this twice with "***I am the Lord***" to give this content more authority.

What did Jesus alias Yahweh say about the burdens of God's laws, the rules for man's happiness - they are not heavy:

*"Come to me, I will relieve you of the burdens of life...I will not torment you or look down on anyone. Place yourselves under my guidance and learn with me; then your life finds fulfillment. What I command is good for you, and what I give you to bear is no burden."* Matthew 11:28-30

*"We know that we love the children of God by loving God and keeping His commandments. Our love for God is shown by keeping His commandments, and this is not difficult. For everyone who is born of God conquers the world; he conquers it by faith. But who then would be able to conquer the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* 1 John 6:2 - 5

*"And, behold, a scribe came up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And he said unto him, What is written in the law? How do you read? And he answered and said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy substance, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this, and you will live!"* Luke 10:25 - 28

Many theologians see it as if the "righteousness of faith", (as if there had ever been anything else in the millennia) is getting lost in the many texts about keeping God's commandments and preserving life, and fight for grace by faith. *Only* by faith. They fail to realize that Satan is a master at taking advantage of the system at hand. If in the past the meticulous observance of God's law, leavened by church rules, was the ticket to eternity with God, today it is just the opposite.

The emphasis is on - **no** works of **their own**. As if man could ever have accomplished anything good without God. Even the greatest atheist and God-denier, if he is kind to some person or pet, that person is still the reflection of a glorious creation. Whether we like it or not, in all the deeds that reflect the virtues

of God, the Spirit of God is at work. Even if we are degenerate, we still have the rules of happy coexistence laid down in our psychological blueprint. All people understand real love in the same way, no matter how distorted people see this image of love.

James understood this dilemma and so he brought it to the point: **The one who has truly become a believer shows his faith from the works of righteousness - and nothing else.**

*"...But I want to prove my faith to you from my deeds...You thoughtless man! Won't you see that faith which does not lead to deeds is ineffective!"* James 2:18,20

Of course, Satan takes great pleasure in the grace of faith **alone**, because the Christian man deprives himself of the restoration of his character and thus lives far past the goal that God has set for every human being. In the past it was works righteousness from church rules, today it is the fear of works righteousness by keeping the laws of life, the commandments of God. Both are the best weapons from Satan's arms dealer to his elite fighters, the Christian theologians.

But as in all times, there are also theologians of the caliber of Nicodemus who have the courage to stand up against the mob of the theological establishment, who dare to think out **loud** beyond the denominational fence and are not, like most, only critical heroes "in the quiet chamber", but remain cowardly silent before the leaders of the respective theology. My respect goes to these courageous people, because they are the ones who carry on the Reformation.

## Hellfire

Doesn't the Bible say a lot about fire and destruction at the end of days, the last day, the day of reckoning? A God who should take pleasure in torturing in a hell and who would still find that just?

In the Old Testament, God's glory is described as all-consuming fire, that no man can stand in the presence of God, and yet we see God meeting Moses in the burning bush:

*As Moses drove the flock through the steppe, he came one day to the mountain of God, Horeb. There the Lord appeared to him in a blazing flame that came out of a thorn bush. **Moses saw only the burning thorn bush, but it struck him that the bush was not consumed by the flame.*** Exodus 3:2

Furthermore, during the Exodus from Egypt in the **pillar of fire to protect the Israelites** from the army of Pharaoh's soldiers, in the pillar of fire during the Israelites' trek through the desert without being destroyed:

*"During their wanderings, the Lord went before them in a pillar of cloud during the day to show them the way and in a pillar of fire at night to give them light. So they could travel day and night."* Genesis 13:21

Several texts show a connection of the glory of God with fire:

*"All Mount Sinai was filled with smoke **because the Lord had come down on it with fire.**"* Ex 19:18

*"The cloud veiled the summit, for the **glory of the Lord descended on Mount Sinai.** To the Israelites it looked like a blazing fire on the mountaintop."* Exodus 24:15,16

*"On the day when the holy tent, the repository of the covenant law, was first raised, the cloud descended upon it and remained there. At night it shone like fire." Deut. 9:15, 16*

*"You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain. **The mountain was on fire, blazing up to heaven...The Lord spoke to me out of the fire.**"* Genesis 4:11, 12

*"Never make an image of God for yourselves, no matter what form it takes, because the Lord your God has forbidden it. **Your God is like a consuming fire; he will not tolerate your worshipping anything but him.**"* Deut. 4:24

*"But you will experience the Lord your God going before you like a consuming fire. " Deut. 9:3*

*"Let us give thanks to God in holy timidity and reverence, as it pleases Him. **For our God is a destroying fire.**"* Hebrews 12:28. 29

*"On Mount Zion the sinners are terrified, trembling befalls all who have forgotten God: **Who then can dwell beside a blazing fire, they ask. Who can endure this blaze that does not cease? Only he who does what is right in everything, who always speaks the truth, who does not enrich himself by oppressing others, who does not allow himself to be bought by gifts, ...who does not look on with approval where injustice happens. He who keeps this rule will dwell on secure heights.**"* (isn't this pure works righteousness?!?!? or simply what God expects from man throughout



the ages, the doing of His will for man's good as a sign of identification with God...)  
Isaiah 33,14 - 16

*"...That day the heavens opened and I looked at God. The cloud broke open and from within it shone a bright light, like the radiance of glowing gold... I saw something that looked like bright gold surrounded by flames of fire and below something like flames of fire. The whole figure was surrounded by a circle of light... Thus the Lord showed himself to me in his radiant glory. "Ezekiel 1:4 - 28*

Several times God mentions that He contacts people in a somewhat more modest form than His glory to be close to them because He wants to spare man before He is ready to meet him in all His glory.

*"...Now Moses asked the Lord: **Let me see your glory!** The Lord replied, I will pass by you in all my splendor and majesty and proclaim my name YAHWE before you...Here on the rock beside me you can stand. When my glory passes you by, I will place you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I pass. Then I will take my hand away and you can look after me. But no one may see me from the front." Exodus 33:18 - 23*

*"In a cloud the Lord came down on the mountain and stood beside Moses. Moses called out: Lord. Then God passed by him and called out: I am the Lord, YAHWE is my name. I am a God full of love and mercy. I have patience, my goodness and faithfulness are boundless. I show kindness over thousands of generations, I forgive guilt and transgression. But I do not let everything go unpunished (without consequences)..." Exodus 34:5 - 7*

In many situations, God met people and they understood who God is. **However, at the end of times, God pronounces judgment on people. That is, he confirms the life decision made by all people themselves for or against God.** This is not about individual mistakes, no matter how big or what consequences they had in their earthly life.

*"But Jesus cried out, saying, He that believeth on me believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, so that no one who believes in me should remain in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and keep them not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath already his judge: the word that I have spoken (all the words of God in the Old Testament), the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father who sent me, he has given me a commandment what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. Therefore, what I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me."* John 12. 44-50

In the end, only the summation of the main life decision for or against the essence of God, identifying with the order of love or unteachable, stubborn persistence in rebellion - is the basis of God's judgment decision, for anything else would again put God in a skewed light and the rebellion would have no end.

Now when God has confirmed this judgment, the Bible says that all knees bow and confess that God is Lord, His way of ruling servant is right, but many people still find it repugnant.

*"For ye ought to be so minded, even as Jesus Christ was, who, being in the form of God, held it not fast as a robbery to be equal with God, but emptied himself, and took upon him the form of a servant, and became like unto men, and in his outward appearance was made up like a man, and humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him the name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of them which are in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**"* Philippians 4:5-11

After that, God will break the connection that existed until then. Lucifer, the angels persisting in rebellion and the seduced people, who however feel comfortable in this seduction and cannot imagine any other life, will die. After that, or perhaps at the same time, the glory of God will shine again to fullness and the people who are attached to the life current net of God will be flooded by this life energy of God in such a way that immortality, imperishability can be transferred to the people. God can risk this, because the converted angels and the converted humans, have made the nature of God so their own, that in all eternity no renewed rebellion will come from these creatures. God is justified, he has not allowed himself to be upset in spite of massive criticism, has presented the essence of rebellion against him in its full extent of abomination to the universe. **Not God will condemn in lost patience rebellious creatures, but these have decided to live in the God distance and God will accept this free will, even if with unspeakable sadness.** The stream of life will be interrupted as desired and the death of these creatures will be the consequence.

After the glory of God unfolds in fullness, everything impure is simply consumed and purified by this all-pervading radiance of God, the total energy. (This is why the purification of filth by fire is repeatedly depicted in the Old Testament).

*"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven! Then shall all the proud, and all that do wickedly, be as stubble; and the day that is to come shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that neither root nor branch shall be left unto them. But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise, and healing under his wings; and ye shall come forth and leap like calves out of the stall! And ye shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be as ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I act, saith the LORD of hosts. "Malachi 4:1-3*

It is the glory of God that Lucifer always represented as the eternal burning hell, knowing that the reconciling God will not torture people. But he will purify the earth, even of those who preferred death to an eternal relationship with God in the order of love and mutual service, **he will purify the earth also of the remnants of decadence, the human Babylonian towers, with his splendor, the fire of his glory.** Not tormenting, but cleansing the defaced earth is the final act of God. Then a new creation, a new earth, will happen according to God's counsel, or as Revelation says, the dwelling of God with men, a deep union of God with men who affirm God's law of love with all its facets exemplified by Jesus.

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more. And I, John, saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying, Behold the dwelling place of God with men; and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people; and he himself, God with them, shall be their God; and God shall wipe away all tears*

*from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain: for the former things are passed away."* Revelation 21:1-4

## Twice dead or only once dead?

*"Happy and accepted by God are all those who share in the first resurrection. Over them the second death has no power." Revelation 20:6*

What can the **first death** and the **second death** mean? Obviously, there is also a first and second resurrection.

About the **first death**: All of us who live have noticed that, at the end there is dying, death. This is the natural death of man and after death man, or what remained of him, lies in the grave, or wherever. After this natural death, no one goes to heaven immediately, but waits for a resurrection. All people will be resurrected. For we are all anchored in the memory of God.

The **first resurrection**: When Jesus comes again in the clouds of heaven, he will send out his angels and all the people who confessedly or in conscience identified themselves with the character, the nature of God, will be raised and moved away to Jesus Christ. Jesus does not come to this earth, but the people who are eligible are brought to Jesus in the first resurrection. Then, in the heavenly Jerusalem, the reunion is celebrated and people are given immortality.

*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then we can also trust that God will likewise raise up those who have died believing in Jesus. For with a saying of the Lord I can assure you that they will not be at a disadvantage compared to us - as far as we are still alive at the Second Coming of the Lord. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven. A command will be called and the voice of an angelic prince and the sound of God's trumpet will be heard. Then those who have died*

*believing in Christ will be resurrected first. After that, we who are still alive will be carried away with them in clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And then we will be with him forever. With this you shall comfort one another."*<sup>1</sup> Tesslonians 4:15 - 18

In the **second resurrection**, all the other people will be raised so that they can see Jesus Christ in his heavenly glory, the one they have blasphemed so many times, the one they have rejected in their lives. They know why they are here now. Jesus confirms to them the judgment they themselves have passed on their lives. These people do not want to see the order of love, as God created it for the good of all creatures, realized in their lives. They have clearly expressed through the sum of their life choices, we prefer to be no more.

*"The sea also gave up its dead, as did death and Hades. Each one received the judgment that corresponded to his deeds. Finally, death itself was thrown into the lake of fire, and Hades as well. The lake of fire is the second death. So if anyone was not registered in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*  
Revelation 20:13 - 15

The execution of this judgment made by man himself, the withdrawal of the life that always comes only from God, the breaking of this living connection forever, means the **second death**, non-existence and not eternally burning agonizing hell.

*"Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. For the day is coming that will blaze like a fire in an oven. It will burn up all the impious and the godless like straw stubble, leaving neither root nor branch," says Yahweh Almighty. "But to you who fear my name, the sun will rise. Righteousness and healing will shine forth for you, and you will leap for joy like calves let out to pasture. Then you will tread*

*down the wicked. On the day I bring, they will be like dust under the soles of your feet," says Yahweh Almighty. "Remember the law of my servant Moses! Judge yourselves according to the commandments and ordinances which I gave him on Mount Horeb for all the people of Israel!" "Take heed! Before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes, I will send you Elijah the prophet." Malachi 3:17 - 23*

Now again the question: If the final judgment on sinners means the second, eternal death, then the question arises: what death did Jesus really die? **The big problem that arose was, why was Jesus allowed to rise from the dead if he had to suffer *eternal death, the second death, on our behalf?***

The 2nd death means eternal extinction after a negative judgment in the final judgment of God.

Did Jesus die the first death, the natural death that all men must die, and since he was not guilty, he was allowed to rise from the dead? - **But** the first death is not the final "sentence" in the judgment of God in the final judgment according to the traditional theology of reconciliation. **The final judgment and the "deserved" measure of punishment for sinners who are not justified by the so-called "blood of Jesus" is the 2nd death, from which no one can be resurrected.** Because then Jesus would have to sink into non-existence for all time in our place.

If Jesus died the 2nd death **vicariously and** rose again because no one comes back from the second death, then something crucial about the concept of atonement through the vicarious death of Jesus Christ is incorrect.



## Other texts that seem to describe the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ

*Unless you eat the body of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have eternal life. John6 , 53*

If you take these words and want to understand them as they are written, then this is the call to cannibalism, something that was very clearly rejected in the Torah. It doesn't take much intellect to realize that this is an allegory. An invitation to internalize the character of God, total identification with the nature of God, not the interpretations of various church doctrines which, once installed, are proclaimed as incontrovertible truth and are not questioned by most believers and are not allowed to be questioned by members in the various churches. But clerical truth is not God's truth. That was the most powerful reason why Jesus' church of that time rejected Him and persecuted Him to the real blood. The fact is, nothing is as dangerous as the truth. And this is especially true for today.

