Genesis

What Is Man?

1st Edition



G r i f f i n

Gratitudes

All Praise and honor to Yeshua Messiah, for giving me the incredible honor and priveledge, which I do not deserve and could never do without Him, to have the best job in the world – helping His Saints find strength through learning the proper interpretation of truth. As unvarnished as I am in teaching His word, He continually uses me to do His work and for that I am eternally grateful. Thank you, Father.
-Creator, Almighty, King of Heaven & Earth, Servant to all

Pastor Daniel Botkin, for taking the time to look over my manuscript, my coming to him as a young man he barely knew, helping improve my skills as a writer. Thank you, Daniel -Gates of Eden

Sarah LaRue, for transcribing this manuscript from a handwritten copy in a notebook with so many other things on her plate. Sarah, you are always there to help. Thank you. -Gleaning The Scriptures

Of All The Studies, Why This One?

How often are there issues in our relationships, plaguing our families and communities, that just seem impossible to resolve, dividing us? With God being infinitely powerful and wise, why do we who serve Him find ourselves thus plagued so often? Many times these relationship problems appear to be mountains, which they indeed are, until the source of the problem is revealed: then the mountain, more often than not, very quickly becomes what can be a pleasant hill to hike up and see the view, with its flora waving in the wind. It is generally the case that our relationship mountains remain mountains, unexplored, not captured, waiting to be conquered.

Most of us will not listen when the source of the problem is revealed. Why? Because, we are not ready to make the personal changes that God's grace invites us into for purchase of the solution. People often lack the resolve to sacrifice, and trust in our personal muscle of discernment to allow the clear voice of God to come through the static of the fleshly veil that is our present reality. Unfortunately, many of our relationship mountains cannot be resolved without the sacrifice of at least some of the parties involved in the relationship to make purchase of the solution together: much like the relationship ain that is solved at the cross, when both parties choose to lay their lives down, there at the cross, together. I am speaking obviously of Yeshua, and the sinner being saved.

What you just read points both to horizontal relationships: man-to-man relationships as well as to vertical relationships: man to God relationships. This guide puts God first, without throwing out the latter. In order for you to have healthy, deep, meaningful relationships, your priorities and your identity need to be set straight. So does your purpose as a man and how you define what a man is and his purpose. Not only can you set them straight, but it is God's deep desire to meet you where you are through anointed teachers, guides and your personal relationship with Him to set you in a more salubrious direction! Whether you are nine or one-hundred twenty-nine, you have learning to do in how to properly handle both the horizontal and vertical relationships in and, potentially in your life. Furthermore, whether you are old or young, The Lord will choose who He will choose, regardless of their age, to teach you His lessons. If the lessons are true and trustworthy: the younger the better! It takes humility to subject yourself to God's Word in the mouth of a younger person and spoken over your life as rebuke and direction; however, God does great things for the humble, while He resists those who resist His Word. Friend, resolve yourself today. You can take charge over your relationship with God and you can find healing in places you didn't even know you needed it. If you are willing, starting today, your life can be forever changed for the better.

Are you tired of that subtle feeling of being too distant from God? We all either hate that feeling, or have been completely shielded from it for lack of action over time. This study has been designed to nurture The Seed of God within. This guide asks simple, easy to answer questions which pull back the veil, in often times commonly misunderstood pieces of The Word. These common misunderstandings in God's Word, much like misunderstandings in horizontal relationships with one another, are divisive and create distance between you, your community, your loved ones and God. Much like in horizontal relationships, once those misunderstandings are sorted, a more clear view of who He is, what He enjoys, what He expects, and how we can serve Him comes into view. With a more sorted relationship with God first, healthier relationships with friends and family will result. As we are instructed by God through our Prophet Hosea, “Study thyself approved” (Reference, 2 Timothy 2:15). It is through study and application that misunderstandings become understandings.

Understanding The Guide

Each prompt's foundation is presented in bold and is straightforward by design, intended to highlight what is often hiding in plain sight. Even so, do not let the simplicity invite carelessness. Take your time with The Word. Set aside assumptions. That is key. Read what is actually on the page, and press carefully into the meaning behind it, ready to let go of pre-concieved notions that may have deceitfully served you in the past, but in the process of time have revealed themselves only to serve to hurt your relationships.

The prompts that follow each bold prompt are always thematic and are often sequential, each one building upon the last. Some — particularly several of the "Bonus" and "Going Deeper" prompts — may require days of honest engagement to work through properly. Others will illuminate quickly, like a torch lighting a mountain pass that spares you the worst of the storm at the summit. Still others, such as the "Scripture Meditation & Prayer" prompts, are designed to work quietly in the background of your mind, anchoring your mind when the pressures of daily life press in and no easy pass presents itself as you press summitward. Within those prompts is The Seed within that can sprout and eventually provide steady strength, subtle but real, meant to keep you oriented when the conditions demand it most.

The advanced prompts are written for those further along in their walk. Those prompts are for intermediate and advanced level students of The Word. If they prove too difficult, there is no shame in setting them aside. There will be moments when The Spirit will guide you to move on, and wisdom lies in honoring that. Rather than measuring yourself against what you were not yet ready for, take encouragement in the foundation you are actively building.

Each prompt type has an essence. If deep Scriptural analysis is not yet in your toolkit, the "Going Deeper" prompts are not your cup of tea today and there is honor in skipping a prompt that will hinder God's step for you that day. If Hebrew word study feels like a detour you are not ready for today, the "Bonus" and "Hebrew Challenge" prompts will still be there when you are ready. If applying these truths to your own habits and values feels like more than you can engage in honestly right now, set aside the "Getting Personal" prompts.

Resist the temptation to treat time spent studying or an amount of study to be the boundaries that dictate your study each day. Having the goal of “I will study for 30 minutes today”, or “I will study one section today,” is a bit like going through a museum for the selfies, even if those selfies are only meant for you: you will have been there, but you will have seen nothing. The goal for any given session is not to cover a certain number of prompts or section in some given time. The goal is that you walk away having satisfied your spirit and made progress. In this way, God is what constrains and guides your studies. After a while your goals for the study will recede and God's goals for the study will become apparent. You will then and only then have the opportunity to

adopt God's will for your study time as your own. You will have to sacrifice your desire to make purchase of that adoption. When that happens, not only will you walk away, everyday, having genuinely learned something meaningful, but that meaningful something will be precisely what God wants you to learn. This study has been designed to provide exactly this daily exerience for those saints willing to engage and paticipate in this study as it was engineered to be engaged with.

Mitigating Group Studies

It bears stating plainly: loving one another within the community of believers carries a higher weight than loving those who have not yet come to faith (Reference, John 13:34–35). This is not a call to neglect or disregard those outside the faith — it is a call to recognize that the deepest investment of love belongs first within the household. And it is genuinely difficult to love those who interpret and apply Scripture differently than you do. The pull toward disagreement is strong. Acknowledge that, and press past it.

Just as personal study should be approached with the aim of satisfying God's Spirit within, group study should aim not to "complete Chapter 1 today," but to provide a time for everyone to share what they learned that week. It takes genuine maturity to be in a group that shares beliefs, as we often feel deeply connected to what we believe, and it is difficult to hear an opposing view without descending, n your heart, into disgust, disrespect, defensiveness, and eventually division. There is one answer that resolves those manifold & cascading problems: love. Beyond faith in Yeshua's being God in the flesh, יהוה Himself as man, and His 66 Book Canon being the inerent word of God, fellowship is not about sharing belief ת but it is about love, one for another, through self discipline and maturity. That kind of love takes sacrifice and is the fruit Our Father tells us to look for that proves a man or a woman of God is in fact a Disciple of God (Paraphrase, John 13:35). Furthermore, beliefs are not easily corrected, as they often carry an army of interconnected thoughts and reasons for why they live within us. It is for this reason we need leaders to set us straight, consistently and faithfully with love.

In your study group, if everyone walks away after each session having been corrected in some way, and leaves a better version of themselves, victory has been purchased. This requires each member to have cultivated the soil of their heart for humility. If that is where your aim is set — on being corrected — the study will bear fruit for you. If your aim however, is set on pride and to correct the teacher God has anointed and prepared to lead you, you will leave every session empty-handed. You will be disruptive. You will not be known as a contributing member to a healthy learning environment, and the mountains in your relationships will remain exactly where they are — unconquered, unchallenged, continuing to obstruct your growth. It is a tragedy when that happens, and it grieves me deeply. God holds His teachers to a higher and stricter account, submit yourself to them accordingly.

Come with a teachable spirit. When you disagree, and you will, sit with it before speaking. Think it through carefully, especially before challenging the leader in front of the group, and in so doing disrupting the fragile and salubrious learning environment that everyone has worked so hard to nurture. A good leader will make time to hear your concerns privately if you ask: that is the appropriate venue for that conversation. Extend

your teacher the benefit of the doubt as they have sacrificed greatly to wield the knowledge they wish to bestow upon those willing and able to receive it with gratitude and deference. If you would not receive it in thanks, do not make the mistake of obstructing those who would. Instead, pray and meditate on what was taught before dismissing it. Weigh what was taught, not against your current understanding of Scripture, but against the view of Scripture God is teaching you through the teacher He has anointed to lead you to victory. Disagreement for its own sake serves no one. Everyone in the room has done the work that week. Bible study is a time to hear one another, to genuinely try to understand what each person has learned, and to love them: especially where you disagree with them, esteeming them (and their beliefs) as more important than yourself (Reference, Philippians 2:3).

While many come to Bible study with their proverbial “dukes up”, Bible study is not the place to satisfy rebellious desires or display how hurt you are by quietly hurting those around you. Bible study is a place to exercise self control, tolerance, a perspicacious handling of God's Word, and submission to an anointed teacher's lesson for you that will bring healing to you through correction. Rebellion is not on that list is it? We all share in being corrected, learning, and displaying mature gratitude for those corrections brought to us by God through a teacher who has gone through much affliction, chastising, and sacrifice as a result of answering God's call on his life to teach the willing. Those humble, and willing to be taught will be satisfied.

A physical meal, in a land of plenty, is finished when one is satisfied (Reference, Deuteronomy 8:10), and the same principle governs spiritual nourishment. If each person leaves a session having encountered something personally meaningful, and was blessed with a healthy atmosphere that provided a time to contribute something worth discussing, that session was a success — even if only a single foundational question and its accompanying prompts were explored. As you work through the study in this manner, begin each session by returning to the foreword of the section your group is in. This keeps the questions in proper context, guards against the distortion of preconceived ideas, and honors the time you are investing in pursuit of truth. Do not resist the truth and diminish your own blessing in the process.

Enjoying Rich Community Beyond Bible Study

Rather than allowing the study to drift toward yourself, your personal needs, counseling sessions born of trauma, gossip, fixation on the failings of others, a focus on what you disagree with, or grievances spanning a myriad of topics: keep the focus of the study on the study and yield your mind, body and spirit to the trajectory provided herein. Open your heart, in the deepest way, to the calling of “Genesis: What is Man?”, recognizing you do not know what you are, oh man. This creates space for something valuable: the spiritually mature, submissive to God's call, and humble elders of the community gain insight into what the younger members are learning, and the younger members get an early look at the depth that awaits them if they remain committed to the daily discipline of studying themselves approved. Do not lose focus. This guide calls for your full

engagement, mind, body, and spirit directed upward and prepared for hard sacrifice, and demands a more mature spirit than the one you walked in with.

It is also worth stating directly: your study group is just that, a study group, and it cannot be everything to everyone, nor should it try to be. There are needs that simply do not belong in a learning environment. Schools understand this well: they have nurses for the sick, counselors for those needing guidance, and the principal's office for the troubled and rebellious. Why? Because the classroom exists for learning and the teacher exists to teach. Your community should have set aside times for Bible study, for counseling, for volunteering, for healing, for recreation, games, and so on. If you fail to take advantage of your community's resources, do not use that failure as an excuse to disrupt the healthy learning environment that each member of the group has worked to nurture. Do not come to Bible study primed and ready to lay bare that week's traumas or to unload your pain on those around you. Bible study is not a cat house or a therapist's couch, and the only diagnosis your teacher is qualified to offer is that it might be a good idea to read your Bible more. Save that for the appropriate time and place, where it can be properly and lovingly addressed.