*I tell you this so that you will not begin to doubt me and give up. Because you will be excluded from the community of the Jewish people. (or from the most different churches, because of spreading of "false doctrines") Yes, it will even come so far that one thinks to do God a service if one kills you. People will be capable of all this because they have not recognized my Father and me. John 16, 1 - 3*

They will be drawn to persecute Bible-believing Christians - not the cowardly denominational believers and the politically mainstream "Christians" who submit everywhere with great willingness to compromise and are just as cowardly silent - because they have *"not eaten the body of Jesus Christ and have not drunk his*

*blood,"* because they have much to do with any theology but not with the character of God.

Christian theologians may ask: does he not know all the texts,  
such as :

*"What shall we do? This man is doing so many miracles. If we let him continue, everyone will join him. Then the Romans will intervene and take away our power of disposal over the temple and the people."...Caiaphas, one of them, who was the chief priest that year, said: ... **"It is better that one man die for all than that the whole nation be destroyed."** He did not say that from his own knowledge. Because he was the chief priest that year, he predicted in prophetic inspiration that Jesus would die for the Jewish people, and not only for that people, but also to gather together the scattered children of God. "* John 11:47 - 52

or, ***"Without shedding of blood there is no reconciliation."*** Hebrews 9:22

or: *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son makes us clean from all sin.**"* 1 John 1:7

or: ***"Your debts separate you from your God, and your sins hide his face from you, so that you are not heard."*** Isaiah 59:2

So according to classical reading, we would be separated from God at the slightest unkindness, unbridgeably separated, unless a substitutionary sacrifice is built as a bridge.

*or: "Jesus Christ, ...is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:1,2*

etc, etc, etc;

**To the text: No reconciliation without bloodshed:**

Christians are very deeply rooted in blood theology. Superficially, this is also understandable. Less understandable is that the terms blood, lamb, cross, have a much broader meaning than to reduce to the content of the terms themselves. But in the theological interpretation is usually taken what just fits into the theological and denominational concept.

However, this text can also mean: In order to have peace in the whole universe, God had to let something dramatic happen, a murder, **(bloodshed)** in order to **demonstrate the patience of God** at this and to expose the real mastermind, namely Lucifer, as murderer and to show the behavior of God towards this murderer by letting Jesus voluntarily treat himself as if he was the worst enemy of God - but for what purpose?

The accusers expected a huge praise for this murder, but from the God whom they had just murdered as a human being. And the "Christian" theologians repeat this madness a million times in their sermons. After the resurrection Jesus explains the whole context to the disciples. Then they understood that on the cross God's behavior towards the murderers was demonstrated. Jesus was calm to the end, no exploding in an uncontrolled hatred, no vows of wrath, no thoughts of revenge, simply interceding for conceited, deluded and deceived, especially theological super smart. A worthy end for a God who voluntarily renounced his

power to show and let experience the leniency of God. One had to be carved from a hard wood not to have been touched by the peaceful death of Jesus.

Blasphemy could also have provoked a visible reaction against the blasphemers. There were signs around the death of Jesus Christ, but only those that confirmed Jesus as the Lord and God. But when people deny God against all experiences, God can only withdraw,

The **bloodshed** was the dramatic event at the cross. On the one hand, the cowardly murder of the representatives of God, the lousy taunts. On the other side the patience of Jesus Christ and his willingness to remain reconciling until the end,

**Reconciliation:** The whole universe, which participated in this event, understood that Satan's accusations were objectively false and on this new basis of facts there can now be **real reconciliation out of love and not giving in out of fear, according to the motto: Love me or I will kill you.** Reconciliation means oneness, as the English word **atonement** describes it: **at - one - ment, that** is, the state of oneness. And what real oneness means, every human being knows from childhood and therefore does not need to be redefined by theologians. **Unity in mutual respect, in mutual sharing of common values, observing these values and striving to seek and fulfill the needs of the other.**

God is rehabilitated, he is not a harsh avenger for peanuts. God is also not the final mass murderer. God respects only the free will of the sinners to be allowed to reject God himself and then as a consequence to be no more. His glory is also not the much quoted eternal hell, but the consuming fire of his glory is for the final purification of the world. On this basis of the restoration of God's call, this

bestial torturing and murdering of Jesus Christ (=bloodshed) can bring about reconciliation, deep unity of mutual trust, but never in substitution according to old traditional theology, because just then the so-called "chariot race" continues like in the movie of Judah Ben Hur!!! The misery would have just then no end.

**Regarding the text:** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son makes us clean from all sin.*** 1 John 1:7

It is well known that blood splatter from a garment is not easily removable. Blood in general stains. Blood has never cleaned and this text does not say that blood cleans in the true sense. Soap cleans, water cleans, disinfectant cleans, but never blood. This text is a theological allusion to something quite different, to a viable means of reconciliation. I just elaborated on that, how *Without bloodshed there is no reconciliation*. But this is not in the literal blood of Jesus lost through flogging, the grueling walk with the cross to Golgotha and subsequent crucifixion, but it means the whole life given and in essence - how the life was given and why.

The text of John takes up this theme again, but it immediately provides the explanation of how real forgiveness, i.e. reconciliation, has taken place at all times since time immemorial.

Let us read this text:

*"And this is the proclamation which we have heard from him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness. **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of***

*Jesus Christ his Son makes us clean from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. " 1 John 1:5 - 10*

Never in the history of mankind has sin been forgiven in any other way than with confession of sin, insight into its reprehensibility and willingness with God's power to comply with God's will for the benefit of us all. It has never been cheaper. This is what the Bible calls reconciliation. But since we are deeply stuck in substitutionary thinking, we prefer to ignore - now transferred formulated - the 99 texts and concepts that clearly show something different than the substitutionary theology with the death of Jesus Christ and take a text, again transferred formulated, which is indeed written figuratively and take the image for reality. Nevertheless, with the death Jesus declared to all the world that God rightly deserves the song of love in 1 Corinthians 13 and that God was conciliatory until the end and that he will also be conciliatory with us until all decisions are made. But even these decisions are not made arbitrarily, but from the sum of our life decisions. This is the basis on which we can draw near to God, then we can come to him no matter how we are, but we will not equally go away from him, because his forgiveness is perfect. God alone cleanses from faults, missed targets, crimes, no matter what other indiscipline or spitefulness we have accumulated. The murder of Jesus and his reconciling behavior makes us come to him freely without fear and this enables us a chance for a life pleasing to God and man and later an eternal life with this reconciling God. But the splattered blood of men or animals or Jesus has never cleansed, but only what this image wants to say helps us to a deeper understanding about the mechanisms for reconciliation. Perhaps it is also noticeable - it is identical the same principles of reconciliation as with us humans - we reconcile in the same way: **confess - realize - change.**

*"And when it took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, and they had each a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sing a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou hast been slain, and hast purchased for God by thy blood out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, and hast made them kings and priests unto our God, and they shall reign over the earth! "* Revelation 5:8 - 10

Did Jesus have a vessel with 4 liters of blood in his hand, which the angels scraped off nightly from the sand of the earth, from the paving stones, from the whip, because he wanted or should appear with all his blood. With what now Jesus really came into the heavenly sanctuary - really with 4-5 liters of liquid or spiked blood, because after 3 days the blood was no longer liquid, or does the blood of Jesus always remain liquid. Did Jesus exchange his 4 -5 liters of blood with our life because the legal trade of God had to see this blood? Did the heavenly Father look into the bowl and then say, "ok, this fits now? " We see, to take this text literally makes this event ridiculous.

But if it is understood symbolically that the blood stands for life and not only for dying on the cross, but for the **whole** life of Jesus, then it makes perfect sense, also the description of the lamb makes sense, because it represents the meek character of Jesus, because Jesus did not come to the heavenly throne as a bleating lamb.

To the text, *"Your iniquities separate you from your God, and your sins hide his face from you, that you be not heard. "* Isaiah 59:2

The mere fact that Jesus, the creator of our heaven and earth, the lawgiver of all physical, chemical, astronomical, cosmic and biological laws, came to us on earth shows that God obviously sees it differently. But if Yahweh is the same as Jesus, then one should at least consider the context with this text.

*"See it: Yahweh's arm is not too short to help, his ear is not too deaf to hear! No, your transgressions have built the wall that stands between you and your God. Your sins have covered his face that he will not listen to you either. Your hands are stained with blood, iniquity sticks to your fingers. Your lips lie, and your tongue hisses malice. No one brings just complaints, no one holds honest court. You trust in inanities, talk inane things, go pregnant with mischief and give birth to injustice. They hatch serpent eggs and weave cobwebs. Whoever eats of the eggs will die; and if one is crushed, a poisonous snake will come out. Their threads never become a garment, and their web covers no man. Their works are acts of injustice, and their hands are full of violence. Their feet run after evil, quickly shedding innocent blood. Their plans are filled with mischief, only shards and ruin are in their streets. What leads to peace they do not know; in their footsteps no right is shown. Consciously they take crooked paths. Whoever follows them no longer knows peace. That is why there is no justice with us, and justice does not reach us. We hope for light and get darkness; we wait for light, but dark night surrounds us. Like the blind we grope along the wall, like the eyeless we grope about. In the bright noon we stumble as in the twilight, like dead we are in the middle of life. Like startled bears we growl, and coo like plaintive doves. We hope for justice, but nothing happens, for salvation, but it remains far from us. For many times we have transgressed against you, our sins accuse us! Yes, we are aware of our offenses, we know our guilt. Unfaithfulness and denial of Yahweh, turning away from our God, speaking of violent deeds and riots, getting pregnant with words of lies and then pushing them out of our hearts. Thus, justice was suppressed and righteousness withdrew.*



*Truth comes down in the marketplace, probity is no longer in demand. Thus truth is missed among us, and he who shuns evil is robbed. Yahweh has seen all this, and he is displeased that there is no longer any right. He sees that no one stirs, and is surprised that no one intervenes. Then he intervenes with his own hand, supported by his own truthfulness. He puts on justice like an armor and has put on the helmet of salvation. He dresses himself with retribution, he has the mantle of determination on. He pays everyone back according to his deeds: his opponents wrath, his enemies retaliation. He also pays the deserved reward to the countries of the sea. Then the name of Yahweh will be feared in the west and his glory in the east. For he comes as a constrained torrent, his breath driving him onward. But for Zion he comes as a redeemer, and also for those in Jacob's descendants who repent of their apostasy. Yahweh says this. "I make a covenant with them," says Yahweh. "My Spirit that rests on you and the words I have entrusted to you shall remain in you forever, and likewise in your descendants and in the descendants of your descendants. This is from now until forever! I, Yahweh, have said it." Isaiah 59:1ff*

This whole chapter describes the condition of the people of Israel chosen by God Himself at the time of the kings Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and beginning with Manasseh. Even though Hezekiah was an exception, the level of ungodliness was on the same level as today. Even if the phenotype of the time is different today than it was then, the moral picture differently decadent, the description of the time at that time resembles our situation today. Today, God has been dropped from the curriculum from kindergarten to university. Empty churches and monasteries may still remind us of God. To talk or even to write about God is already very suspiciously close to be ranked in the category of "modest intellectual minds", already understood as stupidly stupid, to use a negative superlative. Today, too, truth is what is useful. Human rights, once given for the protection of life and fixed at the United Nations in 1945, are today used for the

destruction of life. Abortion has become a human right, self-determined killing of one's own person, i.e. euthanasia, is also a human right, both hypocritically adopted "non-binding" by the UN in 2018. In the USA, with the administration of Joe Biden, the culture of death has moved into the White House and thus this culture now has its foot in every government in the world, because the United Nations with its hundreds of organizations will certainly see to that. If, as in Hungary, the government wants to see the responsibility for education in the hands of the parents, this is a betrayal of European values for the EU. We have today, as described above in Isaiah, the same situation of godlessness in fullest bust. And the same will follow today as then, a judgment of God.

This chapter, Isaiah 59, is not about trifles, but about almost unsurpassable, decadent ungodliness. A people ripe for judgment is described here. And then a casual shamanistic attitude, so in passing, one could ask God for a favor in between, so after the pattern: "Go old man, move over a few bills". Nobody who thinks anything of himself would react to such disrespect. This text has zero and nothing to do with the quicksand of everyday life of people who want to see the will of God shaped in their lives from the heart, who really want to live with God, but where there is inevitably a blood trail, albeit narrow, in the life's wake. But even with an extremely wide trail of blood, there is still hope.

We find the same thought in the 1st chapter of Isaiah, verses 9 - 21

*"If Yahweh Almighty had not left a remnant of us, we would have been like Sodom, and like Gomorrah we would be now. Hear the word of Yahweh, you mighty ones of Sodom! Hear the instruction of our God, people of Gomorrah"* (here the mighty of Israel and the mighty at all times are meant) *"What shall I do with the multitude of your sacrifices?" says Yahweh. "I am tired of you burning rams and the fat of fatted calves for me! I don't like the blood of bulls, lambs, rams! When you come to*

*the temple to appear before me, trampling my courts - who asked this of you? Leave your useless sacrifices! Your incense is an abomination to me! New moon, Sabbaths and other festivals: sinful celebrations I cannot bear! And when you pray with outstretched hands, I cover my eyes from you. Though you besiege me with petitions, I will not hear, for your hands are full of blood. Wash and cleanse yourselves! Get your evil deeds out of my way! Stop doing evil in my sight! Learn to do good and ask for what is right! Reject the oppressors! Help orphans and widows to their rights!" "Come here, let us see who is in the right!" says Yahweh. "If your sins are red like blood, yet they will be white like snow; and if they are red like purple, they will be like white wool. If you listen willingly to me, you may enjoy the fruits of the land. But if you refuse and are rebellious, you shall be devoured by the sword." Yes, the mouth of Yahweh has said this! How has become a harlot the faithful city! It was full of justice, righteousness dwelt in it, and now murderers dwell in it. "*

This is not God's capriciousness, but a refusal to be treated like a shamanistic idol to whom one throws a bunch of greenery with flowers, according to the motto "If it does no good, it does no harm. " **God's arm is not too short, but it does not respond until repentance of past deeds is genuine, and a relationship with God is earnestly sought.** Then it is said **God will hear**, but not if there is no willingness whatsoever to make the character of God a reality even in one's own life. But the text, *"your indebtedness separates you from your God,"* there is not meant the angry kicking of a toddler who half an hour later is playing and laughing peacefully again. This text says God is not a cheap buddy you can push around however you want. God expects respect, not bullshit chumminess.

The willingness to forgive among people also requires insight on the part of the guilty party if it is to have any validity. Only then does "listening" have any meaning.

*"If we claim to be without guilt, we deceive ourselves and close ourselves off from the truth. But if we confess our sins, God shows Himself faithful and just: He forgives our sins and cleanses us from all wrongdoing. If we claim that we have not sinned, we make God a liar. Then his word does not live in us. "* 1 John 1:8 -10

This is what our Creator wants, to humbly confess in self-knowledge our shortcoming and ask Jesus for reconciliation in a comprehensive sense. Then it says in this letter of John, then God will respond and listen very gladly. And then nothing separates God and man. Then there is no need for a special sacrifice, a substitute for justice, as it is written in the first chapter of the prophetic book of Isaiah:

Let's make a bet, it says in Isaiah, no matter what you've been up to, whether you've aborted more than 1.7 billion unborn (according to the Gutmacher Institute in the last 60 years) or the pedophilic madness, such as with Pizzagate or Dutroux, the hundreds of warmongering lies, the Corona madness included, conscienceless bombings of entire cities, or no matter what other bestial genocides are carried out, God will forgive if we ask Him **earnestly**.

**But to deny these outrages, he will never let that pass!**

On the text: *"Jesus Christ, ...is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours alone, but also for the sins of the whole world."* 1 John 2:1, 2

Jesus as the means of atonement, is described in the 1st Epistle of John. Immediately we think of the usual substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. When we read this text in the Good News Bible, it reads like this:

*"But if anyone should become guilty, we have one who intercedes for us with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, who is without guilt. **By his death he has made atonement for our guilt, even for the guilt of the whole world.**"*

In the Elberfelder Bible (1905) it reads like this:

*"And he (Jesus Christ) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. "*

In the Luther translation (1902) it reads like this:

*And the same (Jesus Christ) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours alone, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

If we take the slapdash from the modern "Good News" translation alone, Jesus' life is reduced from a good 33 years to 1 day. The purchased murder of the Son of God, which ends with a cruel death by suffocation, is presented as the atonement of God, which is to be rejected clearly as a pseudo-intellectual narrowing. To reduce the statements of Jesus alone, why he came to this earth (see separate chapter), to the murder by suffocation, is intellectually simply unacceptable or - to put it gently - very much to be questioned.

What does atonement actually mean? In the Luther Bible, but also in the Elberfelder translation, there is not yet much reinterpretation, but the term is used that it is about: reconciliation, atonement.

To understand what this term means, or what change in meaning this term has undergone, let's look at modern familiar terms that have undergone radical change in our short-lived times.

**Family:** According to the United Nations Convention on Human Rights, the family as the basic unit of society to be protected in 1945 still meant the father - mother - child group, and at that time no one would have thought of seeing it differently. So today is meant by the United Nations human right under the family unit to be protected all forms of cohabitation and constellations, which feel sexually how and wherever located. The family is the gender-neutral family and not the heteronormative, binary sexual relationship with the exclusive marriage seal meant in 1945, i.e. a biblically conceived marriage with children.

**Emancipatory sexual education:** does not mean educating children in the sense of equal rights for men and women, but that children have an equal right to active sexual experience from infancy.

According to AGENDA 2030, section 5 advertises **equality in the** headline, which is defacto written for stupid, lazy politicians, but in the fine print it is about **equality** between men and women and in reality about sexual, "**reproductive health**", which properly formulated means nothing else than women need free access to abortion to be equal to men, because men do not get pregnant. This is not an interpretation, but clearly formulated in AGENDA 2030 in paragraph 5, but to see this you have to read to the end.

**Reproductive health** does not mean measures to safeguard during pregnancy, but abortion and counseling with a focus on abortion.

**Pro Familia** is not a family support organization that supports the heterosexual family, but a very large abortion movement.

**Horny** used to mean fat, in full juice, today the same word means lustful, voluptuous.

**Dirne:** If we look at the word Dirne alone, in Old High German it was a young woman, in Middle High German a maid, in the function of a servant, and in New High German from about the 16th century a prostitute, but also modern and very cultured and decent women like to wear a dirndl, a beautiful feminine and culturally accepted modern packaging of a woman.

**Reconciliation**, on the other hand, has been described for centuries as a compensatory, legal trade, as the fulfillment of a punitive measure, a compensatory trade enforced by guilt, and in the area of sins in the vicarious death of Jesus Christ, who assumes the duty of atonement, i.e. compensatory punitive duty, to die in the place of all flawed human beings. Reconciliation and atonement, as the fulfillment of a punishment worthy of death even in the case of any trivial sins, i.e. overall a deviation from the will of God, are to lead inevitably to the loss of eternal life. This is the grid that has been laid over the Bible for centuries, but draws a God who is in reality unforgiving and merciless. With this grid, Satan is de facto glorified.

In the First Epistle of John, John writes that the coming and ministry of Jesus of about 33 years, and especially the last 3.5 years, was an atonement from God to us humans, with the goal of reconciliation.

Unfortunately, the interpretation of the concept of reconciliation has been lost in wide theological circles, describing "becoming one again" in thoughts, attitudes and feelings. This kind of reconciliation means harmony in a deep renewed love and in understanding what has marred this harmony and the deep, wholeheartedly desired change in personal behavior that will no longer violate and secure this harmony.

In other words, everything that is capable of facilitating insight, of bringing about a change of heart, leading to a humble "I'm really sorry" and formulating this from the bottom of one's heart, whether spoken or made tangible, and the willingness to refrain from actions that violate relationships, i.e. to change and to do so from the bottom of one's heart, **that is reconciliation** - and people have never felt otherwise.

If God is surprised that nobody takes his position, stands up for right and morality, wants to understand his character and tries to present it correctly, then it is said there: there he helped himself, he forgave sins not for the sake of our justice, but because God himself wanted it that way. And all this without substitute actions and a bizarre bribery theology of a "Christianized" Baal sacrifice thinking.

*"And he sees that no one is there, and is astonished that no one steps into the means (defends him). Therefore he helps himself with his arm, and his righteousness stands by him. "Isaiah 59, 16*

*"Yea, thou hast made work for me in thy sins, and hast given me trouble in thy iniquities. I, I blot out thy transgressions for my own sake, and remember not thy sins. "Isaiah 43:24, 25*





## What about the ransom, redeemer or even redeemer

*"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:28

*"We pray for them so that we can live in peace and quiet a life that honors God in every way and that can also be respected by people. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior. After all, He wants all people to be saved and to know the truth. For there is only one God and only one mediator between God and men: **That is Jesus Christ, who became man and delivered himself up as a ransom for all.** Thus, in due time, the testimony was given that God wants to save people."* 1 Timothy 2:5-7

These texts are at first sight a support for the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ in the sense of *instead of* me or anyone else. Superficially, a clear deal, a clear account is described here, One for many - but we should read the texts in the Old Testament first, before we hastily draw such conclusions.

*"The LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Sanctify (set apart, consecrate) unto me all the firstborn of the children of Israel, both of men and of cattle: for they are mine.** Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day, when you came out of Egypt, out of bondage, and the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand: therefore you shall eat no leavened meat. This day ye went out, in the month Abib. Now therefore, when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, as he sware unto thy fathers to give thee a land flowing with milk and honey, then thou shalt keep this service in this month. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the*

*seventh day is the feast of the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten these seven days, that no leaven be seen with thee: in all thy borders shall no leavened bread be seen. And thou shalt declare unto thy son in that day, saying, It is because of this that the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign in thine hand, and for a memorial in thine eyes, that the law of the LORD is in thy mouth, because the LORD hath brought thee forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Therefore thou shalt observe the ordinance at the appointed time, year by year. Now when the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and to your fathers and gave it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all the firstborn, even every first litter of cattle you get; everything that is male shall belong to the LORD. **But every firstborn of the ass you shall redeem with a sheep; but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Likewise every firstborn of man among thy children thou shalt redeem. And when your son asks you in the future: What is this? Then thou shalt say unto him, The LORD hath brought us forth out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, with a mighty hand. For it came to pass, when Pharaoh stoutly refused to release us, that the LORD smote all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of men even unto the firstborn of cattle: therefore I offer unto the LORD all the firstborn of man; but all the firstborn of my sons will I redeem. And this shall be for a sign in thine hand, and for a memorial in thine eyes, that the LORD hath brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand. " Exodus 13:1-16***

All the firstborn were ritually sacrificed as a reminder of Egypt, where the people of Israel lived in hard bondage. All firstborn, except the human, male firstborn. This God redeemed, so it was not to be ritually sacrificed on an altar, but the **human firstborn** was to be set apart for God, **God's special property as a reminder of the deliverance from slavery in Egypt**. For in the last plague God killed all the male firstborn, including Pharaoh's firstborn son, whereupon the Egyptians let the people of Israel go. The firstborn of Israel remained alive if they did as God

commanded them at the Passover (God passed by the houses of Israel and spared the firstborn of the Israelites when they smeared the doorposts with the blood of the Passover lamb).

*"Behold, I have set apart your brothers the Levites from the Israelites and given them to you as a gift for Yahweh, to do the work of the Tent of Meeting...The consecrations of the Israelites belong to you and to all your descendants, sons and daughters. This order is for all time. Every person in your house who is clean may eat of it. The best of the oil and the best of the must and grain, the first gifts of every harvest they bring to Yahweh, I have given you. The first fruits of everything that grows on their land, which they bring to Yahweh, shall be yours. Every person in your house who is clean may eat of it. All the consecrated property in Israel is to be yours. Everything that comes first from the womb, of man and beast, which they offer to Yahweh, shall be yours. **Only the firstborn in man and in unclean animals you must have ransomed. This is to be done at the age of one month. According to your estimation, the value shall be five pieces of silver, weighed according to the full weight of the sanctuary, a piece of silver twelve grams.**"*

Deuteronomy 18:6-16

Here it is clear that God did not require any killing for the firstborn male Israelites, he primarily does not want any killing of the unclean animals like donkeys either, but by the ransom God clearly showed that he spared them on the Passover day when all the firstborn in Egypt died except the firstborn sons of Israel. This ransom was given to the Israelites as a reminder so that they would not forget the fact of the great preservation, that God protected them, preserved their lives.

On the other hand, if an Israelite had sold his property or himself as a servant out of necessity, his nearest relative was to stand in for him as redeemer and redeem the property or person sold.

*"If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his real estate, his nearest relative must step in as solver and buy back what he has sold. If someone does not have a redeemer and later raises enough himself to buy it back, then he should calculate the years since the sale and reimburse the buyer for the remaining amount and thus regain his property. If he cannot raise the funds for repurchase, then his property remains in the hands of the buyer until the jubilee year, and then reverts to him as the original owner.....If a stranger or sojourner comes to wealth beside you, and your brother beside him becomes so impoverished that he sells himself to the stranger or sojourner or to the descendant of a stranger, then the right of dissolution shall exist for him at all times. One of his brothers can ransom him. It can also be his uncle, the son of his uncle or one of his closer relatives. And if he raises the money himself, he can ransom himself. He shall reckon with his buyer from the year he sold himself until the next jubilee year. And his selling price shall be according to the number of years. Let the annual rate be calculated according to the wages of a day laborer. If there are many years left, he shall reimburse for his lot purchase a corresponding part of the purchase price. If there are only a few years left until the jubilee year, it shall be credited to him. According to his years of service he shall redeem. Deuteronomy 25:25 - 52*

Here we are talking about debt with the option to become free. Not a cheap trade, but exactly measured what his service is worth. Exactly the service time was calculated and only if the calculated amount was deposited, the person could go free. The indebted person could be ransomed by others, but could also **ransom himself**.

Wake up, wake up!... Put on your garments of honor, Jerusalem, you holy city!... Unshackle yourself from the bonds of your neck, you captive daughter of Zion! For thus says the LORD: In vain **were ye sold, even so shall ye be redeemed without money.** For thus saith the LORD God; My people went down to Egypt of old, to sojourn there in a foreign land; but the Assyrian oppressed them without a cause. **But now, what have I to do here, saith the LORD, that my people are spoiled without recompense?** Their rulers exult, saith the LORD; and my name is reproached continually, all the day long. Therefore shall my people know my name, yea, therefore shall they know in that day that I am he which saith, Behold, here am I! Isaiah 52, 1-6

And now thus says the LORD who created you, Jacob, and who made you, Israel: **Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine!** When thou walkest through the waters, I will be with thee; and when thou passest through the rivers, they shall not drown thee. When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle thee. **For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior! I have given Egypt, Ethiopia and Sheba as a ransom for you.** Therefore, because thou art dear in mine eyes, esteemed, and I love thee, I will give men for thee, and nations for thy soul. Fear not therefore, for I am with thee... **Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe me, and know that I am he: before me there was no God made, and after me there shall be none. I am the LORD, and beside me there is no savior. Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer: For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and I have broken the bars of your prison, and the rejoicing of the Chaldeans is become a lamentation.** Thus says the LORD your Holy One, who created Israel, your king. ... Yet you, Jacob, have not called upon me, nor have you sought me out, Israel! You have not offered your

*burnt-offering sheep to me, nor honored me with your sacrifices. I have not troubled you with grain offerings; I have not wearied you with offerings of incense. You have not bought me spice cane for money, nor watered me with the fat of your sacrifices; but you have troubled me with your sins and wearied me with your iniquities! I will blot out thy transgression for my own sake, and will remember thy sins no more. Remind me, let us be right with each other; tell me how you will justify yourself. Your first father has sinned, and your representatives have broken faith with me; therefore I have profaned the rulers of the sanctuary, and have sent Jacob into exile, and have given Israel up to reproach. Isaiah 43*

Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia were given as ransom for Israel. This was not alone the death of the firstborn throughout Egypt, but also the consequences of the first 9 plagues. So were the many gold and silver objects, jewelry and other valuable ornaments that the Egyptians gave to the Israelites as payment for the many years of slavery.