Just as each member of a school's staff has their talents, their designated space, and their appointed time to serve learners, so too does the body of Messiah have many members, each with a distinct and irreplaceable gift. Do not hold your teacher accountable for every need that arises, and do not conclude, when they fall short in an area outside their role, that they cannot be trusted in the role they were designed to fill. That reasoning is precisely equivalent to picking up a hammer, attempting to cut a board with it, and deciding you need a better hammer. Remarkably, while many agree with how ludicrous that is, many will agree and then proceed to do it anyway, completely oblivious to their folly as they have failed to subject themselves to appropriate use of their teacher: to correct. How many ladies do you know that would pick up a steak knife, attempt to use it as a crochet needle, and conclude that steak knives simply will not cut it. You do not need a better hammer or a better knife. You need correction: you need to learn how to accept the appropriate use of the tools God has placed before you. You need to stop being so creative in orchestrating circumstances that provide false excuses for you to avoid God's provided correction through His anointed teachers. That, in fact, is your first lesson in how to properly handle horizontal relationships, and you are called to begin applying it right here, in this room, starting now. Out of respect for those who have striven and sacrificed to make both personal and group study possible, those who will not contribute to the salubrious learning environment described above will find no allowances made for the rebellion they have chosen to continue in. You are coming to be taught, not to teach. If you can remember that you are not the teacher, and you come with a teachable spirit you will do great: otherwise, do everyone a favor and do not come at all.

Prompts

Below are examples of many of the prompts found after the bold foundation question, with a description of what those prompts will often encourage us to consider.

A – (this is found only in the Teacher's Version) A simple answer to the question. Keep in mind this is *an* answer, and while sometimes there is genuinely more than one right answer, beware of and mitigate wrong answers with love and patience from Yeshua our King: who is plentiful in sharing the righteous way of mitigation for His loved ones.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - A guide in meditating and praying on the Scripture and question at hand. Meant to anchor your mind to Scripture, much like a riddle or puzzle would.

Considering the Commands - A deeper look at the narrative and its relationship to the commands. His saints consider that this relationship helps increasingly, in honing that image of God's true form. Since the first descriptor of man describes us as being made in the image of God, it is of vital importance for us to understand the image we intend to reflect.

Bonus - A challenge encouraging us to dig deeper concerning a single Hebrew word or contrasting more than one of the Hebrew words the original text is offered in.

Hebrew Challenge - Often a challenge encouraging the reader to memorize a verse in Hebrew.

Getting Personal - This is a question that gets personal. Most of these questions have the air of an altar call, but are designed, generally, for those who are beyond the altar call, looking for that deeper relationship with God: the strength that comes as a result of seeking the gifts of God that are beyond manumission from slavery. These questions are hard. They have been designed to help guide you towards a worthwhile goal. That goal, by its very nature, is not easily won. . Please keep that in the forefront of your mind as these questions are asked. If you are in a vulnerable place where you are easily offended by questions regarding your faith and your growing character, it is best you skip over the Getting Personal prompts until another time.

Another Perspective - Many of the prompts following the foundation questions are linear: designed to help you venture further and further out, on the same branch of spiritual logic and reasoning, gathering all the fruit and nuts along the way. Conversely to this, the “Another Perspective” prompts bring in a divergent thought process, inviting us to look at a different branch of thought, on that same tree.

Be careful when open mindedly studying Scripture, my friend. Not every branch of thought on a matter is a genuine branch. In other words, many branches of thought are false branches that will eventually vanish underfoot like the shifting sands of a desert. With that said, it is of vital importance to fellowship, and for unity's sake, to understand that every tree of thought does have many genuine branches, all working together to serve the tree and produce the appropriate amount of fruit.

Going Deeper - A question, or series of questions, designed to guide the studied reader into deeper exploration: one who is not satisfied with the perfunctory conclusion. The "Going Deeper" prompts are generally challenging us to go into specifics about a list of items or a challenge designed to encourage us to look at the answer, and ask ourselves a question about that answer, much like finding a cave and deciding that just knowing that the cave is there is not enough. Get your torch and tar and dive in! Adventure awaits!

Apologetics - Usually a prompt that encourages the reader to develop a more well-rounded defense of the Biblical narrative when faced with the other theories and assumptions surrounding the worldview or modern church, in view of the text. This can strengthen the truth in you to the end that you are more than able to stand in the face of powerful and enticing deceptions. More than conquerors, we.

Commentary - Additional information on the text and questions in the form of commentary from Pastor Tom Griffin. If you enjoy the bounties that come with an unemotional and objective look at oneself: consider answering the bold foundation question and prompts first, before reading the Commentary, to see where you were off base, or out of square, and where you were right on target. This is a good exercise in "tending your garden" that I hope you will find satisfaction in.

*****This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day*****

This break is designed for most of our loved ones who will not bother to read the "Understanding The Guide" section, and will unfortunately spend this study "getting through" a section per session of allotted time, as opposed to making each session's goal to simply gain a new bit of understanding to enjoy until the next session. If you are studying this meditation properly, these breaks are not for you! Your breaks are invisible to the naked eye, like the wind on a warm day, and can only be found by diving in and studying until satisfaction for you personally or your group as a whole occurs. If you have already gone through this study partially or entirely, and are just reading the prerequisite information now, do yourself a solid and start from scratch. If you feel you gained something the first time, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

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Genesis

What is Man?

Griffin

Forward

Get yourself a notebook for this study, you will be needing it

Creation Study - When a master builder, architect, or an engineer builds a thing, they do so with its intended purpose in mind. The built thing will often come with instructions for use and the best practices in its use as well as a care guide for longevity. In the case of God being our Master Builder, He created (not built, He is the only one who has every truly "created" anything) the universe, our world, and everything in it (Reference, Genesis 1). This whole creation revolves around two main things: Him foremost, while following that and deeply connected to Him is the cultivation of love in a relationship between Him and us (Reference John 3:16). This love's key is faith. Faith is founded on trust. Like all healthy relationships, trust is the center (Reference, Hebrews 11:1 – 6).

In this short study of His creating our world, us and everything in it, the focus to open the eyes to the intended purpose of the created things, the care guide for life set forth in its outset, and faith that The Lord created the world exactly as He has described in the Genesis account is paramount. Enjoy your study of creation, and let us grow closer to God through it.

Genesis: God & Man

What Man Is

Read Genesis 1:1 - 1:3

This first study section is divided smaller on purpose. To understand who man is, we must have a willingness to explore a concept that requires man to ask for help. Why? The concept is one that man cannot consider with just his mind alone. There are some aspects of God's character that require faith to accept, and only later understand. Although God cannot be fully understood through the logic of the flesh, the mind, the emotions or the soul, through the Ruach HaKodesh (H: Holy Spirit) we can, if one will only accept that it takes steps in faith to be in relationship with The Creator: to even look in His direction. Once the nature of God is accepted, the true nature and purpose of man, or one's self can also begin to be accepted, cultivated, leveraged, and grown in newness of life.

Man is a reflection of God. Even evil men reflect some aspects of God because a reflection of God is man's most basic attribute or defining characteristic. If God, in His grace, can erect an evil man's ersatz of life to reflect The Holy One, to some smidgen of a degree, how much more can He do this with those who are willing and able to sacrifice their lives for the sake of fulfilling the reflection of God they were created for (Reference, Matthew 16:25)? With that said, ask yourself: How can I reflect God well if I do not understand Him or His nature? My friends, join God's covenant, God's family, God's goals, God's plans. He loves you.

This guide, for the right students, will teach who man is. What you are. Much like a word has trouble existing on its own: needing other words to make use of it and to define it; or a heart, for example: it needs the rest of the body and its organs to function properly. Like a word or a heart cannot exist in an isolated space, a man cannot be defined in an isolated way. Therefore, we will start by defining God, asking who and what is God? These questions are not generally asked loud and clear, as they are in this forward. Instead, this foundational question becomes a tacit underpinning, sometimes rather tangential, that ties the aim of each question together. It is your job to remember the foundational question "What am I?" or "What is man?", as you go through this study otherwise, you very well may end up in left field, and your relationship mountains will remain unconquered.

So first, as we said, we will define God, then we will define man considering his relationship with a properly defined God. We will do this same thing with the creation man was placed into; again, we will define man with consideration to the sway of the enemy was given as "god of this world" (reference, 2 Corinthians 4:4). We need a proper understanding of what God, creation, and satan are, in order to define man properly. Open your mind and be ready for false, preconceived notions you likely did not even know you had to be broken and replaced with accurate, holy semantics. This will be gentle at times and shocking at others, and will varnish those who are ready. Slowly, as the power of love that this study directs one to blossoms, like the ground during spring time after a long, wistful white winter, you will awaken to the warm sun shining on you and opening your eyes to the truth that only God can reveal.

1. **According to Genesis 1:1, who is God?**
   According to Hebrews 1:1-3, who created the worlds?
   According to Isaiah 44:24, who was with God when He created the Heavens and the Earth?

Commentary: Is it possible that in constructing us and our reality, our Father fashioned things such that He could not fully fit into it? "It" being defined as the reality we operate in, and the minds that operate our bodies and understanding. Is reality such that God is so big, so magnificent, so full of holiness and splendor that even the concept of who He truly is exists outside the realm of the fleshly mind's grasp? Is it such that a man must exercise faith to even begin the journey in understanding who/what God truly is? God has, in fact, constructed the universe in this way. The questions above are engineered to drive you, your family and your friends to this very conclusion. These questions will, if you allow them to, introduce you to an image of our Father and our Creator which can only begin to be beheld through faith in something we cannot see. At the outset.

2. **Where did The Spirit of God hover?**

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Do you know the significance of this? If not, ask yourself if you know what waters represent spiritually? If prayer shows you what waters represent spiritually, it helps in having a deeper understanding of what The Spirit did on these first days of creation. Do not be impatient, wait on God in your meditations (Psalm 27:14). His timing is good, and He will reveal to you that wonderful and mysterious significance when everything is aligned to His liking for your edification. He loves you.

Bonus - Look up the word for "hover" in Hebrew. Consider doing a word study on that word and write a short, one page answer describing the significance of the verb and its various uses and connotations throughout Scripture.

Hebrew Challenge - Look up Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew and memorize the verse such that you can recite it by heart.

3. **Scientifically speaking, what are the two most important substances needed for an individual's human flesh to exist? How does this relate to verse two? Ponder deeply.**

Commentary - In Hebrew, the word for Spirit and breath are one and the same [Ruach - "roo - awch" (the "ch"

is a guttural noise much like a short clearing of the throat) - רוח]. Wind can also be derived from the word for Spirit: “Ruach”. God’s Spirit, or God’s Ruach, or breath hovered over the waters. This is an infantile picture of life in the second verse of Scripture. This points to what Scripture is all about: The first verse describes The Father and The Son creating the world, and the second verse describes the purpose of that creation: to support and sustain human life that men might be saved, reconciled to, and find intimate, meaningful fellowship with God Almighty. Let us shed some light on where these conclusions are coming from. Life in the flesh begins with incubation in water, the second most important substance for life, with God’s breath being ultimately, the most important substance for man’s life to sustain. Before light even entered the picture, these two substances: breath and water are coupled with one another.

Bonus - Look up the word for “Spirit” in Hebrew. Consider doing a word study on that word and write a short, one page essay describing the significance of that noun and its various uses and connotations throughout Scripture.

Genesis: Who Is God In Relation To Creation?

Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:22

God created the Heavens and the Earth (Reference, Genesis 1:1). God created everything on purpose and with purpose. God's character, although behind a veil and sometimes a bit maligned by other forces, is shining through everything created, from the mighty, twinkling constellations to the intricate, infinitesimal cellular makeup of man's bodies. With man being a reflection of God, this means that man is also being reflected in the world around us and around you as well, my faithful friend. God uses living, metaphorical reflections daily to speak to those who are listening. He did this for Jeremiah concerning the pot that had turned over, and the branch of the tree (Reference, Jeremiah 1:11 & 1:13). He did this for Adam in both planting a garden and then placing Adam in it to tend it (Reference, Genesis 2:8). Adam tending the garden was meant to aid and guide Adam and Hava both in tending to God, and to tending themselves as they were living in a garden which reflected God, the couple's friend, whom they shared a very deep and intimate connection with. Why does God use tools such as these? Because God rarely speaks plainly, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and it is the honor of kings to seek out that matter" (Reference, Proverbs 25:2), and God, loved ones, is glorious, while His nation is one made up of kings and priests. So, why take away an honorable thing, handing us a saucer full of secrets on a silver platter? The adventure He lays out before us makes those glorious and hidden truths all the more tectonic when purchase is complete.