*The Egyptians pressed the people and wanted them out of the country as soon as possible. "Otherwise we will all perish," they said. So the Israelites took their still unleavened bread dough in baking bowls. They wrapped the bowls in their clothes and carried them on their shoulders. At Moses' instruction, they had requested silver and gold ornaments and festive garments from the Egyptians. Yahweh had won them respect among the Egyptians, so they gave them what they asked for. In this way they took it from the Egyptians as booty. Exodus 12:33-36*

Similarly, the Israelites returned from Babylon to Jerusalem with a lot of building material and a lot of money, which the Babylonian king released for this purpose.

*In the first year of the reign of the Persian king Cyrus, what Yahweh had announced through the prophet Jeremiah was to be fulfilled. Yahweh moved the king to announce the following decree orally and in writing throughout his kingdom: "Cyrus king of Persia announces: Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given all the kingdoms of the earth into my power. Now he has commissioned me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem in Judea. Whoever of you is one of his people, let him go up to Jerusalem in Judea, where Yahweh, the God of Israel, dwells, and build his house. And may his God be with him! **Whoever is left anywhere of the people of this God shall be supported by the people of his place with silver and gold, with movable property and livestock.** Then the heads of the clans of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, the priests, the Levites and many others whom God had made ready, set out to build the temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem. **All their neighbors supported them in every way with silver and gold, with movable property and livestock, and many other valuable things. In addition, there were all kinds of voluntary gifts. King Cyrus also returned the temple utensils for the house of Yahweh that Nebuchadnezzar had captured in Jerusalem and brought to the house of his god.** The Persian king had them brought out under the supervision of Mitredat, the treasurer, who handed them over counted to Sheshbazzar, the governor of Judah. **There were 30 golden bowls, 1000 silver sacrificial bowls and 29 substitutes, 30 golden cups, 410 second-rate silver cups and 1000 other utensils, a total of 5400 utensils of gold and silver. All of this was taken by Sheshbazzar when he led the Jews who had been deported to Babylonia back to Jerusalem.** Ezra 1, 1 - 11*

According to **traditional theology**, the price of sin is death and eternal extinction, that would apply to all people to buy them out of slavery to sin, the price would remain the same.



If we return to the New Testament texts, we have a choice of possible ransom terms.

1. Ransom for the human male firstborn as a reminder of the preservation of Israel's firstborn, as a reminder of the preservation of life, also applies to the firstborn from an unclean donkey;
2. Ransom for Israelites in debt bondage with the possibility of finding a ransomer from the relatives or buying themselves out if they had enough money of their own;
3. Ransom for suffered shame, captivity and slavery, as in the Egyptian and Babylonian captivity. There the ransom was a kind of reparation payment, compensation for suffered damage, a concept that also the Israelites knew, if by an animal of an Israelite another Israelite lost his life, or an animal of the neighbor came to harm.

*If an ox strikes a man or a woman so that they die, the ox must be slain with heavy stones. Its meat may not be eaten. The owner, however, remains unpunished. If, however, the ox has pushed people before and its owner did not lock it up even though he had been warned, then not only must the ox be stoned, but its owner must also be killed. If he is allowed to pay an atonement, then he must pay whatever is imposed on him as a ransom for his life. The same principle applies if the bovine fatally injures a boy or girl. In the case of a slave or slave girl, the owner of the heifer must pay her master thirty pieces of silver, and the heifer must be stoned to death. If anyone leaves a cistern open or digs one and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, he must pay the animal to its owner. Ex 21:18-35*

How the so-called ransom was paid by Jesus, we now have a choice.

Assuming we decide for the **variant 1**, then the question arises, why is **spoken** here **of all firstborn**, and especially the unclean animals should be bought out. Here there may well be an analogy to the behavior of people, but here it is clearly pointed out, this buying out serves the reminder that God means our preserver, our life. **There God reminds them that he is concerned about their lives, that they are in fact dependent on him, but he does not let them feel this, but at the recurring feasts he reminds them that he is a life-preserving, gracious and caring God, but nothing the less that he and he alone is the life-giving God.**

Assuming we decide on **variant 2**, the question literally cries out, how is it that people in bondage can buy themselves off if they have the means to do so. In **traditional theology, the selfless purchase is not even considered, not provided for.** Do we skip this idea because it does not fit the concept? According to God's Word, there is a rule that God describes, in which man himself actively acts to preserve life:

*But if the wicked forsake all his sins which he hath committed, and observe all my statutes, and do that which is right and just, he shall surely live; all his iniquity which he hath committed shall never be remembered! **He shall live because of his righteousness which he has done.*** Ezekiel 18:21, 22

Are we saying that here man does not have his destiny in his own hands? It is a personal and active confession of life, which is reflected in the deeds of such a person. Let us declare it null and void for the sake of a common theology. Here we are not talking about a substitutionary sacrifice or ransom, here we are talking about a change of heart as the basis of reconciliation with God.

Suppose we decide on **variant 3**, the type of reparation payment. The amounts that Israel got from the Egyptians and the Babylonians are not listed in detail, only the returned temple treasure stolen by Nebuchadnezzar is listed exactly, otherwise this only means - **the value of the gold and silver treasure was very high, the value of this reparation payment was huge.**

Here, the closest parallel can be seen, since **Jesus paid a very high price** to reconcile people with God, to explain to them that God is trustworthy and rightly worshipped, that is, venerated and appreciated with the greatest respect, knowing that he is the source of all life. He is not arbitrary in his judgment, he is predictable, he justifies at least on the day of the final reckoning and defends those who put their trust in him, even when they did not understand everything that was going on in their lives, even when life did not have only roses to offer. **Jesus gave a high ransom.** He was willing to have it demonstrated in Himself that even in the face of the greatest provocation, God remains a loving God, who even then holds out His hand to forgive His blasphemers and persecutors. He let himself be murdered by his own creatures, reviled by his theological representatives, and despised. He was crucified as a nobody, although he had all power in heaven and on earth to put a stop to this murderous goings-on - for where could someone still a storm, multiply bread and fish, raise the dead to life and heal leprosy, just to mention a small excerpt from his good 3 years of work as the man Jesus Christ.

*Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:45

Jesus wanted to remind us that our life was preserved by God, that we understand that we are creatures, in reality God's property, but God surrounds us with much

freedom, so that the Israelites and we today could think that we made everything good in life ourselves, created it ourselves. Rejection from the people of his property, hate tirades from the religious people's representatives up to the contempt on the cross, that cost him a lot, just to show that God is different as he was usually presented. People do not need to be afraid of God, because he is a forgiving and completely reconciling God, who accepts the freedom of will of the respective person until his last breath, but solicits a clear yes of the people to his concept of life. Jesus Christ has cost this his life, only to represent that God was and still is infinitely tempted after human way, patiently without vindictiveness for the attention of the human being to his being, his character. He, who has infinite power, politely asks to be important in our lives. But when we are made aware of the consequence that outside of God there is no life, not being more must be considered as an option. It is not God who destroys us in the end, but we ourselves who choose to be separate from life. To demonstrate this, Jesus took upon himself shame and pain - a price, a settlement, a great cost for our awakening.

**But nowhere from these 3 variants, a substitutional sacrifice for all people, in the sense of replacement can be seen, especially since such a replacement would have to be defined exactly somewhere in the Bible.**

*If someone inadvertently loads guilt on himself and accidentally violates a commandment of the Lord, then, depending on the order of precedence, a bull, he-goat or female sheep without defect must be brought before the sacred tent, the sinner put his hand on the sacrificial animal and slaughter it himself. Blood from the sacrificial animal was variously sprinkled on the curtain covering the Holy of Holies, part is sprinkled on the horns of the sacrificial altar and the rest of the blood is poured at the bottom of the altar. Pieces of fat were burned on the altar*

*of sacrifice and the rest of the sacrifice was burned in a wood fire outside the camp in a demarcated place where the rest of the sacrificial ash was also poured. In this way, he sets the record straight and the Lord forgives the guilt of the sacrificer.*  
(own summary from Leviticus 4:1-35)

A defined substitute for reconciliation with God is the slaughter of a pure animal, a lamb. The question, however, is what does the atonement accomplish? Was it the slaughter of the pure animal, or was it something else.

Let's read on where God comments on these sacrifices again, this time the prophet Samuel explains the principle to Saul:

*Then the word of the LORD came unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have made Saul king; for he hath turned back from me, and hath not fulfilled my words. ...And Samuel said, **Thinkest thou that the LORD delighteth in sacrifice and burnt offering, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and heedfulness than the fat of rams:**for disobedience is a sin of sorcery, and to resist is idolatry and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath rejected thee also, that thou shouldest not be king. 1 Samuel 15:10*

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*What do I want with the multitude of your sacrifices, declares the LORD? I am full of burnt offerings of rams and fat of fatlings, and have no desire for the blood of bulls, lambs and goats. When ye come in to appear before me, who shall require this of your hands, that ye should tread in my court? Bring no more grain offerings in vain; the incense is an abomination to me. New moons and Sabbaths, when you come together, sacrilege and feasting I do not like! My soul is hostile to your new moons and your feasts; I am weary of them, I am weary of suffering. And though*

*ye spread out your hands, yet will I hide mine eyes from you; and though ye pray much, yet will I not hear you; for your hands are full of blood. Wash, cleanse yourselves, put away your evil from my sight, forsake evil; learn to do good, seek justice, help the oppressed, establish justice for the fatherless, lead the widow in her cause. Isaiah 1, 11-17*

*For I delight in love, and not in sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God, and not in burnt offering Matthew 12:7*

*But go and learn what this is: "I delight in mercy and not in sacrifice." I have come to call sinners to repentance, and not the righteous. Matthew 18.11*

*The whole thing is in fact an image for our present time: **The gifts and sacrifices demanded by the law cannot really free the conscience of the sacrificers from guilt.** For these regulations refer to eating and drinking and ritual ablutions, that is, to external regulations which are only valid until a new and better order is introduced. But now Christ has come as High Priest of the real goods of salvation. He has passed through the greater and more perfect tent (heavenly sanctuary), which was not made by man - that is, is not of this creation - and has entered the actual sanctuary once and for all. **Nor did he come with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, bringing us a redemption that is forever. True, even the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young heifer dissolved in water cleansed from ritual impurity when sprinkled on the unclean. But this purity was only external. But the blood of the Messiah has a far greater effect, because in the power of the eternal Spirit he offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish. This blood cleanses our conscience of all the things we have done that would ultimately lead us only to death.** Thus we can now serve the living God. Hebrews 9, 8 - 14*

*The blood of bulls and goats is just not able to take away sins....*

...That is why Christ said at his entrance into the world: *"Sacrifices and offerings you did not ask for, but a body you gave me. You are not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings."* <sup>7</sup> Then I said, *'Here I am! I have come to do your will - as it is written of me.'* First he said, *"Sacrifices and offerings you have not asked for; burnt offerings and sin offerings you do not rejoice over," even though these sacrifices are prescribed by the law.* And then he continues, *"Here I am! I have come to do your will."* In this way, he abolishes the first order in order to put the second into effect. And because of this will, we are sanctified because Jesus Christ offered his body as a sacrifice once for all. Hebrews 10:4-10

*Every other priest stands before the altar day after day and offers the same sacrifices to God many times, which yet can never take away sins.* Hebrews 10:11

So what applies now? Or what was already valid at that time. Obviously, it was never included in the sin offering that the shed blood of the sacrificial animals can take away sins, but only repentance and change of life - a change of mind towards a God who forgave a priori, from the beginning. But forgiveness does not yet mean reconciliation, only when the forgiveness of God with insight of the faulty man together with the will and the clear readiness to live according to the will of God, then reconciliation happens, the famous becoming one again.

Many have believed it can be done more cheaply. God rejects this practice in Isaiah chapter 1, he even says that he is sick of these sacrifices, that he wants something completely different - identical to what Jesus says:

*But go and learn what this is: "I am well pleased with mercy and not with sacrifice."*

Matthew 18,11

This does not change with the death of Jesus Christ. God does not need blood, but the same over the millennia - repentance and the real willingness of the change of mind to do the will of God, so an active and therefore real desire to live with God in harmony, even the blood sacrifice of Jesus does not change anything.

Because what happened with the blood of the goats, that there was a massive perverse abuse during the ritual reconciliation, (Isaiah 1:11ff), is the same with the "blood" of Jesus - the drama on the cross, where there was also abuse in the same way.

But - let us consider the animal sacrifice for reconciliation with God as a substitute **apparently desired by God**. The animal dies in the place of the sinner. If this is the means of forgiveness, then this path must always remain open, because if this path is closed, man is lost.

Then how can such passages be read in the Bible?

*What do I want with the multitude of your sacrifices, declares the LORD? I am full of burnt offerings of rams and fat of fatlings, and have no desire for the blood of bulls, lambs and goats. When ye come in to appear before me, who shall require this of your hands, that ye should tread in my court? Bring no more grain offerings in vain; the incense is an abomination to me. New moons and Sabbaths, when you come together, sacrilege and feasting I do not like! My soul is hostile to your new*



*moons and yearly festivals; I am weary of them, I am tired of suffering.* Isaiah, 1, 11

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*Your burnt offerings are not acceptable to me, and your sacrifices are not pleasing to me.* Jeremiah 6:20

*Though ye offer me burnt offerings and meat offerings, I have no pleasure in them: neither will I regard your fat peace offerings. Put away from me the noise of your songs, for I will not listen to your psaltery. But justice shall be revealed like waters, and righteousness like a strong river.* Amos 5, 22-24

*With what shall I make atonement to the LORD, bowing down before the high God? Shall I make atonement for him with burnt offerings and calves of the year? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with countless rivers of oil? Or shall I give my first son for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? You have been told, O man, what is good and what the LORD requires of you, namely, to keep God's word and to practice love and to be humble before your God.* Micah 6, 6 - 8

Such thoughts as they are formulated here, then God must not make, if the animal blood is to forgive my sins. He cannot close the door to people who still want to bring an animal sacrifice, because otherwise they cannot receive forgiveness. Now the reality is also once in such a way that there are humans, who do not have anything at all, who survive scarcely with begging. If these are now unable to make a sin offering, then the guilt remains with them. It is then in reality a matter of money. Lots of money, lots of sacrifice and lots of forgiveness and on the other hand little money, little sacrifice and little forgiveness. Whichever way we turn it, the door of sacrifice must always remain open benevolently from God's side and

God is not allowed to throw away the nerve when He is tired of the sacrifices. Here already the whole attitude would come into the oblique light. Which loving God says to his forgiveness seekers: Get the hell out of here, I don't want your sacrifices anymore.

And to top it all off, the writer of Hebrews says as icing on the cake:

*The blood of bulls and goats is not able to take away sins. That is why Christ said at his entrance into the world: "You did not ask for sacrifices and offerings, but you gave me a body. You are not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings.* Hebrews 10:4

Finally, this sin offering gets the death blow that these animal sacrifices were worthless in terms of substitution, they did not take away sins. God did not forgive when animals were sacrificed. Shedding this blood was pointless.

**Or - we look at the whole sacrificial system from another side, as it is already clearly indicated in the rejection texts about the sacrifice of animals.**

Forgiveness of sins is not given through a bloody sacrifice, but only through insight and confession of the life mistake, be it a deed or thoughts or basic attitude and the willingness to lead a life pleasing to God with God's help, which is nothing else than to observe God's instructions for a successful life. This can be done without a guilt or sin offering. If the theology of the substitution of a sacrifice would be correct, then no rejecting texts should stand in the Bible over a spiritless and brainless sacrifice madness, because that would be the only means around its debts before God to settle. Since now these texts once stand, then it is intellectually honest to look for another explanation for the animal sacrifices, something else than the substitutionary death for us humans.

Nowhere is the rule overridden:

*But go and learn what this is: "I am well pleased with mercy, and not with sacrifice."*

Matthew 18.11

*AND*

*But if the wicked forsake all his sins which he hath committed, and observe all my statutes, and do that which is right and just, he shall surely live; all his iniquity which he hath committed shall never be remembered! He shall live because of his righteousness which he has done! Ezekiel 18:21, 22*

Confessing that sin destroys us humans in the end itself is the only logical and theologically honest explanation when a sacrificial animal was brought and killed. It was a dramatic experience of a death, knowing that if we continue as before, it can cost us eternal life. Sinning, acting against the character of God, acting against caring love eventually also destroys the loveless eternally and leads to an eternal no more, to the real "nirvana". Not God kills us, but it is our very own fault, therefore the killing of the animal had to be carried out also by the sinner.

The deeper understanding of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, the cowardly murder by the Romans - who were also God's creatures, the total rejection by the high theology, the mockery by the representatives of God on earth, all this was summarized by the Jewish theologian Paul in the term: "shed blood". But this concept of blood shows far beyond the sin problem of man rebelling against the nature of God - shows the enormous reconciling power in the behavior of God in the person of Jesus Christ, who expressed understanding even for his despisers:

*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do* Luke 23.34

God has restored His character in this supreme sacrifice, His reputation as a gracious but consistent God. That is why many people will break from this love and ask God to remake their lives. The price for this gigantic demonstration of God's character was enormous; **the value of the so-called ransom was very, very high.** That is why God deserves the greatest honor even among all creatures. The restored call of God helps people to trust God again with their lives much more easily.

Paul describes this outstanding value with

*It is true that the blood of goats and bulls also purified ... But this purity was only external. But the "blood" of the Messiah has a far greater effect, because he offered himself to God in the power of the eternal Spirit as a sacrifice without blemish.* Hebrews 9.13-14

The demonstration of the gracious, forgiving and reconciling God in the ultimate humiliation and physical destruction of Jesus Christ through the flogging and crucifixion shows how life comes only in God and from God, but respects the free will of creatures. In the case of an absolute no to the essence of God of one of his creatures, the end of this creature is in truth self-killing, because when the creature breaks the connection with the life-giving God - man dies. Not God destroys, but man dies, if God respects the will of a separation of the creature - this is then in truth the so-called "wrath of God" or the "2nd death".

Not a cheap, fraudulent substitute, but a perfect and extremely costly character representation of God during the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The price of Jesus was extremely high, but the effect is also very high, Very many accept this

reconciliation offer. Thus, God's love is for all people on earth, the offer of reconciliation is also open to all people, but not all make use of it.

Nevertheless, there will be many who will respond to the advertising.

## The traditional "Christian" theology of reconciliation

Let us take as an example of vicarious atonement theology the sin/guilt offering that God commanded the people through Moses. First a personal summary and for those who wish to read the original commandment, it follows immediately after. Of course, there is a difference between sin offering and guilt offering. For the first one, the sin has not happened to you knowingly, for the second one, the sin has already happened to you knowingly.

*If someone inadvertently loads guilt on himself and accidentally violates a commandment of the Lord, then, depending on the order of precedence, a bull, he-goat or female sheep without defect must be brought before the sacred tent, the sinner put his hand on the sacrificial animal and slaughter it himself. Blood from the sacrificial animal was variously sprinkled on the curtain covering the Holy of Holies, part is sprinkled on the horns of the sacrificial altar and the rest of the blood is poured at the bottom of the altar. Pieces of fat were burned on the altar of sacrifice and the rest of the sacrifice was burned in a wood fire outside the camp in a demarcated place where the rest of the sacrificial ash was also poured. In this way, he sets the record straight and the Lord forgives the guilt of the sacrificer. (own summary from Leviticus 4:1-35)*

They only need to read the long original text if they want to check the content accurately.

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul sin by any of the commandments of the LORD, and do that which he ought not: if the priest that is anointed sin, and bring iniquity upon the people, then he*

*shall bring a young bullock without blemish for a sin offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath done. And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD, and lay his hand upon the head thereof, and slay it before the LORD. And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, before the vail in the holy place. And he shall put of the blood upon the horns of the altar of incense that is before the LORD in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour all the rest of the blood upon the bottom of the altar of burnt offering that is before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And all the fat of the sin offering shall he take off, even the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, and the two kidneys with the fat that is upon them, by the loins, and the caul above the liver, torn off by the kidneys, even as he taketh it off the bullock in the sacrifice of peace offerings; and he shall burn it upon the altar of burnt offering. But the hide of the bullock, with all the flesh, and the head, and the thighs, and the inwards, and the dung, he shall bring them all out of the camp unto a clean place, where they shall cast the ashes; and he shall burn them upon the wood with fire. And if all the congregation of Israel have done any thing, and the deed be hid from their eyes, that they have transgressed any commandment of the LORD, which they ought not to do, and have been guilty, and have sinned, which they have transgressed, they shall offer a young bullock for a sin offering, and shall set it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon his head before the LORD, and slay the bullock before the LORD. And the priest that is anointed shall bring blood of the bullock into the tabernacle of the congregation, and sprinkle it with his finger seven times before the LORD before the vail. And he shall put of the blood upon the horns of the altar that is before the LORD in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour all the rest of the blood upon the bottom of the altar*

*of burnt offering that is before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he shall take off all the fat thereof, and burn it upon the altar. And he shall do to the bullock as he did to the bullock of the sin offering. If the priest makes atonement for them, they will be forgiven. And he shall carry the bullock outside the camp and burn it as he burned the previous bullock. This shall be the sin offering of the congregation.*

*If a prince sins and does anything against the commandments of the LORD his God that he should not do, and commits an offense, and realizes the sin he has committed, he must bring a male goat without defect as an offering, and put his hand on the goat's head and slaughter it in the place where burnt offerings are slaughtered before the LORD. This is his sin offering. Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the other blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering. But all its fat he shall burn on the altar like the fat of the peace offering. If the priest makes atonement for his sin, he will be forgiven.*

*If a soul of the common people commits a sin and sins against any of the commandments of the LORD, which he ought not to do, and is guilty of the sin which he hath committed, he shall bring a kid of the goats for an offering without blemish for the sin which he hath committed; and he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay it in the place of the burnt offering. And the priest shall take of the blood with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour all the other blood at the bottom of the altar. And all the fat thereof shall he pluck off, as he plucked off the fat of the peace offerings, and shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the LORD. If the priest makes atonement for her, she will be forgiven. And if he bring a sheep for a sin offering, then he shall bring a female without blemish, and shall lay his hand upon*



*the head of the sin offering, and slay it for a sin offering in the place where the burnt offering is slain. And the priest shall take of the blood with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour all the other blood at the bottom of the altar. And all the fat thereof shall he pluck off, as he plucked off the fat of the lamb of the peace offerings, and shall burn it upon the altar for a fire unto the LORD. If the priest makes atonement for the sin he has committed, it will be forgiven him. Exodus 4:1-35*

But where does it say that this symbolic action must necessarily be regarded as a substitutionary sacrifice for my sins and not that the death of the sacrificial animal is to show where thoughtlessness and disinterest in the nature of God or even more - active contravention bring us, namely into self-destruction, ultimately into death. Where is the crystal clear indication that here Jesus is represented in his "vicarious" death on the cross and where is a clear denial that the whole sin offering is not a demonstration of life consequences.

Although superficially the two concepts cannot be distinguished at once by the observer, since there is "room" for both concepts in the Mosaic sacrificial system, it must be seen from another side which Christian concept is the divine concept of redemption (Yahweh representative) and which is not (Satan representative).

*For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might have the righteousness that is before God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

We have instructions for action in the sin offering, but there it only says that the guilty person should confess his sins over the sin offering and after that the

sacrificial animal is killed. Many see this as a substitution, the sin offering animal took the place of the sinner.

Since no explanation is even recorded in the description of the sin offering, it is not an unbiblical distortion if the reasoning is otherwise. It can also have been made clear to the sinner that a life against God will entail an inevitable consequence, namely the own destruction, the own end, the eternal death can stand and that it is wise to keep to the side of the life giver and to the way of life which would make himself happy and even more his direct surrounding fellow men.

*You know that you have not been liberated from the meaningless life with perishable things like silver or gold, as you inherited from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of a pure, spotless sacrificial lamb, the blood of Christ. Even before the creation of the world he was chosen for this sacrifice, but because of you he has appeared only in these last times. Through him you believe in God, who raised Jesus from the dead and then gave him glory. Thus, your faith is at the same time hope in God. You have obeyed the truth and thereby purified yourselves so that you are now capable of sincere brotherly love. 1.Peter 1, 18 - 22.*

Here we have the hint of a plan, but was it that of murdering Jesus because an unforgiving God needed innocent blood to forgive man - or was the plan something else entirely and not the Luciferian Baal ploy - innocent blood versus God's grace.

*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his footsteps. "He did no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth"; he did not rebuke when he was reproached, he did not threaten when he suffered, but delivered it up to him who judges righteously; he himself bore*

*our sins in his body on the wood, that we, having died to sin, might live to righteousness; "by his wounds you were made whole."* 2 Peter 2:20

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.* 1 Timothy 2, 5

*Waiting for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all unrighteousness, and purify unto himself a people for a possession, diligent to do good works.* Titus 2, 13 ff

These few texts show as a Bible excerpt a reference to a vicarious treatment of Jesus Christ, as if Jesus would be killed, so that we would not have to be killed, because that is what the "Christian" theologians think is the content of these texts. I myself have interpreted these texts in this way for a long time, but it is the typical bible excerpt Christianity - to want to explain the saving act of Jesus with 3 - 5 bible texts. I do not say that few texts can not say much, but with such a topic, it simply needs much more to come to a good assessment result on the meaningfulness of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Complicating matters, of course, is that all the translations I had in my hand, all the texts that had reference to the sacrificial system, had a clear slant per "substitutionary theology to justify the sinner" (A righteous man dies for (i.e., vicariously) billions of unrighteous) and not at all the "theology of demonstrating the consequence of sin.

What best restores the call of God and God's relationship with people and "one another"?

I am convinced that the theology of substitution has been interpreted into these texts, because on the surface it seems so simple, but on closer inspection the whole "building of substitution" stands on an extremely shaky and irrational foundation.

I do not want to elaborate on this traditional concept, since there is a myriad of literature about it, almost every sermon has this topic at its center and further explanations would only bore. The next chapter is all the more interesting for that.

## The last3 great warnings of God to mankind

### Jesus the Creator, Additional Thoughts on the 1st Angel's Message in Revelation 14.

*"And I saw another angel flying high up in heaven, who had received the eternal message of salvation, to proclaim it over those who sit on the earth, over every people and tribe and tongue and nation. And he cried with a loud voice: Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour has come for Him to execute judgment! And bow your knees before him who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of water!"*

Jesus, the Creator and Lawgiver, also warned about the consequences of enjoying the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, a phenomenon that is now in the minds of almost the entire population of this world. What am I talking about?