You, my dear reader, and the community that you live in, every day, have the opportunity to share a deeper and more intimate connection with God if you will choose to spend your time working obedience and faith in ministering to others, caring for the Spirit's needs, and studying yourself approved in order that you use the right system of measure as your guide. This more intimate connection with God is not just possible, but is a promise from our High Priest (Kohen HaGadol - "ko-hen ha-ga-dole" - כהן הגדל). This next section of study is divided into five sections. The overarching theme of these questions is designed to help you see and be encouraged in your knowledge of who God is in relation to man and who man is in relation to God through the creation narrative. Your invitation is to sacrifice your desires, preconceived notions, future plans, and how you handle things today, so that God can do his part in molding you into a more suitable home for His Spirit, a better reflection of His character, His essence. Be not afraid, my lovely friends, God is gentle when he can be and good to His children. He won't be having you sacrifice the things you are already doing justly and appropriately, only the displeasing bits have to go. This study is inviting you to take steps in accordance with these opportunities and to practice joyful long-suffering for these opportunities.

1. **Based on 1 Peter 3:18 and Revelation 13:8, at what point in the timeline was Yeshua slain?**

2. **How exactly did light appear?**

Hebrew Challenge - Lookup Genesis 1:2 in Hebrew and memorize the verse such that you can recite it by heart.

Bonus - Do not read over this Bonus prompt until answering the foundation question, if you have intentions of answering the foundation question yourself first. Look up the word for "light" in Hebrew. Do a word study of the Hebrew word. Compare and contrast a few of the uses for the word light in Scripture.

3. **What was divided from the light and of that which came from the dividing, what was considered good?**

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - What else (not written here) was good? This challenging question's answer can be answered by thinking creatively within the bounds of the text, with The Holy Spirit's help, through meditation and prayer.

Bonus - Do not read over this Bonus prompt until answering the foundation question, if you have intentions of answering the foundation question yourself first. Look up the word for "darkness" in Hebrew. Do a word study on darkness. Compare and contrast a few of the uses for the word darkness in Scripture. Is darkness always considered bad? Can you find examples where darkness is used for good?

4. **If light is good, and the things God is about are light, then why does God speak in "riddles and dark saying" (Reference, Matthew 13:35). If you are able, answer using Scripture.**

Hebrew Challenge - If you have answered this question with the proper verse, from that verse look up the word for "glory" and the word for "honor" in Hebrew. Consider these two words and their use. See if you can find the first place in Scripture that these words are used. Us the "Law of First Appearance" to overcome the challenges in semantics between mankind and God.

5. **What did/does the Heaven (as the sky) divide according to Scripture?**

Bonus - Do not read over this Bonus prompt until answering the foundation question, if you have intentions of

answering the foundation question yourself first. Look up the word for “water” in Hebrew as well as the word for “sky”. Consider these two words and write a short essay on your findings.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:22

1. **What did God make on the second day?**

Hebrew Challenge & Going Deeper - If you did the Bonus from the previous question, considering the Hebrew word for water and sky, use those findings to consider this: What, in this physical world, is the sky of the heavens? What are they spiritually? How does one reflect the other, giving us some insight into the natural, spiritual world which we have access to and are bound to more fully operate within as time passes forwards?

2. **What caused the dry land to appear?**

Hebrew Challenge - In English, it could appear as though the dry land was already there and the gathering together of the waters made the dry land appear. If one were to read this same information in Hebrew as it was originally penned, does it then continue to render the same possible conclusion?

3. **Describe what was made on the third day.**

Meditation & Prayer - Consider the significance of a seed: it has the ability to bring about life. Further, in order for life to be brought about, the seed itself has to separate itself from the plant and be gathered into the earth. What is this a living symbol of in relation to God? In relation to man? Meditate and pray on this: in other words, lend a portion of your mind to God for a time to guide you in thought. It beats lending your mind to anxiety!

Bonus - Look up the word for “seed” in Hebrew. Consider this word and write a short essay on your findings. Note: it is helpful to know what each Hebrew letter means individually, to build a Heaven centered definition of that word’s place in reality.

4. **What is similar between the first and the fourth day?**

Going Deeper - If light was made on the first day, and the sun, moon and stars were made after, where did light come from before the sun was made? Are there any other Scriptures that can shed “light” on this phenomenon?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Do not read this prompt yet, if you intend to answer the Foundation question or the Going Deeper prompt on your own. When the sun, moon and stars replace God as being the light source for creation, what does this imply God was doing in relation to creation as it was coming closer and closer to man being formed and creation being complete?

Commentary - The idea that there is life in our great beyond, which is in the Heavens, runs rampant throughout human history. Today is no exception. Looking to the skies and thinking anything but God, or the hosts of Heaven, is indeed missing the mark. Our King, in His grace and holiness tells us plainly, through Scripture, the clear purpose for the vast emptiness of space with its comparatively few celestial bodies: Elohim stretched out the Heavens for light to guide us through seasons and signs (Reference, Genesis 1:14).

The hinge point upon whether or not the vast emptiness of the great beyond offers any life we might find, is not the pride or humility of man, nor is it the dice roll of chance, but God is that great hinge point that decides whether life is or isn't, and where. In short, life exists because God made life from nothing. He made hulking space rocks, shimmering cosmic dust, light in such a way that it is both a wave and a particle, elements in their various forms, even our very emotions with the chemicals that control them, and the complex matrix that is human relationship. He made all of this from nothing as well (Reference, Hebrews 1:1-3). He does not say one way or another if He created the universe such that earhlings are the only life in that universe; however, it is apropos at this time to ask yourself, *what would be God's purpose for life on another planet?*

We are aiming at a target that is defined without a Plan B. God is not man that He would fail, or repent, nor does He have multiple wives of varied planetary species. The human race is it for Him. We are the apple of His eye, and the Heavens have their focus on the adventure that is winning the willing. As confining as that may seem for some of my brothers and sisters out there, focusing all attention on exploring and having your being within the confines of reality is quite vast and worth exploring.

Another question that may help to bring us to the former conclusion is: *Why did He make life on this planet?* Remember that creating was work for God: He rested and was refreshed on the seventh day (Reference, Genesis 2:2). Pointlessly creating has never happened, because the Creator is not idle. He lives. Serving Him, for His will, is what makes life on this planet valuable and filled up with meaning and purpose.

*** This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day***
Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:22

5. **If the sun was made on the fourth day, where did the light from the first day come from?**

6. **How long did God spend creating earth? How long did God spend creating other planets?**

Apologetics - Consider writing up a few short sentences describing the other arguments, theories really, that exist trying to marry the world's view of creation, with the Bible. Once that is done, use your Bible and disprove, with a few verses, the world's scientific standpoint on its own history. Then, support your understanding of the truth, given to you via The Creator, laid out for us in describing the world's history.

7. **What purpose do the stellar bodies have?**

Bonus - Look up one of the following words in Hebrew and do a word study on it. Consider a few of the words other uses in Scripture, especially its first use. Use context clues to shave off or add to your/the world's definition of that word to more closely align your understanding of the word's semantics with our loving Father's definition of the word: sign, day, season.

Considering the Commands - God created the host of Heaven. What command in Torah/The Tenach gives us instruction concerning what the host of Heaven is to be used for and what it isn't to be used for? If you find other commands that are apropos, please make them secondary, sub-themes to your answer. This prompt is specifically digging into what we should or shouldn't do with the host of Heaven, based on the first few verses of Genesis, we have been given the privilege of viewing from our humble and desperate place of earth.

8. **What was the first life form placed on earth? What was the second?**

Going Deeper - There is a rule called the "law of firsts" or the "law of first appearance". It is designed and used by The Holy Spirit to help Scripture students seeking God to more appropriately define terms in the Word of Elohim. It goes like this: the first time a word shows up in Scripture, the context clues surrounding that word will provide its foundational meaning. All subsequent appearances of that word, in no particular order, build upon its first appearance.

Now, consider this phenomenon when looking at the first life form that God created. Do you see that the life form has a picture of Yeshua in it? Do you see that the life form has instructions for man, in displaying God's image in it? Do you see other meaningful connections, even if those connections may be tangential? This Going Deeper is prompting you not to stop at those realizations if you already see them clearly, and to dig deeper, finding hidden meaning, through meditation with the Holy Spirit as your spirit's guide, in the purpose of God's choosing to create the first life form first and not second.

9. **Before man, what was the final form of life on the earth?**

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - The most similar life form on earth to man are the land animals. Some, like lizards, are quite dissimilar but we do share some common ground with lizards, while other land animals like the various forms of monkeys are very similar to humans. Using your meditation and prayer muscle, consider why God structured creation such that Adam had to exhaust the naming of the animals before God made him a suitable help meet.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:22

1. **Consider the importance, the holiness, the set apart nature of the God to man relationship. Compare this to the relationship of the rest of creation to God. Now, with that in mind consider: why was man created not on his own set apart day, but on the same day as the rest of the land dwelling creatures, with man being quite different than the land dwelling creatures?**

Bonus - Look up the word for "beast" in Hebrew and look up the word for "land dwelling creatures" in Hebrew. Are they different? If they are, compare the different uses of these words. If they are the same, do a word study of the singular word and consider "splitting hairs" to define exactly what God means physically and spiritually when talking about land dwelling creatures of the earth. Physically it differs, but spiritually does it differ when speaking of the sea dwelling creatures of the earth? Seeing the earth's various creatures as reflections of man's proclivities and images of God's goodness will help. Another key help will be to structure your imagination around Biblical concepts concerning the reality of sanctification. We have imaginations for a reason: let the Holy Spirit guide you in hope and faith!

Commentary - As a prerequisite: God exists both within and outside of time. He is at the end, beginning, and beyond, all at the same time. That is a difficult concept to wrap the mind around, but it is true nonetheless. Now, within the confines of time, Adam was not created in a fallen state but with the potential to fall; nevertheless, man is now living in a fallen state. In this fallen state, man is as the beast of the earth, following an instinct, in all his affairs, that guarantees some degree of thieving, killing, and destroying as defined in the Biblical Corpus. Through relationship with God, sacrifice, and faith, just like the Sabbath day is set apart unto God, so can man attain to be set apart from other men, free from the bondage of carnal instincts and generational bad habits. This does not happen at the snap of God's finger. Until man chooses to live justly, or to live in sanctification, that is to say, until man begins his journey to what he is, coming out of what he is not, man is but the dust of the earth, brimming with potential holiness, no matter how much horrendous wickedness or infinitesimal wickedness is the result of his neglect. This Commentary strikes at the heart of what man is and what man is not, revealing the fact that every man begins life as what he is not, to varying degrees. One of the main themes of why we exist revolves around a daily relationship with the labor of love that is becoming what is, letting go of what is not.

2. **According to Biology, man is no different than animals, just another form of an animal. Scripture indicates otherwise. What is the difference?**

Apologetics - The Bible teaches us that everything has a value and that some things hold greater value than others. Using your Scriptures, describe why man is of greater value to God than animals. Using science and Scripture describe how humans are inherently different than animals while sharing many unique and interesting qualities. Use these findings wherever the world tries to devalue you and your family, your friends, by bringing the value and purpose of your existence down to that of an animal: an attempt to ensure valueless things happen to you and your family.

Going Deeper - In the faith we practice, there are many things that are not explainable, others have to experience it for themselves to understand. The comradery and the feeling of value that being part of the "hive mind" of the liberal agenda, from our outside perspective, we would be laughing at if it weren't so destructive. They do not see these things. They are riding on a wave of unexplainable hope and faith in the teamwork that their destructive, self-centered and animalistic behavior produces.