*"And the LORD God took the man, and put him in the garden of Eden, to till it, and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **Thou shalt eat of every tree of the garden: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for that day thou eatest thereof thou must surely die.**"* Genesis 2:15 - 17

*"But the serpent was more crafty than all the beasts of the field which the LORD God had made; and he said to the woman: Did God really say that you must not eat of every tree of the garden? Then said the woman unto the serpent, We eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst*

of the garden God hath said, Eat ye not of it, neither touch it, lest ye die. *Then the serpent said to the woman: You will certainly not die! God knows that the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing what is good and what is evil.* Now when the woman saw that the tree was good to eat of, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and a tree of great price, because it made one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband, and he did eat." Genesis 3:1-6

Somehow, one has the feeling that God does not want us to get anything. In the Proverbs and the Psalms, at every corner of the Bible we encounter the search for wisdom, but good and evil we should not have distinguished?! **Today most people have become so superficial in thinking that they soon cannot distinguish right from left or even call good evil and evil good.** Because the world population is insecure, who can still define that, if not a God - but they have tipped him from the thinking of the people and replaced by a **godless nothing**. Doesn't it need here a clear mind, a sober thinking, thus a matured ability to distinguish good from evil?

1847 [e]	3045 [e]
had·da'at	ū yā·da' v
הַדַּעַת	יָדָעַ
knowledge	But of knew
Noun	Verb

The word that is written in this passage and translated as "cognition" is the same word that was used when Adam "recognized" his Eve, that is, slept with her, united with her, closely bonded with her, merged with her, conceived a child with her. Not only externally, but also immunologically, as Prof. Johannes Huber describes it in his book - "The holistic man". So what should not happen at the tree of "knowledge" of good and evil? Yahweh / Jesus wanted Adam and Eve **not**

**to merge, unite, equate good with evil, to** see it as a common, valid alternative. As it sounds today, or modern in youth education literature - pornography is neither good nor evil. There is with the marriage the biblical creation norm and nevertheless there was already very early the view of the equivalence of all sexual behavior. Everything is equal and everything is equally good.

**What is massively rejected today?** Is it not the distinction of sexualities compared to a biblical moral sense? Why is currently the UN, LGBT expert Borloz, trying to review the application of human rights to non-discrimination of sexual orientation and persecute and punish churches and movements that see it differently. Scorecards already exist across countries, counties and even faith communities on LGBTQ inclusivity. And he is not alone. Democrats in the U.S. in particular have taken up the cause of abortion and euthanasia, arguing that it is a "human right" to kill the unborn and the newly born if the mother doesn't want the child and the elderly are just a cost anyway. Killing and protection of life are legally merged, both should be equally good. After all, there is no God watching - an insight that the atheist Richard Dawkins championed for decades, but ultimately realized that atheistic godlessness does not automatically produce a "Judeo-Christian humanism". Not that he suddenly converted to God, but he is disappointed, having given in to a humanistic atheistic illusion. His insight: people do the most brutal things when they don't feel they are being watched, when they think there is no God who will one day call them to account. **From creation until today, this theme of the fusion of good and evil has not left us until the feminist inability to distinguish.**

Jesus, as Yahweh, also asked Noah to build the ark, he drowned the people of that time on the earth, he confounded the inhabitants of Babylon in their big-man-ness, he humbled Pharaoh until he let the people of Israel go, he had the

judgment-ripe peoples of Canaan destroyed, he punished David for the census, he destroyed all of Israel, a nation of millions, except for a few thousand Jews and Israelites, he blessed and humiliated Nebuchadnezzar, he accepted the subjugation to Rome, he accepted the persecutions of the Christians and he also had Jerusalem bloodily and completely destroyed. He allowed errors in the Christian churches and yet it is true:

**"into the length they will not go". 2 Timothy 3:5 - 9**

*"They give themselves a pious appearance, but they do not want to know anything about the power of true godliness. Keep away from such people! For among them are also those who creep into houses and gain the confidence of such women, in whose lives much sin has accumulated and who are driven by all kinds of lusts; who always want to hear something new and yet are incapable of ever coming to the knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres once opposed Moses, so do these deceivers oppose the truth. They are thoroughly corrupt people whose faith will not stand up to any test. **But they will not get far with it (they will not drag it out), for their lack of understanding will show itself to all, as it did to those Egyptians.**"*

Jesus /Yahweh /God concludes the story in an announcement in Malachi chapter 3 or Matthew, chapter 24, the famous end times chapter and in the message of the 3 angels in Revelation. 14, 6 - 12 as the last warning message.

*"Fierce are your words toward me," says Yahweh, "but you say, 'What have we said against you?' You say, 'It is no use serving God. What do we gain by obeying his decrees and bowing down in humility before Yahweh, God Almighty?' The impudent are happy to be praised, for the wicked are doing well. Yes, he who*



tempts God gets away with it.'" Yahweh listened attentively as the people who feared him and respected his name spoke thus to one another. A memorial book was written before him for them. "They will be my personal property. *In the day that I intervene, I will spare them as a man spares his obedient son,*" says Yahweh Almighty. *"Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. For the day is coming that blazes like a fire in an oven. It will burn up all the impious and the godless like straw stubble, leaving neither root nor branch,"* says Yahweh Almighty. *"But to you who are my names, the sun will rise. Righteousness and healing will shine for you, and you will leap for joy like calves let out to pasture. Then you will tread down the wicked. On the day I bring, they will be like dust under the soles of your feet,"* says Yahweh Almighty. *"Remember the law of my servant Moses! Judge yourselves according to the commandments and ordinances which I gave him on Mount Horeb for all the people of Israel! Take heed! Before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes, I will send you the prophet Elijah. He will turn the heart of the fathers to the sons and the heart of the sons to the fathers. He will reconcile them to each other so that I will not have to execute the ban on the land when I come."* Malachi 3, 13 - 25

In Revelation, this Creator and Lawgiver and Redeemer, and in other texts also as Judge, is once again referred to, and in Revelation the time between His resurrection and His triumphal return, visible to all, is described. Revelation describes that believers will be deceived by their own churches, that church tradition will hinder real Bible study, that churches, contrary to the original intention, will boast to be enemies of God and make life sour and difficult for whole-bible Christians. As is currently happening with Pastor Olaf Latzel, for he is

being accused simply because he dares to give the Old Testament the meaning that the law-giving Creator God, aka Jesus of Nazareth, also gave.

Christians have become the most fanatical enemies of Jesus Christ, the Creator and Lawgiver, because they abolished this side of God with Bible-extract Christianity and transformed it into a dumbing-down gospel in which clarity and truth no longer have any place.

So when it says: "Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour has come when He will execute judgment! - then it speaks here of Jesus Christ, who was faded out meanwhile as a ridiculed and mocked Yahweh, as a religious "Donald Trump". Because who still believes today in God, "this unscientific, unintellectual, cranky and mystical nothing". It is the really righteous, who are not afraid of the truth, who still believe and with good reason.

When Jesus, aka Yahweh, gave the Mosaic 10 Commandments, he did not mean the Catholic or Protestant 10 Commandments, but the **biblical 10 Commandments**, including the day of worshiping God on the Sabbath of Creation, the day of rest after the completion of creation.

The Creator wants respect on this day! But we in our cleverness and arrogance know it better and have chosen the day of the venerable sun, celebrated since thousands of years, thus the sun day or Sunday to the worship day, a day which Lucifer chose for his God worship. Thus, we have withheld the honor from God and given it to Lucifer and that too with sham Christian explanations. Jesus did not say in vain that not a speck of the law would be abolished, but brought to its full validity. After all, it was he who commanded all this, they are his commandments. His character is described in these commandments, he kept his

own law, which is not different from his character or the character of God in general.

If we are to walk in his footsteps, why do we ignore the orders of the Creator, why do we not respect the legislative side of Jesus, and why have we made of him a smug caricature of a goody-goody, moronic God?

Whoever does not realize who Jesus Christ really is will not take much away from these 3 last warnings of God to all people of this world. But if Jesus, the Son of Man, who made the character of God experienceable in a very refreshing way and who will appear at the end as judge, but also as redeemer / reconciler will show people the way to the real home - if this person is not recognized as the creator, lawgiver, redeemer and judge, then we have lived life meaninglessly even as Christians. For such a fragmentary understanding does not have the power for real change. There is an urgent need to understand whole-biblically the recommendations about idolatry, biblically misguided sexuality, occultism, and Satan's empty promises for an "immortal" soul. For does not Jesus declare that if He is the life, then there is no life outside the realm of God's grace?! So also in this area it leads to a huge consequence in thinking.

***"For I, the LORD, do not change..."***Malachi 3, 6

*"With what shall I go before the LORD, bowing down before the high God? Shall I go before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Is the LORD pleased with thousands of rams or with countless rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? **It is told you, man, what is good and what the LORD requires of you: namely, to keep God's word, to practice love and to walk humbly before/with your God!**"*Micah 6, 6 - 8

## The message of the 2nd angel

*"...And another angel, a second, followed, crying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great (harlot), who has made all nations drink of the wine of wrath against her fornication!" Revelation 14:8*

*"After this I saw another angel descending from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his brightness. And he cried with a mighty voice, She is fallen, she is fallen, Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a prison of all unclean spirits, and a prison of all unclean birds, and a prison of all unclean and hateful beasts. For of the wine of wrath of her fornication have all nations drunk, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from her great lavishness."*

**Revelation 18:1-3**

*"And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4*

Babylon, a symbol of confusion and immorality. In ancient Babylon, a tower was to be built that would reach up to heaven. Due to the confusion of languages, this building project could no longer be realized. Babylon itself had several eras of high culture and decline. The goal of several kings of Babylon was to rule the world. Babylon soon became associated with religious attributes as well, and soon Babylon was no longer the Babel of Mesopotamia, but a synonym for Rome. First Military Rome, then Religious Rome and now almost all religious movements including the almost innumerable Christian churches themselves.

*"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, there were two women, daughters of one mother. They committed fornication in Egypt in their youth; there they had their breasts seized and the bosom of their virginity felt. The name of the great one is Oholah, and her sister's name is Oholiba. And I took them in marriage, and they bare me sons and daughters. **And Oholah is called Samaria, and Oholibah Jerusalem...**And the LORD said unto me, **Son of man, wilt thou not punish Oholah and Oholibah, and shew them their abominations? How they have committed adultery, and shed blood, and committed adultery with idols; and their children which they bare unto me they burned for a sacrifice unto them. Above these things have they done unto me: they have polluted my sanctuaries at that time, and have profaned my sabbaths. For when they had slain their children to idols, they entered into my sanctuary the same day to profane it. Behold, they have committed this in my house...**So I will put an end to fornication in the land, that all women may be warned and not do after such fornication. And your fornication shall be laid upon you, and **ye shall bear that which ye have sinned with your idols**, that ye may know that I am the LORD GOD." Ezekiel 23:1ff*

Associated with Babylon is usually also fornication, both understood in real terms and in a religious sense as idolatry, that is, infidelity of a people, like that of the Israelites, who swore allegiance to God but practiced infidelity with idols. We read these terms in Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Hosea, a prophet who even had to marry a prostitute to demonstrate God's behavior with an unfaithful people.

For the Reformers, Papal Rome was clearly the religious Babylon that had changed the 10 Commandments and was still proud of having done it. Likewise, it was this church that introduced the immortal soul into Christianity, not inventing it, but spreading it far and wide, no less seductive. The Reformation brought Christianity back to the Bible, even if only partially, because in many

things the Reformation remained close to Papal Rome. The 10 Commandments remained changed, the cult of images was corrected, the Lord's Supper was seen differently, the sacraments were revised and partly rejected, women were biblically revalued, the immortality of the soul was a taboo for a short time, but very quickly became part of the Protestant churches again.

Revelation chapter 13 describes 2 beasts, a beast out of the water, a lamb-like beast out of the land, and an image that the lamb-like beast made in honor of the beast out of the water.

*"...And I saw coming up out of the sea a beast having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads names of blasphemy. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as wounded to death, and his death wound was healed. And all the earth looked after the beast in wonder. And they worshipped the dragon because he gave power to the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying: Who is like the beast, and who is able to contend with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given unto him power to make war forty and two months. And it opened its mouth to blaspheme against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given unto him over all kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, and nations. And all the inhabitants of the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear! He that leadeth captivity goeth into captivity; he that killeth with the sword shall be put to death by the sword. Here is the steadfastness and faith of the saints.*

*And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the power of the first beast before his eyes, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose death wound was healed. And it does great signs, so that it even causes fire to come down from heaven to the earth in the sight of men. And it deceives the inhabitants of the earth by the signs which are given to it to do before the beast, and it tells the inhabitants of the earth to make an image to the beast which has the wound from the sword and is alive. And it was given to him to give a spirit to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast also spoke and caused all to be killed who did not worship the image of the beast. And it causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom! Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is a man's number, and his number is 666."* Revelation 13:1 - 18

If we consider most of it incomprehensible, especially if one cannot classify terms like animals, the speaking of the animals, fire from heaven, if one does not know the historical analysis in the book of the prophet Daniel, nevertheless every person can see one thing clearly: this is a chapter that describes the influence sovereignty of Satan and the way how the truth of God/Yahweh/Jesus is dealt with. Everyone can see that freedom in decision is divine, but compulsion is anti-divine, that reverence to God is something else, like blasphemy. But how can I distinguish real worship of God from worship of Lucifer? **Only by understanding Jesus not only as friend and redeemer, but especially also as creator, Mosaic lawgiver, as also final judge, as the God who held and holds all destinies of this world in his hands.**

Now to the 13th chapter in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Here a sequence is explained, but much more, independent of the sequence, **qualities of action** are enumerated, which are **all identical** under the bottom line, because they all originate from the same sphere of influence, namely the sphere of influence of Satan!

Beast from the water	Blasphemes God, speaks great things, persecutes the true believers, rules the world, demands worship, submission
Beast from the earth	talked like a dragon, aggressive
two horns like a lamb	hypocritical
it exercised all its power	ready for violence
brought the earth and all its Residents to be the first animal worship	forces
the second beast did great wonders	seduced
it even let fire from the sky falling down to earth	seems pious, full of "Holy Spirit"
through the miracles, deceived it all people	perfidious, deceitful
it persuaded them to make a statue to erect in honor of the first Animal	good propaganda
the second animal even got the Power, the still image of the first Animal	power-hungry
with, so that this image	



could speak

Flood of laws

ensured that all killed

who did not worship it

mercilessly persecuting

Whatever we understand by the animals, as we seek the connection between the animals with Babylon, which is quite possible with a good knowledge of history, but not mandatory, nevertheless there is a clear and sure way to reach the goal of understanding.

When we see the beasts, we see powerful peoples or organizations or churches that have usually exercised their power in a very brutal way. Babylon, as a whore, is described in Revelation 17:1-6.

*"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and spake unto me, saying, Come; I will shew thee the judgment of the great whore, which sitteth by many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and of whose wine of fornication the inhabitants of the earth are drunken. And he brought me in the spirit into a wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet colored beast, full of the name of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and overlaid with gold and precious stones and pearls; and she had in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornications, and on her forehead a name written, a mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus; and I marveled greatly when I saw her. Revelation 17, 1 - 6*

No matter how far back we go in history, the true believers in God have always been at a disadvantage, have been outbid, outmaneuvered and persecuted. The climax was the persecution and murder of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. Piquantly, the Roman, "Christian" Church took the lead in Christianity and very soon, already around 400 AD, the first persecutions occurred and especially Jewish Christians came under pressure more quickly. And this lasted until modern times, and "ended" with the capture of the Pope in 1778 by General Berthier from Napoleon's army. Today, the UN, the United Nations through human rights experts, such as Victor Madrigal-Borloz, takes over the persecution of Bible-believing Christians and Christian groups - of course, with special regard to the preservation of LGBT - "human rights".

Through the Reformation, the Roman Pontifical Church got some scratches, but corrected that very skillfully through the Jesuit Counter-Reformation. Today, the Papal Church is criticized for the many sexual assaults on children, but to believe that the Papal Church has become weak would be very naive. Who of the Bible believers has not been persecuted by the Papal Church? Peoples were routed, e.g. the Albigensians; the Waldensians, the Hutterites, the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren, the Hussites, the Amish, the Mennonites, etc. - but also all those who translated the Bible at that time, who wanted to translate the Bible into the vernacular, e.g. Wyclif, Tyndale, Luther, etc.

When we turn away the historical gaze and look at behavior, we see that the whore of Babylon does exactly the opposite of what God's character is. If we want to understand what the character of God is, to look at God's behavior, we see three basic things:

The understanding to recognize God as creator, as lawgiver, as reconciling redeemer, as judge, helps primarily to make God's action understandable. This becomes especially clear in the life of Jesus, who unites all these functions of God, even more, who lived out all these functions himself 2000 years ago and embodies these functions for all eternity.

The Gospel is basically simply formulated.

*Say to them, "As surely as I live," declares the LORD God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his ways and live! Turn away, turn away from your wicked ways! Why do you want to die, house of Israel? I have no interest in the death of the wicked, but that he turn from his ways and live..."*

Ezekiel 33. 11

This includes knowledge of sin as well as humbling oneself under the character of God. Which means nothing more than that this person, with God's help, begins to live a life in accordance with God's character. The character rules of God (e.g., the **original, biblical 10 Commandments**) that describe such a life are all written down in the five books of Moses that Jesus/Yahweh gave to Moses. (And in the basics, this is clear to every person with growing up, even if not in detail).

But God wants our love voluntarily, he courts us, but he will not force us to take this step, no coercion, no violence, no manipulation, no falsehood, but a clear information about the consequences of the decision for God or against God.

The anti-divine system, the beasts in the Rev. and the whore Babylon, behave completely different, to 180° different, they persecute, forbid, punish, coerce, kill to force a decision, buy the attitude of people, demand, force worship, seek power,

are deceitful, devious, enemies of truth, manipulate opinions, seduce with sorcery and seduce with pious bait, with perverted form of love.

Well, who is Babylon today, the beasts that coerce and kill? What is the image of the beast? -It doesn't really matter, because we don't know the connections of the power blocs in detail, neither the political ones, nor the religious ones. - But by the characteristics of their laws, by the behavior towards truth, but also factual, fact-based science, the granting of the freedom of conscience and faith, the behavior towards the whole-bible Christianity, by this behavior one recognizes very well today on which side these movements, these forms of government, these religions, these denominations, these ideologies, these "human rights" are positioned.

It does not require a study of history today, but only careful observation of the religious and political worlds, especially when benign human rights laws are used with violence and persecution against whole-believer Christians.

Much today is Babylon. Now, not everything in a church needs to have Babylonian features to be associated with Babylon, but tendencies can point in that direction. For example, **when church traditions take precedence over free Bible study**, we already see the element of coercion here that is hostile to "freedom in God." Many ideas - "Pauline" ideologies - were incorporated into the churches, with which Jesus /Yahweh as God of the Old Testament, as Creator and Lawgiver, was undermined. These ideas should be checked with a simple attention to priorities in finding biblical truth:

**Priorities:**

Babylon is far more than the superficial focus on an ecclesiastical organization, e.g. Papal Rome, fallen Protestantism, enforcing godless human rights laws through the political arm of the United Nations as the image of the beast. The behavior of the Whore of Babylon is actually betrayal of God's character and His total sabotage.

When we know the first angel's message, we understand the depravity of the whore Babylon. Christians have no future within this Babylonian system with its thousands of ramifications and lobby groups, because God has put a clear end to this system, a final judgment on this system. The consequences of this understanding are described in the message of the 3rd angel.

## Message of the 3rd angel

*"And another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice: 'Whoever worships the beast and his image, and has a mark put on his forehead or on his hand, will himself also have to drink of the wine of God's wrath, mixed undiluted in the cup of his anger, and will be tormented in fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb ...'"* Revelation 14:9, 10

*"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and come out of her plagues, that ye receive them not! For their sins reach to heaven, and God remembered their iniquities.... For your merchants were princes in the earth, and by your sorceries were all nations deceived; and the blood of the prophets and of the saints was found in it, and the blood of all those that were slain in the earth."*

Revelation 18:4, 5; 23:24

This is a powerful warning. Very simple to understand on the surface. The only thing to understand is the question: who or what is Babylon. Then to leave this church, if the church is meant by this, and basta!

If only it were that simple. Everything points to the fact that it is the Papal Church with its Jesuit power ramifications. For theologically simple-minded people then the world is black - white and the solution is obvious. For hardly any church has taken such offense at the persecution of whole-bible believers as the papal Roman Church. No church has so exalted itself above God as to offer Jesus in the Lord's Supper over and over again without bloodshed, even though the sacrifice was once for all. No Christian movement has dared to rewrite the law of God according to papal discretion to meet the needs of the church, to change the 10

Commandments, to introduce the veneration of the saints and the veneration of images, to put itself in the place of God and to enthrone with Mary, a Queen of Heaven, who has de facto become Coredemptrix.

In the 3rd angel's message is spoken of the first beast from the sea and of his image. The 2nd beast from the land is not mentioned here at all. But only the image that the 2nd beast makes to the first beast. If we understand by the first beast the Papal Antichrist "Rome", by the 2nd beast out of the land the Protestant "America" and by the image a formerly world-spanning peace and human rights organization of the United Nations, then this is not incorrect, but substantially too short-sighted. But the theological, Reformation world would then be in order. Nevertheless, we are seeing the United Nations evolve more and more into a Christ-persecuting organization in the sense of godless human rights.

But **Revelation 18:24** states:

*"...and the blood of the prophets and of the saints was found in it, and the **blood of all those who were slain on the earth.**"*

Now this is much broader than it can be reduced to the papal church and Protestantism falling out of any biblical framework. Babylon can only be understood if we know who the Creator is, because then we also know who the Lawgiver is in the Old Testament. Then we also know who is the Redeemer and the Judge. When this is clear, then the rules of conduct that God gave through Moses, the **original 10 Commandments and, for example, Exodus 18**, etc., etc., etc., take on a new meaning. How many Protestant churches have an extremely truncated gospel because they ignore this very Jesus as Creator and Lawgiver. To sum up, it doesn't really matter how a God-remoteness came about, whether Mesopotamian idols, Egyptian idols, Canaanite Baal cult, Roman or Greek

polytheism, Teutonic idol worship, modern animism, or shamanism or vodookults - they are all the same thing, like the Jewish God-worship at the time of Jesus and today the **papal** and **general Protestant God** "UN "honoring or clearly put **blasphemy**.

In the Revelation seven epistles are written to the churches in Asia Minor and Bible commentators see in them also epochs in the post-Christian time. The last church mentioned in these epistles is the church of Laodicea and it is said that it is simply "spat out".

*"And unto the angel of the church in Laodicea write; These things saith he that is called Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. Oh that you were cold or warm! But because thou art lukewarm, and neither warm nor cold, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Thou sayest, I am rich, and have more than enough, and need nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable, poor, blind, and bare. I counsel thee to buy of me gold refined in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest put it on, and that the shame of thy nakedness may not be seen; and eye salve, to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest see. Those whom I love I rebuke and chasten. Be diligent therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone will hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and have supper with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:14ff*

Who observes the developments and sees how the German Bishops' Conference, the Protestant Christians in Switzerland, the Protestant churches of Germany and the Methodists and many other "Christian" movements have decided in favor of the LGBT movement. If you see Methodist, Baptist, Unitarian and Church of Christ pastors even advocating abortion and over 20,000 Christian pastors worldwide



advocating the teaching of evolution, this is not even the famous tip of the iceberg of **godliness in the name of God**. The last generation of Christians is accused in the message to Laodicea of having no tested faith, no righteousness of faith that does justice to Jesus /Yahweh, and putting in its place "spiritual" arrogance and "orthodox" arrogance. In other words, this "Christian" movement at the end of time is ripe for judgment - as described in Deut. 18:

*"The land became unclean because of this, and I visited its iniquity upon it, so that the land spat out its inhabitants. Therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and do none of these abominations, neither the native nor the stranger among you--for all such abominations were done by the people of this land who were before you, so that the land became unclean--lest the land also spit you out when you make it unclean, as it spit out the people who were before you. For all who do such abominations will be cut off from among their people. Therefore keep my statutes, that you do not do according to the shameful customs of those who were before you, and thereby become unclean; I am the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 18:25-30.*

Identifying Babylon in Papal Rome and in fallen Protestantism is basically correct, but it is the famous *pars pro toto* principle, a part of the whole. Anything that seeks to subvert Jesus Christ/Yahweh leads directly into Babylonian thinking. Anything that wants to replace the divine, direct influence by the Holy Spirit, by however designed church tradition that is above the Bible, above the direct influence of the Holy Spirit to man, has become Babylon. Many churches resist and rightly say, but we do Christian love ministry, such as nursing the sick, prison welfare and pastoral care, development aid, support for the poor, etc., etc., etc. These Christian, biblically correct ways of acting are certainly appreciated by God and Jesus /Yahweh will not reject this, - nevertheless, a messenger of God, an

angel with the third angel's message, says that we should not identify with the blasphemous nature of these churches and movements, should not make their way of thinking our convictions and should not make their godless sham gospel the standard of our actions. **And the measure is already clearly written in the 10 Commandments:**

**Exodus 20:1 - 17:**

**"Then God spoke all these words, saying:**

1. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods beside me!
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth. Do not worship them or serve them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing mercy to many thousands who love me and keep my commandments.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not let him go unpunished who takes his name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but on the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God; thou shalt do no work therein; neither thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
5. You shall honor your father and your mother, that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

6. You shall not kill!
7. You shall not commit adultery!
8. You shall not steal!
9. You shall not speak false witness against your neighbor!
10. Do not lust after your neighbor's house. Do not lust after your neighbor's wife, or his servant, or his maid, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything your neighbor has.

Not for nothing is in/after the message of the 3rd angel the explanation:

*And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice: If any man worship the beast, and his image, and receive the mark upon his forehead, or upon his hand, he shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment shall ascend forever and ever; and they shall have no rest day nor night that worship the beast, and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. **Here is the patience of those who are set apart in the faith (saints), who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus!** Revelation 14, 12*

Here it does not say, who are obedient to the Papal Catechism, the Protestant Special Doctrines, the Church Manuals or whatever Spiritual Rule Books can be found in the world, but quite simply: **who keep the commandments of God**, that is the commandments of Yahweh alias Jesus. And share his faith - and that was based on the Old Testament, on the Testament that Jesus gave as Yahweh, in which Jesus /Yahweh says about himself:

*"I, the Lord, do not change..." Malachi 3, 6*

*"Jesus Christ, yesterday and today and the same forever."* Hebrews 13. 8

For many people it is difficult to find their way through the Babylonian confusion of opinions. I am convinced that Jesus knows this. But as it is said in:

*"The law was added after the fact to make clear the scope of the transgressions. And just where the full power of sin was shown, grace became much more powerful."* Romans 5:20

So, where human miss of the mark, sin, is great, God's grace is even greater. Every human being has the possibility to recognize God and to give the real Creator the honor due to Him, and to express this also in personal life by observing the principles of the divine character (e.g. the 10 Commandments). Of course, all this will remain piecemeal, but in the attitude we decide whether we submit to God or to a theology, a denomination, a human, albeit pious, church rule or its many. Isolated Christian churches have good biblical principles, but have put themselves in the place of the Holy Spirit and this is as difficult to evaluate as when people commit some abominable sins that are precisely listed in the books of Moses. Putting oneself in the place of God, patronizing the Holy Spirit, is just as much blasphemy as changing the divine law.

To detach oneself from Babylon means to remove the Babylonian elements from one's personal life, but also to detach oneself in identification from these Babylonian movements. It means understanding that, at the end of time, there is an increased need for a very personal confession, because the "pious" collectives have failed and have become instruments of anti-divine seduction, Babylon.