Believe it or not, we have a lot we can learn from them in terms of team work, faith, strength, and skill. They have taken some of the unexplainable attributes that separate man from animals, which biology cannot define the way biology has defined tangible things such as cells, tissues, organs, and organelles, and leveraged those unexplainable attributes to create a society where their sinful desires are not just accepted, but protected, by some of us even. Looking at all of this, not from a political standpoint, but from an observational place: consider how this phenomenon, man's ability to operate via a "hive mind", puts a division between man and animals. Or, consider how this phenomenon solidifies that man and animals are to some degree, no different.

3. **When did God make man male and female? When did Hava (Eve) come into existence?**

Hebrew Challenge - Consider looking up in Hebrew Genesis 1:27 and memorizing the Hebrew. Consider as well, the importance of making flash cards for each individual word to be familiar with what you are saying. **Gleaning The Scriptures will be offering a free Biblical Hebrew Lesson focused on reading comprehension. You can find this through the GTS ministry site when it is available.**

Meditation & Prayer - These two events: the making of man and woman, are separated in Scripture: Man being formed is in chapter one and woman being formed is in chapter two. Man and woman being created is also together in Scripture: "male and female He created them" (the day six narrative). Consider what it means that our creation is explained to us in this way by our Creator. Seek to find both things to be true at the same time. Let go of the fight, and find where God's Word is true.

Now, if you have found this peaceful reconciliation of seemingly contradictory verses, what does this reveal about God's relationship to man? To woman? And man and woman's relationship to each other?

If you have not found this reconciliation of verses, it is ok, these things take time. Let patience have its perfect work in you. Ask our Father to reveal it to you, and meditate on it or put it on the back burner. For me personally, sometimes I have to store it away in a mental file cabinet, with The Lord's answer only coming many years later. This is all part of the walk with God when one has fully invested their life in the faith. Be encouraged, and continue forward, my beloved friend.

4. **What are the two components of man?**

Hebrew Challenge - Look up Genesis 2:7 in Hebrew and familiarize yourself with the words in it, consider memorizing that verse. It is the foundation of yours and everyone's existence: our intimate relationship with God which is available to all who are willing to sacrifice for it is made more fully available when this is understood.

Bonus - Look up the word translated to "breath" in Hebrew. Because, in this instance, breath is a polysemy, what does its double meaning indicate?

5. **What is man created after?**

Going Deeper - God could have made everything else about man exactly the same, except He could have chosen to make us not in His image. Consider what our purpose for God could be, knowing that He did choose to make us in His image. Does this, having a meaningful purpose in serving God, give you a deep and unshakable sense of self worth, or does it make you angry that your purpose belongs to God and not yourself, your family, the world first?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:22

6. **If a man or woman is sterile, or chooses to be single, explain how it is that they are not breaking the commandment to be fruitful and multiply. Use both the Genesis Scripture as well as other Scripture(s) which talk about those who choose being single and chaste throughout life.**

Going Deeper - The Spiritual implications of this command are easy to overlook. Consider that this command is given to mankind to receive both physically and spiritually. Explain both aspects of this command and why participating in both is vitally important to God's Kingdom.

Commentary - Although Adam is a bit of a standalone in this instance, because the command was a polysemy,

given both to him as an individual as well as to the human race in all of its generations, the command was not given to every individual. The world is one very large and dysfunctional community made up of several smaller communities within communities. Most of God's commands are given at the community level. Studying Hebrew grammar will reveal this. His instructions are best received by communities, not individuals who do not share an intimate fellowship with other individuals within the community of God's family. Be fruitful and multiply is not a command given to every individual human. The command was given individually to Adam (whose name means “man”, as in “mankind”). This command was given to mankind.

Commentary - The above Commentary addresses some various physical implications of the command. The spiritual application of this command is to make Disciples of men, which is given to each man's individual household, as well as to greater communities of faith. We are all to do our part in supporting our leaders in the work of both saving the lost and strengthening the saved: being fruitful and multiplying. The great commission given in the first verses of Scripture.

Considering the Commands - God worked various miracles in the event surrounding the monument that is the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. He then ruled the nations and Israel based upon that Torah (law). The children of Israel starved or were prosperous, were in or out of favor, were saved or left to be pillaged, 100% based upon their willingness to keep or disregard a relationship with God structured on the rules of His house, which are His Torah and the other Canonical books that follow in Torah’s foundation. I say this because, in order to have a better understanding of who God is and the way He conducts affairs with His people, we should look to these times of history for reference. Being more and more informed concerning our God, means we have to both look at, and deeply consider things the average person of small faith would like to look over as unimportant, or no longer pertinent to us in this time. Let me ask you, friend: are the faithful of this generation conducting their affairs in a way that has affected our world drastically for the good? The increase of so-called Christians should have an incredibly positive affect on our world, if that generation of Messiah followers is genuine. The Christians of both a few centuries ago, as well as a a few hundred years ago have had this positive impact. How is our generation doing though? I assure you, our God's relationship with our patriarchs and matriarchs is anything but filled with looking the other way and making excuses in the hard and finite points in considering a relationship with God.

Consider this friend: if you choose to glaze over those finer details in how to serve your husband or wife, your children, your friends, or your job, how would those relationships go? Your relationship with God, just like your relationships with friends and family, is to be conducted with an awareness of the finer details of who God is and how He likes you to be when you are near Him. God is to be first in this, and man second.

Look up a few of the Torah commands in Hebrew. How many of them are given to the singular individual? How many of us today are so focused on the intimate (singular) relationship we have with God, while being fully recalcitrant to the public and community relationship we are to have the honor of participating in?

Another Persepective - Consider how a man or woman who has chosen to be single can be of great and incredible value to the community, with their focus on their relationship with God being unique as compared to those who are engaged in a relationship whose foundation is holy matrimony. Look at the stigma the hive mind has placed on single people and ask yourself if this stigma lines up with what The Father's Word says considering a man who is both single and fully devoted to God? Now, ask yourself if it is possible that this stigma is designed to produce lack in the community, where making purchase of a single man's purpose in the community of God can produce tremendously pleasant fruit for the work that is put in? Think of the stigma often placed on those single people, then ask yourself if you have taken the time to get to know them intimately, if that stigma comes even close to lining up with their true character, or if they are beleiveing the very lies about themselves that are designed to produce lack in the community of God? Keep in mind how powerful a sway a community's mindset has on one's actions, even when that mindset is a false one.

Hebrew Challenge - Look up the command in Hebrew concerning being fruitful and multiplying and find if the command is given in the singular or plural form.

7. **What are the first commands given to man? There are between four and six commands, at face value, depending on how you number them.**

Going Deeper - Take each of the first physical commands given to man, and dive into the deeper, spiritual meaning of each of those commands.

Genesis: Who Is God In Relation To Man?

Read Genesis 1 - 2

It would make sense to assume that man knows enough about his true nature to function well as man. The flora and fauna from which man is surrounded seems to function well in their various capacities, and at first glance man, as an inhabitant of earth does to. However, when digging just ever so slightly under the surface, this "man's understanding of his true nature" is turned on its head. This section has its title "Who Is God In Relation To Man". The simple answer to this question is: God. In relation to man, God is man's God. Man's proclivity is to miss the target concerning his own true nature as well as God's. Man is often endeavoring in the unfortunate business of being his own God, i.e. making his own rules, regulations, plans, and building his own kingdom.

The remedy to man's aforementioned ailment is to recognize himself as a servant, created for the express purpose of serving God with love and sacrifice. Serving God means one will have to sacrifice what they want in order to to do what God wants. It is much like how men must sacrifice what they want for the needs of their families. Having children has had great victory in many-a-man's life, hampering much of man's selfishness, and giving man a more fulfilling life to labor in while serving his family. God though, is building a Kingdom. The beautiful secret is that He isn't building His Kingdom alone. Further, He wants your help in building His Kingdom.

A level of selflessness many men will never know lies just behind the veil of flesh. Some men have made purchase of this gift that lies just beyond the proverbial wool, that is the flesh. New heights of selflessness are found when a man moves beyond the sacrificing of his life for the fortune of his family, into the sacrificing of his family for the fortune of God. The salvation invitation is a call to join in the work of building that Kingdom. Some do this half-heartedly in the end. God is merciful and the unacceptable behavior is still awarded. This study is an invitation to find the strengths that lie beyond receiving salvation, and using that strength to build God's kingdom and commisioning your family to build God's Kingdom alongside you, investing into genuinely lasting results. It is in doing your Kingdom function, that God's true image will be revealed, replacing the weak ersatz that many know as God.

You and your family, my friend, are a tool created for the express purpose of building God's Kingdom. Imagine you are stranded on an island with an unlimited supply of tools, and you're building a house. For years you used the saw as a hammer, driving the nails into the wood with the saw, breaking saws and spending hours and hours driving nails slowly, painstakingly into the lumber. Cumbersome as it was, you drove nail-after-nail into the soft, white, bark striped lumber. Then, one day, you have a revelation concerning the hammer.

This simple analogy may seem silly; but truly, most humans are currently participating in the misuse of their lives, their minds, their bodies, their spirits in the same way as our man with the saw. This misuse leads to

the various ailments that hold many of us back. God has placed us and our ancestors in a world where everyone is using the saw as a hammer, the world punishes, or persecutes, those who choose to use the saw as a saw and the hammer as a hammer. We must be strong. Continuing the misuse, in time, brings the poor soul being plagued with mental illness, addiction, or physical illness, from hampered use to no use at all - much like a saw being used as a hammer will eventually break, so too, we are broken when we misuse our bodies to please ours and others desires without first considering our higher calling. Even if a poor and tormented soul is only plagued from time-to-time, that unfortunate child of God's full potential is not being realized.

God being God to man, is the foundation of understanding this section's essence, of understanding who God is in relation to man. Allowing God to be God is the solution to the aforementioned problem. Freewill has been designed such that allowing God to be God to you and your community is a target that takes an incredible amount of practice to hit. If the previous description "nails it", so to speak, in describing your past: put the past behind you and make purchase. There is hope if you turn to God first and stay diligent in obeying His voice, no matter the cost, and no matter how illogical obedience may seem. His commands to you are on purpose and with purpose, whether those purposes have been revealed to you yet or not. Often times they are not. This is part of God being God and you being subservient to His call on your life. God's Word guides us: let The Word be taken in as medicine.

Do you know what medicine does? It changes the way the body functions. When somebody is ill, something about the way their body is functioning needs to change. This change can take place using a cheap ersatz like a pill, or one can make purchase of the Spiritual infilling of The Ruach HaKodesh. It is this Spirit, living within you which will please God concerning the various capacities which you function in for yourself, your family, your community, for God Almighty. In our example with the man and the saw, something about the way he was functioning needed to change. He needed to take up the hammer to drive in nails, and take up the saw when cutting lumber. He did not want to make the change, and it took some practice, but once it was done, the man would never go back to doing the other way, even if you incentivized him. At least our man wouldn't go back to doing the wrong way.

The things that hold us back in life are often the result of us using our lives improperly. In understanding who man truly is, yet another section of the mosaic that is Jehova Jireh's image is made known. This section of our study will endeavor to keep your focus on the true and righteous purpose for man as a whole. You can find the various, specific, true and righteous purposes available as options to you personally in studying 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. The gifts and skills described in the Scripture passage of Corinthians are used by man to serve God properly through serving mankind. In order to serve mankind properly, you must understand man's true purpose. Learn man's true purpose from mankind's Creator, through the creation narrative and break away from the mendacious nature of man's relationship with himself and those around him: ultimately his mendacious nature towards God.

1. **Concerning the animals, what was God's first command to Adam? Did Adam obey the command?**

Going Deeper - This Going Deeper prompt has the answer to the question in it. Answer the question before exploring this Going Deeper prompt.

God said "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helper comparable to him." This is verse 18 of chapter two. Hava (Eve) was made in verse 22 of the same chapter. The verses in-between described an exercise which God engineered for Adam to undertake, seemingly, before making Hava (Eve). In this exercise, God had Adam name all the animals, yet, a suitable helper was not found (Reference, Genesis 2:18-20). Explain the significance of the exercise, with respect to the creation of Hava. Use Scripture to find your witness.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - What power is there in giving something a name? Prayerfully consider what connotations can be derived from Adam's naming of all the animals.

Another Going Deeper - How much time may have been set aside for Adam to name all the animals? How might this naming have happened? Considering what connotations lie within giving a name to something, what more may have been happening between Adam and the animals while naming them? What more may have been happening internally for Adam, while he was naming them?

Commentary - This Commentary is the answer to the Going Deeper prompt. Do not read this Commentary until first exploring the Going Deeper prompt if you wish to see your personal viewpoint before it is affected by the truths revealed subsequently. Verse 27 notes that God made them male and female in chapter one. In verse 18 of chapter two we have God instructing Adam to name all the animals, all the while looking for a suitable mate, presumably. Adam's naming all the animals was an exercise not for God to see, but for Adam to see that he is distinguished from, and in authority over the animals in both form and purpose. This would have therefore, led our patriarch Adam to the conclusion that none of the animals were a suitable mate. While this is glaringly obvious to mankind today, it may not have been at the time of the naming of the animals. This exercise also gave way for Adam's attention to turn towards God's personally crafting a suitable mate for him, albeit note Adam's rest during the event.

Considering the Commands: This conclusion, that the animals are not suitable for Adam as a mate, falls directly in line with some of the commands given by God in Torah. What is the command, and what is the impending fate of one who breaks this particular command?

Getting Personal - Ask yourself how Adam's naming of the animals reflects Adam's relationship to the animals. Once that has been understood, then consider how Adam's relationship to the animals is a reflection of God's relationship to Adam. Once that realization is internalized, turn to your life and ask yourself if the relationship between yourself and God reflects that of an animal or that of an Adam? If you find the hard to

swallow truth that you are more like an animal in your relationship with God than an Adam, instead of being discouraged, be encouraged: you cannot fix a problem until it is revealed. The only negative here is that a change needs to be made, and that is hardly a negative as there is always something that can be changed to better your station in life. Focus your efforts of bettering your station beyond the petty materialism that plagues this world and answer your higher calling. Focus your efforts in this life beyond investing in wanton relationships and trust your higher calling, instead of your animal instincts: your wants and needs.

2. **List all things created and given order on day one.**

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - With the given list, consider why these particular things were given order and created first as opposed to say, third or fifth? If what you can come up with is simply a logical order of the way life must be engineered, challenge yourself to dig deeper, and inquire as to *why* life is engineered that way and not some other way.

Seek for the answer to reveal something about The Creator: cultivating a deeper relationship between you and Him. If you are finding yourself incapable of thinking more deeply about Scriptural topics, I gently press you, beloved: spend time in prayer, asking God what you can change about who you are, the way you do things, or your preconceived notions, that will bring about a more fluid flow of communication between you and Him. Be prepared to live in this state of "change for God" as a habit.

Going Deeper - Light and darkness are the most fundamental elements of our world. Technically, light is the most fundamental element of our world and darkness is simply a lack of that fundamental element. We understand light as being good and darkness as being evil. "The kingdom of darkness", "a dark purpose", "a darkened mind", "the darkness within", and "the place felt very dark" are all figures of speech that point to evil things. This Going Deeper challenges you to look at the way that God uses darkness *for us* on our journey from evil to good.

There are several instances where God "shrouds" a good thing. This use of darkness is good. It might not be considered *very good*, but good. Look at the various parables and proverbs Scripture offers that lead by example concerning the way wise men of God speak (God Himself speaks *and is* this way, as a matter of fact): in riddles and through stories so as to cover up the root message, or to darken the root message. Where does the light come from to reveal what is/was in the dark?

Look at the journey of the Exodus, namely the slow revelation of God to Moses and His people. These two examples, God's revelation to Israel in the Exodus account as well as the proverbs &parables of Yeshua, are only a few, to help guide you in looking through the smorgasbord of knowledge our Canon holds. Write a meaningful essay concerning God's use of darkness for good. Be concerned with how God's use of darkness for good reveals more about what man is in relation to God.

Getting Personal - Scripture teaches that light was made and God saw that it was good. We learn also that God separated the light from the darkness. This separation too, we will derive from having stationed our experiences on the text of The Bible, is good. Now, ask yourself, in light of the days we are in, where the mantra is to make all things one: in your heart, have you made a separation between what is good and what is evil? Have you made this separation in exactly the same way that God has structured reality, or are you operating in what isn't, and finding yourself in an awful cycle of worry, stress, anxiety, and various ailments that hold you back from tapping into your full potential by defining good and evil exactly as God does?

Getting Personal II - The Scripture teaches that light was made and God saw that it was good. We learn also that God separated the light from the darkness. This separation too, we will derive from having stationed our experiences on the text of The Bible, is good. Do you separate what is good from what is evil by treating evil things as evil and good things as if they are good? Do you practice having a degree of goodness to endow upon what is good, and a different degree of goodness for what is evil? Do you practice mercy on the merciful and justice on the proud? Have you so bought into the false goddess of mercy, making her your god, blanketing all things with mercy no matter what? Have you flung your precious life on the altar before that which is evil, while shunning what is good? Consider that one way or another, you do make a separation between the two: but are you favoring what is good or are you favoring what is evil? If you have fallen for this horrible trick, be no longer conformed to the ways of the world, instead, be transformed by them.

3. **List all things created and given order on day two.**

Bonus - Look up the words in Hebrew for the two major things created on day two. Study these two words: consider why they are so similar. After digging into them yourself, as a bonus, consider finding a Jewish source, like a youtube video from a Jewish teacher that describes this very topic in deep, spiritual detail. Compare and contrast what was shown to you by God and what God is showing you through the Jewish source. Read Romans 1:16. What do you consider to be the righteous path when the comparison shows an irrefutable difference? Are you showing an appropriate level of thanks when the two line up, ensuring you glorify God instead of man?

Going Deeper - Did God create the sky on day two? The answer to that question is yes, however when most of us think of sky, it does not even scratch the surface of what was made on day two. What else was made on day two?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 1

4. **List all things created and given order on day three.**

Hebrew Challenge - Consider looking up the verses describing this event and memorize one of the verses in Hebrew.

Going Deeper - There are spiritual connotations to each of the literal days of physical creation. Consider the spiritual tapestry that our Creator wove for us while at the same time creating what we physically operate within on this day. Hint: every physical thing has a symbolic spiritual image it is portraying. What seems real to us are only symbols of the eternal.

5. **List all things created and given order on day four.**

Apologetics - At the time this study was written what is/was known as the "new age movement" or "new age spirituality" is growing in popularity among the lost; many heathen are more than dabbling in a dalliance with the spiritual aspects of being, while denying the power of God in their rebellion. The aforementioned titles to the movements are both misnomers, though, as our Bibles reveal to us that the improper use of the things created in day four were commonly used by leaders in the days of Balak, and again in the days of Saul, while history books claim that sorcerers were using pagan, creation worship during the Battle of the Milvian Bridge between Roman Emperors Constantine and Maxentius; however, at some point in our history, we can be sure that they were new. Use your vast (or if you're new, growing) knowledge of Scripture to build a case for the proper use of the things created on day four. Focus on the idea that a thing being used for evil, is not a good reason to disregard it, instead consider its proper God given function.

6. **List all things created and given order on day five.**

Going Deeper - On day five a certain group of living things were made, and on day six another group of living things were made: consider that a spiritual truth is being revealed. A metaphor appears in the text using the literal creation of the physical living creatures serving the metaphor. This metaphor is designed to reveal a spiritual truth. Let's build this metaphor one step at a time. Spiritually, what do the day six living creatures represent? Spiritually, what do the day five living creatures represent? God is certainly making a distinction by ordering the creation in this way. Can you connect the dots, solve the riddle, as tangential as it may be? Stretch your mind for God and enjoy the bounties of unearthing enduring truth.

Going Deeper II - Take all that was created on days five and six and give them a different, logical order. Then consider why God did not order it that way, but instead ordered it just the way that He did.

7. **List all things created and given order on day six.**

Considering the Commands - There was a previous "Considering the Commands" which touched on the day six creation. Can you find any other commands that honor this day's events?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - In prayer, ask God why the couple were not made on their own special day.

Bonus - The Hebrew understanding of things has found that God ascribes categorical meaning to each of the numbers. For instance, seven signifies completeness. This is why weeks are made of seven days, a complete cycle that leads to a Sabbath with God. What does the number six mean and how does its meaning and what was created on this day work together to reign us in?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 1 - 2

8. **List all things created and given order on day seven.**

Considering the Commands - What command(s) was/were given that honor(s) this day of creation?

Commentary - There is a lot that people have to say about the mark of the beast, but is there much people say about the mark of God? In order to find God's mark, one must dig a bit deeper than finding the mark of the beast. First, we must ask what a mark is, traditionally? A waxen seal, or the seal of a potentate on currency are both good examples of marks. All historical marks of this type have three characteristics in common: the potentate's name, title, and territory. The thing marked has these three characters, working together, in one seal, to show that the authority of the potentate is present without the potentate having to be present.

God has a mark that was given in Genesis. This mark is man keeping His Sabbath day. This mark is even described in Scripture as being a "sign", a word synonymous with "mark", between God and His people (Reference, Genesis 2:3 & Exodus 31:13). In Genesis 1:1 it states God's title as "God", His name as יהוה, and His territory is the all of creation being described in that verse. These three characteristics are present in the giving of the command to keep Sabbath unto The Lord. As Scripture describes it: a mark of a true son, daughter, or community of God.

Being a present and active member of a Sabbath fellowship is part of the sign, but just like spending time in a garage does not make you a car or a mechanic, nor does simply being present in a Sabbath community make you a true son or daughter of God. There are many who fulfill this single requirement, being part of a Sabbath keeping community, but they lack the mark. In order to know all of the requirements of the mark, one must study and know all the requirements that keeping The Sabbath Day entails. One of Sabbath's requirements is not working (Reference, Exodus 20:8-11). This is not a compromise and is not up for debate, no working on

Sabbath. Another is the same, you may not buy or sell anything on the Sabbath day (Reference, der. Nehemiah 10:31). A third is to have a holy convocation: meeting with God in a formal and holy setting, with holy people, with reverence for God in your heart (Reference, Leviticus 23:3). These things have been handed to you, the rest you will have to study for yourself and learn through experience. Never let the world make you compromise on those three foundational treasures, if you have received them. They are a sign not only to others but to you, to help you along on the difficult way that leads to God's true character (Reference, Psalm 119:105).

Apologetics - Build an offense for keeping The Sabbath Day to God vs. keeping no Sabbath Day, or working on a Sabbath from time-to-time when the "going gets tough", or when family, friends, or others demand it.

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for Sabbath and consider its Gematria value. What other words have the same Gematria value?

Bonus II - If you have an understanding of the various letters and their categorical meanings, look into the letters which construct the word Shabbat and us those letters to find hidden and deep truths about the nature of The Word and its place in the construction of consciousness, reality, and redeemed spirituality.

Bonus Note: Many people shy away from Gematria and other deep Hebrew language studies out of fear, because Hebrew Mysticism, or Kabala, shares this same study tool. Please, my dear and beloved friend, do not let the evil use of a good thing render lack in your life. Anything powerful and meant for good will always have its misuses, not because it is bad, but because the world is corrupted and corrupting.

Further, consider the good thing that is miracles. Witchcraft is a misuse of the pocket of reality which is miracles: this does not make miracles bad, it means that a powerful and good tool which The Lord has provided His people is being misused by evil, lost, perverse and corrupt people who desperately, deep down, need to be saved from the mendacious way of living they have chosen. If this redemption is not possible due to their pride, they must be cast out or they will corrupt others.

Lastly, on this topic, the beauty of the use of the tool that is gematria and letter meanings is also the thing that pushes people away from it. This tool is an incredible aid when it comes to ensuring perspicacity when reading Scripture, and an acute insight into exactly what it is The Father means. It is a scary feeling, trust me I know, when the path of life before you goes from broad, open and full of freedom, to narrow and constricted. That's how it felt when I saw it, and I know I'm not alone. If it is freedom to do as you choose when you choose that you are after, service to God is not for you. However, if it is freedom from sin, towards making purchase of solid instruction and a Father who will guide you in your decisions and skill building in pure and holy service to God and others, then consider this tool to be just one of the needful tools that our Great Physician ordered for your walk with God to be strengthened.