*Those I love I rebuke and discipline. Be diligent, therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and have supper with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:19ff*

Well, what are really the teachings of Babylon now? Everything that the Creator has done, His way, His recommendations, His family order, simply everything that reminds of a Creator - is counteracted.

1. According to Revelation 14, it is the fact that the Creator is not respected. He is also not respected as the mediator of the instruction manual for a successful life, the commandments of life, described in the books of Moses, especially in the **biblical 10 commandments** and the **warnings about the abominable sins**. It is not we who define what should seem pious to us, but Yahweh/Jesus Himself who declares what is pious and what is not. He has not changed through all this time, no matter how we have adapted theology to the spirit of the times.
2. Already at the beginning of the creation of mankind Satan formulates two principles of his kingdom "Should God have said" with:
  - Fusion of good and evil
  - Immortal soul

*And the LORD God took the man, and put him in the garden of Eden, to till it, and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Thou mayest eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely surely die. Genesis 2:15, ff*

Here God / Yahweh / Jesus describes two eternal principles that will determine the destiny of mankind.

**The 1st principle is: - No merging of good and evil.**

Since the word translated here as knowledge is the same word used in the description of Adam's sexual fusion with Eve, it can also be formulated: ... **But from the tree of fusion, of close union, of good and evil, you shall not eat.** If we look at the current non-discrimination oriented human rights and that in almost every state these equality rights are introduced and note that **equality** was a central concern for Lucifer -he **wanted to be equal to the Most High** -- we see clear parallels to Lucifer's wishes in that for the **United Nations sexual equality is the top priority of the hour**. For Democrats in America, this sexual equality, as the most important agenda, is coupled with rampant abortion of the unborn and killing of abortion-surviving children. This elegantly, but extremely effectively, undermines the concept of our Creator. **The United Nations has also already adopted clear measures against religious groups that do not subscribe to this ideological amalgamation, non-discrimination agenda.** The persecution of Christians comes through the image of the beast, the new world government, the UN, that is, the United Nations.

So the 1st principle is that non-merging of good and evil preserves human life.

**The 2nd principle is: - there is no life outside of God.**

Man can live as long as he/she identifies with God's rules of life, the real character of God, and moves within those rules of life.

*"Say to them, As I live, says the Lord Yahweh, I have no pleasure in the death of the lawless one, but that the lawless one may turn from his ways and live! Turn back,*

*turn back from your wicked ways, for why will you die, house of Israel (man, church, and whoever you are)!"* Ezekiel 33:11

Outside of God's sphere of life is no life - another life in another place, or even in a hell or in a purgatory does not exist. Outside of God is no life, but Jesus /Yahweh /God gives a clear announcement - outside of Jesus is only death, the eternal no more.

*"I command you before God, who keeps all things alive, and Christ Jesus, who bore witness to the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment undefiled, unstained, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which in his time shall show the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who **alone** has **immortality**, who dwells in an inaccessible light, whom no man hath seen nor can see, to whom be glory and everlasting power! Amen."* 1 Timothy 6:13 - 16

And I am convinced that Adam was well instructed by God in the real knowledge of good and evil. And therefore God / Yahweh / Jesus warned Adam against the connection with Lucifer. And it came as it should, Lucifer / Satan managed to scatter doubts about the Word of God, and to cause interest in living past the will of God, in a "super-knowledge" that should have come from the fusion of good with evil. **Instead of super knowledge came the loss of a good, unclouded relationship and ended with death, and the promised Luciferian paradise past God turned out to be hell on earth.** For I am convinced that Adam and Eve could still deeply repent and suffer the madness of this satanic theology of the fusion of good and evil. Babylon is in the midst of us. Mostly even in us.

*"And I heard another voice out of heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues;"* Revelation 18:4

Therefore, this call is also a call to get rid of the Babylonian elements that have also nested in our thinking. That a leaving of the large, but also small blasphemous churches and communities is self-evident, comes out clearly from the text.



## Mark of the Beast Background

At the center of this section is the cult of Mithras. In Revelation, the cult of Mithras with its center in Pergamum is called the throne of Satan. This mystery cult with the usual sun worship, because Mithras was a sun god, was taken over together with the mystery cult of Kybele /Cybele almost entirely into the Roman church and thus "Christianized".

Even if today not everything is documented with absolute certainty, there are still many indications of the "theology" of the cult of Mithras.

Wikipedia lists most of the known theological key points: Mithras was sent by a father god Ahura Mazda to be a world savior to overcome the dark and evil in the world, personified by Ahriman. Mithras was "born" out of a rock: he rushed out as an adult with torches in both hands, with shepherds and animals standing beside him. He held a last supper with twelve of his followers before dying, being buried and rising from the dead. And as "Sol invictus - invincible sun" Mithras is depicted in iconography with a radiant glow around his head.

The Mithraists, like the followers of Zoroastrianism before them, believed in heaven and hell, in a Last Judgment, a resurrection of the dead, and a return of Mithras for the final overcoming of evil. Since Mithras was considered a sun god, Sunday, "dies solis," was the day dedicated to him. The cross was an important Mithraic symbol. Mithraists celebrated a ritual of immersion or sprinkling with bull's blood for initiation into the cult community, similar to baptism. However, baptism with water as a possible template for the Christian cult already existed in ancient Egypt, and was widespread in Israel through the Essenes, acquired great

significance through John the Baptist. The Mithraists celebrated a rite with bread, meat and water or wine similar to the Lord's Supper of Jesus.

The four greatest Mithraic festivals took place at the summer and winter solstice and at the spring equinox and autumn equinox, thus models for our Christmas and Easter. The highest priest of the Mithraic cult was called "Papa" and wore as a sign of office a red Phrygian cap the "mitre", the forerunner of the bishop's cap, a red robe, a ring and a shepherd's crook.

The Roman emperor Constantine had recognized that faith in the **Jewish Messiah Jesus** could not be eradicated even by the most massive persecution. He therefore cunningly proclaimed freedom of faith in the empire for purely political reasons, but then cleverly mixed the pagan cult of Mithra, to which he himself adhered, with faith in Jesus Christ. In 325, Constantine, who was baptized only on his deathbed, convened the first church council in Nicaea to strengthen the unity of the empire, and he made himself its head. In order for the fusion of the Christian faith with the ancient pagan cults to succeed, the majority of those who resisted this project were excluded from the Council, especially the Jewish community leaders of the Christian communities of the eastern Reish provinces. **Finally, in 392, Emperor Theodosius had all pagan cults banned. The "Christian" faith had now become the state religion, and the masses of the people thus became Christians almost automatically. To make this step easier for them, the Roman Church fully merged the old pagan customs with the Gospel.**

Mithras was worshipped as the invincible sun, Latin "Sol Invictus". His birthday was celebrated on December 25, shortly after the solstice. It was not until the fourth century that the Church reinterpreted this as the birth of Jesus, who now took the place of Mithras as the "Sun of Justice." It thus equated the pagan anti-

Christ with the Messiah of Israel. This is how the "Christian" Consecration Night Festival came into being.

5 km next to Pergamon there was the temple of the Queen of Heaven Kybele /Cybele. The cult of Mithras and Kybele mysteries became increasingly popular in secular Rome and were absorbed by the Roman "Christian" Church. By the time the cult of Mithras and the worship of Kybele were banned, Mithras had been transformed into Jesus and Kybele into Mary, and the chief priest in Pergamum was called Papa, Pater, Father and Vicar of God and Chief Bridger. Many of the Mithraic rites were perpetuated in Roman "Christianity".

Mithraism shows a perverted resemblance to the biblical gospel, similar but in the essentials a clear departure from the biblical Christ. The cult of Mithra and the cult of Kybele were only a new edition of the cult of Baal/Thammus, both sun gods, and Kybele, as the queen of heaven, as before Asherah or Astarte. It is again the satanic duo of the sun worship with the fertility cult.

Satan has always sought the worship of people and at the same time, through the worship of his person, he tried to massively denigrate God, because people thought they were worshipping God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and then he demanded the firstborn child. Temple prostitution relativized a pious, self-controlled way of life. This religion was a deeply materialistic religion, because the child sacrifice was of course connected with the expectation of getting great material blessings from God, so it was a religious horse-trading.

God /Yahweh /Jesus simply demanded the modest, humble confession of sin, accompanied by a sacrifice at certain times, but only as an aid to understanding consequences - just as Jesus explained to Adam at the beginning, and then the

subject of "sin" was settled. Blessings could be expected by living a godly life in accordance with God's character, according to the 10 Commandments. A concept that is still valid today, because no matter how twisted the Christian theologies are, but lying, stealing, murdering, adultery, despising parents, blaspheming God is not in it even for the most evangelical of evangelical Christians.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, for which God prepared us beforehand, that we should walk therein."*Eph. 2, 8- 10

## The mark against the sign / seal of God

Since the beginning of the world God sought fellowship with mankind and gave them already at the beginning of creation a time of special closeness, of close connection with the Creator / God / Yahweh / Jesus. This came out clearly in Jesus' evaluation of the seventh day after creation. Again Jesus confirms this when explaining what the Sabbath rest has to do with people.

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Keep my sabbath day: for it is a sign between me and you unto your seed, that ye may know that I am the LORD that sanctifieth you. Therefore keep my Sabbath, for it shall be holy unto you. Whoever desecrates it shall be put to death. For whosoever doeth any work thereon, his soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days shall work be done; but on the seventh day is the sabbath, the holy rest of the LORD. He that doeth any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath day, that they may keep it also among their seed for an everlasting covenant." Exodus 31:12-17*

*"And he cried with a loud voice in mine ears, saying, Let the visitation of the city come hither; and let every man have a murder weapon in his hand. And, behold, there came six men by the way from the upper gate, which is toward the north; and every one had a hurtful weapon in his hand. But there was one among them who had on linen and a writing utensil by his side. And they went in and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel rose up from the cherub over which it was to the threshold of the house, and called to him that had the linen on, and the writing instrument by his side. **And the LORD said unto him, Pass***

*through the city of Jerusalem, and mark with a sign upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and lament for the abominations that are done therein.* Ezekiel 9, 1 - 5

*And unto them said he, that I heard it, Go ye after this through the city, and smite thee: let not thine eyes spare nor overlook. Slay the old, the young, the virgins, the children, and the women, all of them dead; but those who have the mark on them you shall not touch. But begin at my sanctuary! And they began on the old men that were before the house."*

This is a foretaste of the plagues on fallen Babylon. To Ezekiel's horror of a possible complete destruction of Israel, God / Yahweh / Jesus answers him paraphrased with: "Of course I can and I will".

*"And it came to pass, when they smote, and I alone was left, that I fell down on my face, and cried, saying, Ah, Lord Yahweh, wilt thou destroy all the remnant of Israel, in pouring out thy wrath upon Jerusalem? And he said unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and of Judah is exceeding great, and the land is filled with violence, and the city is full of bending of judgment; for they say, Yahweh hath forsaken the land, and Yahweh seeth us not. So will I, - mine eye shall not spare, and I will not have mercy; their way (wickedness) will I bring upon their head. And behold, the man clothed in linen, who had the writing on his thigh, answered and said: I have done as you commanded me."* Ezekiel 9:8 - 11

*...You will see greater abominations than these! And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD; and, behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the hall and the altar, were about twenty and five men; and they turned their backs unto the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.* Ezekiel 8:15, 16

Of course, this is not palatable to a sanctimonious gospel. Because it were only provided with a sign / seal, **which carried sorrow about the rampant immorality on all levels in Israel**, the chosen example people, which had lost any exemplary function and became a despicable disgrace for God / Yahweh / Jesus. But this came as no surprise, indeed to the liberal, godless Israelites / Jews in Jerusalem, but not to those who adhered to the commandments of Jesus in the Torah, the 5 books of Moses. The end of Israel was foretold in the chapters of blessings and curses (Deut. 26 - 28 and Deut. 5 26 - 28).

The seal of God, the sign between believers and God/Yahweh/Jesus is something on the divine side and the mark something on the satanic side. It is about worship, about appreciation of one party or the other. **Correct worship, corresponding to the nature of God, is the final crux.**

*"And after this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that no wind should blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor over any tree. And I saw another angel coming up from the sunrise, having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to damage the earth and the sea, saying, Damage not the earth, nor the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."*

Revelation 7:1 - 3

Worship, identification is since the beginning the fight between the creator Jesus Christ /Yahweh and the rebellious creature Lucifer /Satan. So a fight between creator and creature. Both sides have chosen a clear sign for themselves. Already at the creation Jesus/Yahweh declared that he rested on the seventh day and sanctified it. **This day was justified in the 10 commandments with the creation.**

Jesus decided then, as he does now, how he envisions identification with his nature, his character, expressed in his commandments. **And he does not adapt to theological special wishes, no matter to which Roman, Orthodox or even Protestant church one may belong. Because he does not change - not even for our sake. That means simply - we adapt to him or we are on the opposing side.**

Also Lucifer has chosen an element similar to his nature, a radiant created, the sun, for himself. In the cult of Mithras, Lucifer /Mithras or the sun gods many was worshipped on the 1st day of the week the "Sun of Justice", Mithras, the sun god. This day was introduced into Christianity by the Roman Church and was bloodily enforced for centuries. Sunday has become common as a weekly day of rest, but in reality it is the holiday of Lucifer /Satan.

Due to the rejection of the Old Testament in "modern" Christianity and the reduction to a very abbreviated Gospel of Justification and Social Gospel, it has become irrelevant for almost all Christians on which day one meets, but **significantly, the "followers" of Jesus /Yahweh /God meet on Satan's Day, on Sunday, on the holiday of Lucifer.**

Seal of God or Mark of the Beast, lies in worship - either the Creator is worshipped, on the day He created for it, or we worship Satan, on the day Satan / Lucifer chose for himself as a creature, the Day of the Venerable Sun - as a final showdown between Creator and creature, between worship of God and worship of Satan.

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