Going Deeper - There is a pattern in chapters one and two: a detailed description of a thing is put before the

reader, followed by a more brief, let's say "overview" of it with a few more details peppering the text. This former brief overview, gives way to the beginning of a new but connected topic utilizing the same pattern. You see this pattern, backwards in the first 5 verses or so of Scripture: a description of the creation as a whole, followed by a detailed description of God's fluid and structured creation of reality. If you can see this pattern of overlapping information, describe which verses begin those new topics and which verses serve as the secondary brief description in considering Genesis 1:1 - 2:25.

<u>Genesis: Who Is God In Relation To Man Continued</u>
When Temptation Is Included
Part 2: A look at man's relationship concerning Satan
Read Genesis 3

Knowing who God is to man helps us form a more trustworthy picture of who man was created to be. In the previous sections of this study we learned about the nature of God, creation, and began to touch on man's nature. In this section we continue in the nature of man. The previous Nature of Man section included meaningful questions to anchor your mind to Scripture throughout your day, questions that laid a solid foundation concerning man's nature in relation to God and creation. This section introduces temptation. Unfortunately, without the introduction of temptation, the picture of man and his true nature is obscured.

Temptation is part of everyday life, and each of us are born with certain proclivities which the work of Messiah Yeshua will manumit us from if we choose to labor alongside Him. Let's look to Scripture to teach us. In Genesis five Cain was tempted. Instead of overcoming the temptation, Cain was overcome. Here is the story of how Cain was overcome by temptation. The Scripture says that "through the process of time" Cain understood that sacrifice to God is a good thing (Reference, Genesis 4:3), but Cain was tempted not to give his best to God, to keep the best for himself. Cain did not give God the best he had. He was overcome.

Now, even though Cain failed to overcome temptation, God was there for Cain. God gave Cain good instruction on how to handle the pit he was beginning to dig himself into. Cain yet again failed to follow God's instruction: "If you do well, will you not be accepted?" (Reference, Genesis 4:7). This, concerning God's character, is good news. Even though Cain sinned in withholding from God what belonged to Him, God called Cain to clean his act up and do well. This was not to spite Cain, but it was for Cain's good: God *wanted* to reward Cain, but could not give Cain a supernal gift without Cain's "doing well". Is this not wonderful? Cain, like all of us when we were weak, was tempted and fell; but, if we do well, God will accept us!

Many of us, when we are at the point that Cain found himself in on the journey down the dark and diffiult road of tempationa and sin, do well and turn to God. Unfortunately, as the story unfolds, we learn that Cain did not do well. The following warning became Cain's story "But if you do not do well, sin is at your door and its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." (Reference, Genesis 4:7). The experience Cain had sums up sin nicely. The Scripture describes sin's relationship to us: "its desire is for us." Scripture then teaches us what our relationship to sin should look like if we are walking in obedience to The Almighty: "but, we must rule over it." We live in a world that teaches us that we are not capable of overcoming sin. Let's look to Scripture.

While Cain is living like a mad man and being overcome by sin, Abel is right there, quietly being used by God, to teach us, even today, what it means to overcome sin. Abel's story is tragic as well and shorter, but let's give it its due. Abel also was tempted not to give his best to God. Abel overcame this temptation and did give his best to God. Victory! End of story. Poned. Mic drop. Abel Out! If only life's victories were that easy. As a result of Abel's sacrifice being good and accepted, Abel's relationship with God was becoming strong, while Cain's was slipping away. Cain became wroth with Abel (Reference, Genesis 4: 3-4). Because a victory for God is a loss for Satan, victory results in persecution (Reference, Matthew 10:22). In the case of our story,

Abel was sent home to Our Father in Heaven, while Cain struggled with the curse of his actions for a lifetime. Cain murdered Abel. Just like God had warned, sin's desire was to take over Cain. Cain did not rule over sin. Cain was overcome.

Many of us do not want to admit to the power of God, becuase that power does not include the wiping away of persecution. Many of us are well acquainted with Godly things, Godly people, and have a working knowledge in Scripture, worship, healing, adminstration, pastoring, and the other important gifts needed in a community of faith. In order to fully understand who man is, the true and full power of God to overcome sin in the willing man's life must be taken into account. Many brothers and sisters have taken several steps in faith and sacrificed greatly, but then have given up on seeking holiness after years of victory. Why? The answer is simple – persecution. None of us can look over the entirety of our time on earth and claim we lived without sin (Reference, 1 John 1:8), but if any of us says that we are wholly incapable of ruling over sin, that man has no authority over what he ought. He has swallowed the lie, hook, line, and sinker, and is not redeemable until he accepts and recognizes the power of God (Reference, 2 Timothy 3:5).

Through Messiah Yeshua who strengthens us (not allows us to stay weak) we can do all things (Reference, Philippians 4:13), in this life and not just in the life to come! Some of you saints reading this can testify and are beaming inside, knowing your walk has been a strong one.

Ruling over sin is the main underlying theme in the Phillipians passage where we find Our Loving Father telling us that we can do all “things” through our Messiah who strengthens us. He cares deeply about performing miracles within your body, changing the very blood that flows through your veins, the very DNA that holds your body together, into a body which has power over sin through obedience daily, hourly, momentarily, to Yeshua Messiah who does strengthen those who do well. Sin is a deplorable doctrine which we are born with, like being born with a cancer. To give in to sin’s desires for us, turning our bodies into breeding grounds for sin, vessels coddling sin, telling us we cannot do all things through Messiah, and that we are weak and unable when it comes to overcoming sin is the work of devils. We have been given the tools to do well, that is God's part. We need not faint in the face of sacrifice, that is our part. For those who choose to take up the right tools at the right times, they will not remain weak and they will no longer be deceived, convinced that they are unable.

It looks so hopeless when you have not won a major battle before, or in a long while. You can win! Sacrifice, friend. Hope gives birth to faith. Oh soldier and warrior for The Most High God, wait on God and do not hate the chastening of The Almighty, which leads to God's good pleasure in your life (Reference, Proverbs 3:11 ; Hebrews 11:1). Contrary to the demonic doctrine from the goddess of mercy that our generations have lifted up as our false brazen serpent, His saints will achieve one of the most amazing purposes God has for them in their life, and they will be superlatively rewarded for achieving that goal if they will sacrifice rightly for it.

To truly understand that nature of man, one must understand the battle man is built to fight in and conquer. This following section explores the nature of sin, and the one through whom all sin comes. This section explores the first words in Holy Scripture said by the evil one, and the weaknesses displayed in man

during the conversation that was had. By studying prayerfully, this small and momentary conversation, a great deal can be gleaned in order to help us understand the nature of evil and man's relationship to it.

1. **Compare the activity of God in chapters one and two to the activity of Satan in chapter three.**

Getting Personal – Consider the activity of these two forces. Ask yourself to allow God to reveal to you which of these two forces you are manifesting in the world around you with your heart's meditations, with your mind's thoughts, with the work of your hands. Look at the fruit which your hands produce: is it pleasing to those who love God or rotten?

Considering the Commands - Looking at Satan's behavior at the tree when stacked up against the ordinances of Torah, which command(s) did he break? If you have a decent understanding concerning the commands of God in Torah and through the Brit Chadasha, list a few of the commands written that are designed to protect us from the wicked force that is Satan and his armies.

2. **Is it possible that part of what tricked Hava (Eve), or could have caught her off guard, was that a serpent spoke to her?**

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "serpent". Do a word search of all the times that word appears in Scripture. Make two columns on a sheet of paper or the like, and list the times the serpent was described in a good light and the times it was depicted as evil. If you would like to, consider doing this same thing for the word "darkness", using the Hebrew word as the foundation for the search.

Getting Personal – Today, if a devout child of God were in the wilderness and had a conversation with an animal on spiritual matters, and the result was the animal sharing some new and exciting information on how to be more like God, what kind of experience would that be considered? Under what genre of spirituality would that fall?

Going Deeper – Using Scripture, share some of the warnings God has given us concerning miracles, signs, and wonders. Look those terms up in a word search and find all of the warnings. Next, do that same word search and find at least three examples when miracles, signs, and wonders were good. Lastly, with your new working knowledge of the framework of miracles, signs, and wonders, explain how careful one must be and why in concern to miracles, signs and wonders.

3. **Look at Satan's first question. What was it?**

Going Deeper - What was the purpose, and what were the social mechanics of Satan's first question?

Prayer & Meditation - Consider the way Yeshua handled conversations with Satan and Satan's armies. In light of this, what would have been an appropriate response to Satan's first question? If you are finding an answer that would be frowned upon by most within and without the fellowship today, you may well be on the right track.

Commentary - This Commentary answers the Going Deeper prompt. Consider exploring your answer to that

prompt before reading this Commentary.

Satan’s question was engineered with purpose. God’s command was to eat from every tree of the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan’s question inferred that God had commanded them to not eat from any tree.

God’s command concerning the fruit of that tree, stacked up against Satan’s inference when talking to Hava, reveals a lot about the yarn that Satan was spinning. Satan’s top priority is to take God’s position as God. One of the ways Satan can attempt to accomplish his top priority is to undermine God’s goodness. In the discussion at hand, Satan's target was God’s character as provider. Inferring that God would surround Adam and Hava with trees bearing fruit, while not allowing them to eat any of it, pointed to God being incapabale of providing for the couple properly. The exaggeration painted a false, overly harsh image of God. We understand that God had only forbidden them from eating the fruit of one tree, not all.

Although Hava knew that God did not forbid the eating from every tree, the seed that was planted concerning God’s lack as provider stuck, irrational as the planted seed was. You may dissagree with this notion right now, but look at the results. This seed, in essence, sowed mistrust between her and God. Just the vapor of a question. You can see the sub-conscience questions begin to pour into poor Hava - *Is God the best provider for us? Is there something better out there? Are we being dooped here? Has God tricked us and is not as great for us as he portrays Himself to be?* While we hear Eve's response being in defense of God, what was going on internally was enough for Satan to gain the traction he needed to begin weaving his lies and destruction into Eve's mind.

Next, we are going to backpedal and look at the exact same question again, (“Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”) but from a completely different angle. Let's take a quick look at Satan under the veil of a serpent. Serpents had not yet become an evil thing in the mind of man. Satan was not revealing to Hava who he was, or his ability to do wickedness. In Hava’s mind, she was not talking to Satan, she was talking, as peculiar as it may have been, with an animal which she and her husband had dominion over. We know now that the serpent was possessed by Satan. Hava was not aware of this thing.

Her thinking that she was talking to an animal which she and her husband had dominion over leads to another note. Satan was tricking Hava into thinking she had the upper hand, that her duty was to share with the serpent something about the nature of their world, all the while Satan’s intention was to share with Hava yet another false piece of information designed to derail her relationship with God. Asking her a question that made it appear as though the serpent did not know what he was talking about let Hava believe she had the upper hand. She went into the scenario without the proper defences up because she did not realize she needed to be defending herself. At just the right time, Satan switched from behaving as if he didn't know any better and needed her help, to taking control and revealing what seemed to Hava to be a new and situation altering piece of information. In short, the question was a very carefully crafted device to make reality appear to be somehting that it wasn't. The question was part of a lie.

A last note on this small brush stroke will reveal a characteristic common in the behavior of those who are defiled by Satan’s yarn: twisting. The question's inference twisted what God had commanded. You see that the foundation that Satan started with was a truth that God had commanded, but what came from Satan was a

defiled, corrupted, or twisted ersatz of the real thing.

Once the seed had been planted and traction was afforded, the enemy boldly puts up his flag in the mind of Hava. Will it stick? “Ye shall not surely die: for God knows that when you eat of this fruit you will become as gods, knowing good and evil.” It stuck indeed, Hava saw the food now as being a good thing that would be evil not to partake of because of the good things that it would provide for her and Adam. She and he took of the fruit and they ate. (Reference, Genesis 3: 1 – 6) Now, we will take a very laconic look at this part of the conversation, but you are encouraged to look more deeply into this part of the conversation yourself. Most of the things Satan said were true concerning the nature of what the fruit would do, he only twisted the nature of the what the results would be to make the bad results appear to be good results.

“You will beome as gods.” - Satan, accroding to 2 Corinthians 4:4, is not the lord of but the god of this world. There is a difference. Telling Hava that she would become as god was implying that she would become like Satan. At the time she believed that the enemy was referring to The Almighty.

“you will know good and evil” - here, Hava has no clue what evil is, it had not entered er existence yet. There is a reason God had protected them from knowing it. Further, Hava likely believed that satan meant that she would understand both good and evil, while what he meant was that she would become intimately connected with it.

Just like our Bible says that people look at good as if it were evil and evil as if it were good (Reference, Isaiah 5:20), if Adama had done the right thing and put up a fight for his wife, she surely would have resisted and accused Adam of being evil (Reference, Romans 1:32), for she truly believed that the information she had received was authentic and trustworthy, caring for her and guiding her into a better life for herself.

Now, this whole mendacious conversation was not directed at Hava alone, but towards Adam as well. While Hava, in the end, was completely beguiled (Reference, 2 Corinthians 11:3), as she truly believed that the fruit was good (Reference, Genesis 3:6), even though God had clearly told them that it was bad (Reference, Genesis 2:16,17); Adam, on the other hand, was also in the cross hairs of Satan in this conversation, but in a different way. Adam was to be the protector of his wife, as displayed here the weaker vessel, even if it meant protecting her from herself in manifesting a desire she thought was good. Hava ate of the forbidden fruit right in front of Adam. Adam was elbow-to-elbow with his wife, mentally invested in the conversation which led to the pillorying of his wife’s mind, while he, being the stronger vessel, had a system of morals that remained intact.

In learning who man is, this horrible conversation reveals the natural weaknesses of man and woman, the strength of Satan, and much of the Bible’s commands regarding how a household and community hierarchy should be structured. The reasons why man's hierarchichal structure should follow the Bible's command to let God be the head, followed by man, then woman, then children (Ephesians 5:22 – 33), finds its foundations in this Canonical treasure that most of us fail to purchase. Many people are far too busy guarding the evil treasures stored up in their hearts to make room for what moth and rust cannot destroy, and for what thieves cannot break in and steal.

In the following section of prompts, be humble clay in The Potters hand. The evil treasures that you are spending precious resources guarding, it is time for them to find their way to the incinerator. Only God can send them there, and the armed guards that stand before your garbage dump will continue to make God, and those who serve Him, turn back and say, “maybe another day, for our friend here.” Destroy the destructive garbage in

your life by letting go and letting God. Fight for the good treasure, not the bad! Learn who man is, and function in your God given capacity. You have been tricked into gaurding the evil that is keeping you from a closer more full relationship with The Almighty, יהוה Elohim. Stop living the lie, and be who you were created to be.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

4. **How was Hava's answer to Satan's question wrong?**

Going Deeper - Was Hava being the one who responded to Satan the appropriate move for the couple? Using Scripture, defend your stance. Using the results, defend your stance.

Slogan: "People do not have to agree with what is right, for what is right to be accomplished."

Going Deeper II - Consider Satan's goal in this conversation. What did this particular aspect of Hava's answer reveal to Satan, which helped him in considering his next move?

Considering the Commands - Take a look at what command Hava had broken in answering Satan's question. What command was broken and what would it have served if the answer had been within the bounds of Abba's household?

Commentary - We are taught in Deuteronomy, that adding to or subtracting from the law is a big "no no." This is reiterated in the Book of Revelation: it is one of the final things the Book has to say (Reference, Deuteronomy 4:2 ; Revelation 22:18-19). How awesome, in the truest sense of the word, that before the Canon was compiled, it was referencing itself. The Canon's referencing itself can also be found in the first verse of the Book of Luke. I digressed.

Hava added to God's law concerning the tree. Some may agree that if she shouldn't have eaten of the fruit of the tree, then touching the fruit should also be out of the question. For instance, if the serpent had truly just a misunderstanding of God's law, it should not have been allowed in the vicinity of the tree, let alone touching its fruit, right? With the serpent's true intentions revealed, though, the regulations concerning the serpent and the tree should be even more strict: it should both not be allowed near the vicinity of the tree nor should it be allowed to speak of the tree in any way shape or form except to those elders who had learned how to keep authority over the serpent in order to keep it from spinning its yarn through the weaker vessels in the community, and even then only in very rare circumstances.

Another example of not touching the fruit being a good idea would be with a child. A child could easily make the big mistake, not knowing what it was doing. It does fall in line with the spirit of the law that touching the fruit, caring for the tree, and being around the tree are all not just allowed, but completely necessary. God commanded Adam & Hava to care for the garden. Said area of the garden should have only been cared for with a ceretain degree of caution, skill, and maturity, yet to have ignored the care of that area would have rendered the community that was the couple, subtracting from God's law.

This, rightly dividing of God's Torah or God's law, concerning the times of Eden, shows that He intends for us to be strengthened over sin, and the wicked things in this world. We are to run from immorality, indeed. As we mature, running from immorality looks different. Eventually, the logical structure of thinking that comes from regular Bible study, and the chastening of the Lord produces a saint skilled and able. Contact with sinful things will produce resistance and victory, the sin itself being as far from the east is from the west from the saint, while the atmosphere is cultivated for temptation to bring about the sin. A new and growing saint may have to remove themselves from the temptation in order to overcome, and certain temptations may always have that affect on certain saints.

How many of us have been at a pary, around drunkards who appear to be having a great time, even having a glass of wine ourselves. The atmosphere couldnt be doing a better job at begging us to become drunk, yet it fails. What about when the frustrations of our cisrcumstances coupled with the continual sliding of the society around us tempting us to use a swear word or engage in vile speach (Reference, Ephesians 4:29)? We resist, if it could even be considered resistance. The temptation does not affect us, as the Spirit of God lives in us. This ineffable characteristic of the royal sons and daughters that we are is evidence we have earned our warrior's accoutrements. The armor we wear is worth fighting for.

5. **The serpent said that, "...your eyes will be opened." Were their eyes opened?**

Going Deeper - Use your imagination - The serpent presented the couple with a task: eat this fruit. The task came with what seemed to be a desirable result: "Your eyes will be opened and you will be like God," (Reference, Genesis 3:5). Consider what kind of past experiences that the couple may have had with God where their eyes had been opened in a good way, a pure way, a desirable way. If you are feeling very creative, write a short Biblical fan-fiction piece on this prompt, contrasting the good and bad opening of the eyes. You could also write a song, draw a picture, or make a sculpture creatively representing what you find in exploring this thought.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Consider what the serpent was offering. The fruit itself was not what enticed Hava and caused her to see what was bad as good. It was the promised result that Hava was after. Look at that result promised: A) Your eyes will be opened, and B) You will be like God.

-Here are two questions that will help guide you through meditation and prayer.

a. What good thing was offered to Hava that she already had?
b. Satan presented a temptation to Yeshua that was an image of this temptation that was presented to Hava. What temptation was it? How did Yeshua handle it? Pray for God's guidance and patience in learning the answer to this question, my friend.

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "eyes." Do a study on that word using the original Hebrew. Find other times that the Scripture makes use of this Hebrew word. Beyond the word's physical definition, what are its spiritual meanings? Let the Holy Spirit, not man's teachings guide you in this. What an ersatz it is to put too much trust in man, where God Himself, His very Spirit can guide those willing to sup with Him. Oh my friends in Messiah, the harvest reaped from that work is ineffable. Join in.

6. **The serpent said that, "...you will be like God." Is it bad to desire to be like God? If not, what similar thing is bad?**

Hebrew Challenge - Look into the serpent's words to Hava in Hebrew. Look at God's words to Adam in Hebrew. See if you can make conclusions concerning the character of these two powers and principalities by the structure of their speech.

Going Deeper with Prayer & Meditation - First, using your knowledge of Scripture, see if you can cross reference at least three other examples where people were led astray with a promise of being able to accomplish a good thing, but in the end it caused them to sin against God. If you can't do three, at least find one of those examples.

Second, in the examples you have found, find at least one of those examples where a similar mendacious scenario was presented to a man who did not fall to the temptation or deception.

Third, in prayer and meditation, picking from the scenarios you found, choose one that resulted in failure, like Hava's scenario (that is a good choice for the failure scenario if you want to pick that one), and one that resulted in victory: look at the events that led up to the mendacious scenario: what is the difference between that man's actions, character, decisions, community, setting, etc. who had planted seeds of righteousness and overcame, versus those who had tares waiting for them, causing their downfall? This prompt is asking you to compare the previous actions of these characteristics and to objectively look at the results ini faith.

Getting Personal - Look at the conversation Hava and the serpent had. When God confronted Hava about what had happened, her honest response was that she had been tricked, and in fact she was tricked, she saw that the fruit was good for food. She was beguiled, in fact, as sacred Scripture describes (Reference, II Corinthians 11:3).

To be beguiled is to be wholly duped, seeing reality differently than what it really is. Take a look at your past. Are there instances you can think of when you were beguiled, causing you to do something you were sure was good but that you had known was bad once upon a time? Now, to get more personal: look at your present. Are there functions of your daily operations you could be beguiled in right now? Seek to find those things, and ask God to help you become impervious, an impenetrable wall when it comes to being tricked.

If you are in covenant with another, pray, ask God to do this same thing for your spouse so they can correct you when this is happening to you. Whether they are in covenant with God or not, He will answer prayers and sometimes miracles mean non-covenant people do great things for covenant people. Look at the relationship between Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar for encouragement, support, and correction if you are a saint engaged in the struggle of loving an unbelieving spouse. Trust your spouse and trust the God ordained, heavenly order of things. Trust and be trustworthy.

7. **What happened to Hava before she took of the fruit? What caused her to take the fruit?**

Going Deeper - Men and women are both made with strengths and weaknesses. In keeping with a task we are responsible for as men and women: tending to ourselves and to one another, we can learn about our true nature in relation to temptation. What does Hava's mistake reveal, concerning the natural weaknesses of women? What does it reveal of the natural weaknesses of men? Knowing these weaknesses, what does it reveal in relation to

men and women's responsibility to one another in fighting the good fight?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Hava was beguiled. The Scripture teaches us that those who live by the sword die by the sword (Reference, Matthew 26:52). This can be applied to many other things as well: those who steal will be stolen from, those who do kindness to others will receive kindness in return, those who treat others harshly will be treated harshly, those who judge with righteous judgment will be judged righteously too, and more apropos to our prompt: those who beguile will be beguiled.

Consider the natural proclivities of women, with their emotions being the driving force behind a lot of their actions, and the excess of emotions tending to blind them or cover over the logic and truth we often need to harness those emotions so they can be used properly. A lot of women refuse to take authority over their emotions and miss out on much of the fecundity God has planned for them as a result, this is part of tending to the garden for women, part of God's loving plan for them in battling the enemy within. With those truths in mind, meditate on God's allowing Hava to be beguiled and why He, as a good Father, may have allowed it to happen.

Commentary - The food from the tree was not pleasant to one's spiritual eyes, nor was it desirable to make one wise, much like alchohol is unnatractive to us. In short, the serpent beguiled Hava, making the fruit seem to be something it wasn't.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

8. **Where was Adam while his wife was being beguiled by the serpent?**

Going Deeper -

a. What does Adam being "with" her reveal of the natural weaknesses of man?
b. Does this help in revealing why it is man's job to have authority in the relationship of man and wife, whereas woman's authority is penultimate to men's and man's is penultimate to God?
c. Does this reveal why God has instructed us that no woman should ever have authority over a man, but to let the older women teach the younger women and to allow the women to teach the children (Reference, Titus 2:3-5).

Bonus - Look up the word for "with" in Hebrew and do a word study on it. Where else does this word pop up that you find significant?

Hebrew Challenge - Find the verse that describes Adam being with Hava. Memorize that verse in Hebrew.

9. **What is the first deceptive word used in relation to Satan in The Bible?**

Going Deeper - You may use the Scriptures at hand, or another story from the 66 Book Canon to answer this question. Describe how Satan's behavior is cunning.

Bonus - Look up the word in Hebrew for cunning. Find other times when that word is used in describing both good and evil things.

a. Is cunning the right English word? Is there a better word?
b. Compare and contrast the uses of that Hebrew word.

10. **Once they had eaten the fruit, what did they notice?**

Going Deeper - Their having noticed that they were naked shows that they became focused on _____, immediately following the sin they partook in.

a. What does this reveal about the nature of sin?
b. Considering your response to "a." , what does this reveal about the nature of righteousness?
c. Considering your response to "b.", what does this reveal about God's nature, about the difference in His authority and the authority we are often subject to from our leadership?

Prayer & Meditation - Consider what clothing represents spiritually. Consider why we need what it is that clothing represents. Consider why nakedness was not a problem before they had sinned against God.

Commentary - If you want to answer the Going Deeper prompt for yourself, do not read the Commentary associated with this question until after exploring the Going Deeper prompt.

Once Adam & Eve had sinned, they became focused on themselves and quickly began working at doing a thing for themselves. The sewing of the fig leaves, as a result of an immediate focus on themselves, was connected to this new idea that their eyes had been opened. Their seeing that their nakedness was a bad thing reveals the nature of sin's fruit in their lives: they noticed they had done bad, that they were defiled, that they were no longer whole, and that something was very wrong.

In a way, after the fall, Satan became a father to Adam and Hava. The same way that Yeshua describes Satan as being father of those He was preaching to (Reference, John 8:43-45) for manumission purposes. Manumission from what? Manumission from the fatherly hold that Satan had on their lives. How does Adam and Hava's behavior reflect that of this new father figure in their lives? If you are asking that question, my friends, it is the right question.

Satan, from the start, had been working to provide for himself what he wanted. This was born in Adam and Hava as they became selfish the moment they ate the fruit. This selfishness was not much of a choice but more of a necessity, a defense mechanism now needed as a result of their new corrupted state. These new circumstances bore in them the need to serve themselves and shy away from God.

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "naked". Do a word study. We know that the nakedness was physical. What was it spiritually? Does your definition of spiritual nakedness line up wholly and completely, not adding to or subtracting from the Biblical definition of spiritual nakedness which you found in doing the word study on the Hebrew word for naked?

11. **This prompt answers the previous prompt in coming to the question. Thus, please complete 1-10 before enjoying this question's offerings.**

Mercy is a wonderful and loving characteristic of God. Unfortunately, there is an ersatz of God's mercy which is absolutely rampant in the church today. Hava did not know that she had done a bad thing, because she had been beguiled, seeing that the fruit was good for food, even though both foresight and retrospect reveals that the fruit was the worst possible choice for food. She would have been better off eating a rock. In order to receive the truth, unadulterated mercy of God, we must be able to spot false mercy so that we do not pick the false mercy off the forbidden tree and eat of it. This advanced question is designed to help facilitate a more mature relationship with true mercy so you are not tricked continually. Even though Hava had sinned in ignorance, was there mercy shown? If there was mercy shown, explain where mercy was shown and where it was withheld. This is an advanced level question and it is ok to save the question for another time. This question is designed to redefine what mercy is in your mind and it will be a difficult pill to swallow.

Genesis: Who Is God In Relation To Man Continued
When Temptation Is Included

Part 3: A Look At The Way God Handels Sin: Cultivating An Atmosphere of Mercy and Judgment.

Read Genesis 3

God's throne is made of mercy and judgment (Reference, Psalm 89:14). This insinuates that mercy and judgment are echad, one, and not contrary to one another, as many have lodged unknowingly, deep into their psyche. In fact, every time that God's true judgment is awarded, mercy is present; likewise, every time that God's true mercy is administered, His judgment is wrapped into the same package. God is this way because it is both productive and just. These two seemingly disparate attributes, turn out to be not so disparate after all.

God's Fathering of His beloved, in other words, is always some appropriate to the circumstance mix of mercy and judgment. Here in this section we are going to study God's meaningful questions asked of Adam and Hava. These meaningful questions were designed to administer just that perfect loving mix for this circumstance: a very bad scenario leveraged by God for the scenario's potential fecundity for the Kingdom. God's sound judgment could have been for naught, but that He first ensured that the couple observed themselves answering the questions the way they did. Sure, He could have simply judged them for breaking the command, but His love for us and His goal for us, and them, as we will find out, is to help us become aware of ourselves to the degree that we can improve upon our obedience, servitude, and love for God: the very essence of the first and most important command by which life itself is hinged for us.

In this section we are going to meditate on God's questions for them, to help us in recognizing the true character of God. We will also meditate on the answers Adam and Hava gave which revealed to us part of our sin nature, which we should rule over (Reference, Genesis 4:7). Judgment's most fundamental fabric is concrete: this person, or this community, have they ruled over sin, or have they allowed it to rule over them? Yeshua saves us from the latter, guaranteed, if we take to the plow and follow in His footsteps, listening to and obeying His voice. Like plowing a field takes time and work, so does tending to the garden that is the nefesh (H: soul) of man. A tree planted by the rivers of water will produce its fruit in its season. All in good time my friend, all in good time.

1. **Explain how Adam's answer to God's question reflects selfishness in at least two ways.**

Going Deeper - Consider not the knowledge that you have from life, but first consider the knowledge about life that Scripture has taught you, then ask yourself, where did this selfishness living in Adam come from?

Getting Personal - Consider the Going Deeper prompt, explain the way Scripture depicts God handling selfishness, regardless of its source.

Bonus - Look up the word "voice" in Hebrew and find other meaningful places where that Hebrew word is used in Scripture.

Commentary - Adam could have simply said, "Yes, I have sinned against you God, I ate the fruit." He was

afraid of the consequences of his actions and was looking for ways to avoid being honest. This is selfish. The consequences of his actions were designed by The Almighty to improve him in serving God. If Adam was not improving upon himself to serve God better, then he was being selfish. Adam was trying to dodge a good thing, God's consequences for him, because of the suffering that was necessary to get to the good thing.

2. **Adam intended to avoid the consequences of his actions by answering God in the way he did. Did it work?**

Prayer & Meditation - Consider spending some time with The Holy Spirit (רוח הקדש) in meditation and prayer asking how Adam could have responded that would have wholly pleased God. Ask The Holy Spirit (רוח הקדש) about yourself: what times in your life has He asked you similar questions and you have failed to answer in a righteous way? Lastly, ask The Holy Spirit (רוח הקדש) to give you the presence of mind not to fail again in the future.

Now, if you are struggling with sin that takes time to claim victory over, ask God to come to you in the same kind of conversation we see here in Genesis, asking you to fess up, cultivating an atmosphere for you to retain some dignity and integrity in a bad situation. Instead of failing the way that Adam did, be victorious.

3. **Look at Adam's response. You can see that there is a great deal of room for correction and rebuke. How does God respond to the way that Adam answered His question?**

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "gave" in verse twelve of chapter three. Consider other words that Adam could have used that would have embellished the story in a way many of today's men would have embellished it, to worm their way out of the responsibility even more. Adam was being dodgy, but not to the "nth" degree.

Going Deeper - God's relationship with Adam was a direct, one-on-one relationship up to this point. Even at this point, the questions God asked Adam were direct, personal, intimate. Look at the effect that Adam's response had on his relationship with God. Is there a personal, intimate relationship anymore? If so, how was it affected? Look not to your hopes or wants of who you want God to be, instead look at the evidence of His character presented in the Scripture.

Going Deeper II - Explain how the curse that God placed on the ground for Adam's sake was a reflection of Adam's behavior towards God. You can see this behavior towards God in Adam's response to God's question if you are sagacious in reading the dialogue.

Commentary - God cultivated the atmosphere for Adam to fess up. He gave Adam one singular chance. He did not go round-and-round in conversation with him, trying to drag out the best response. He put in the work and effort beforehand, like a good farmer working the soil and then allowing the results to be what they are He asked the hard questions.

God listened to Adam's answer and judged Adam based on that. Many of us have the answer in mind that we wish for our loved ones to respond with. We lovingly try everything we can in the conversation to put those just words into our loved one's mouths. This is not the image of God. We see here that it is better to pray

for God to be very present for all parties, let our loved ones respond exactly as they will, then act accordingly with patience, love, and sound judgment. In this way, we are dealing with their genuine character, not the character we expect or want. It is always best to function not within what reality isn't, but within what reality is while hoping for and expecting the best outcome.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

4. **Was Hava's answer to God also wicked?**

Going Deeper - Looking at Hava's response: it is hard to tell where she was coming from. Look into her response and describe it in a light of if she was repentant, and then describe how it may not have been in repentance. If you are interested in answering this Going Deeper for yourself, do not read the Commentary section until after answering.

Considering the Commands - Every once in a while, circumstances make keeping the whole law like threading a needle, if the needle is still in the haystack, and you're wearing a blindfold that leaves you mostly blind to anything beyond what is directly in front of you. Consider a few of the commands that have been lovingly and powerfully given to us, which Hava did not have at the time, that would have helped Hava.

Do this initially with the first time the snake spoke to Hava. Then, do the same exercise again with the first time that God asked Hava what had happened. The aim in both circumstances is to use the commands as guardrails to see how the commands could have guided Hava in making better choices in both circumstances.

Getting Personal - Take the essence of the Considering the Commands prompt, then apply it to the most recent situation where you have failed God in your relationship with Him. My friend, if you can make a habit of doing this, The Judge of All Creation will be welcomed in your life. He resides where He is welcomed. Lip service only is a great cultivar for deception. His judgment is good, active, powerful. You will please God more and more, and require less and less of His mercy by seeking His judgment. This will be an enormous victory for you and fantastically pleasing for Him if you diligently stay the path. You will know God's true character intimately, and while 10,000 may fall by your side, you will stand.

Now, take that same essence and look at a recent circumstance in your life where you were victorious. Use this structure of review on your life to see that you were using the guardrails powerfully and lovingly given to us. See that you were just in your choices. Ruminate on and think of these things often. This will keep you encouraged as you walk down the holy path of righteousness.

Commentary - Was Hava's answer to God also wicked? This depends. If she was saying, "Yes, I ate the fruit, and this is how it happened," in the spirit of admittance, addressing the reality of what had happened, she was just. "Please help me sort through what I should have done differently."

If she was using the circumstance as an excuse to say she was not guilty, in order to avoid the consequences, then she was being wicked and blame shifting. In order for her answer to be pleasing, it would

have had to both address the reality of the circumstance at hand and address it properly.

5. **What is different about the way God spoke with Adam and Hava and the way He spoke with the serpent?**

Hebrew Challenge - Consider memorizing The Hebrew Scripture which transcribed God's question to Hava, Hava's response to God, or both.

Going Deeper - God makes a difference between the serpent and the couple. After your addressing what the difference is, then considering what this reveals about the serpent in contrast to the couple.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Part of the reason that God's Word does not return unto Him void is because He is not idle. The Word is comprised of His Words, therefore His Word is not idle. His Word gets work done, every time. The first bit of work It does is to separate the tares from the wheat, It even separates the chaff from the wheat. Further than that still, The Word tells us that It is capable of separating the soul from the spirit. Exceedingly sagacious.

After The Lord's powerful Word has done this work, It then handles the circumstance accordingly, based on the reality of the results of the first bit of work It performed. Knowing that God's Word does not return unto Him void, and that He is never idle: look at His handling of the serpent and the couple. Deeply consider God's words. Listen carefully to the conversation and a write a bit about what is revealed to you.

Getting Personal – "What is man" is the great fulcrum that this study revolves around. "God's image" is the most fundamental answer to that question. This Getting Personal meditation is engineered to help you dig into what you are with fervency and trust.

Look at the Going Deeper prompt: specifically the bit about the linear way in which God may work at times. Then, apply that Biblically based derivation of God's character to the character of God that you have come to know. Do they line up squarely? If not, ask yourself which version of God is the authentic one. Ask yourself which version of God ought to be sacrificed to help you enjoy an unadulterated relationship with The True God.

(Pre-requisite understanding – Satan is the great deceiver and masquerades as an angel of light. His intention is to take the place of God: he often deceives those who believe themselves to be strong members of God's family by masquerading as God (Reference, 2 Corinthians 11:14).)

Next, bring an even more personal question to Him concerning this lesson. A personal question that lines up squarely with exactly where you are in your walk with Him. Ask Him to help you display His image in a more whole and healthy way. Ask Him to strengthen you in exercising sound judgment concerning making a distinction between what is and isn't part of God's authentic and trustworthy, loving character.

Commentary - With Adam and Hava, the questions He asked them were mercy. A chance to reconcile what they had done. He was testing them. With the serpent, there were no questions asked. No tests. No mercy. God did not even ask the serpent what he did. He simply told the serpent what would happen to him as a result of his actions. This indicates that God saw the serpent as a hardened rebel incapable of reconciliation. God was fully

aware of what to expect from the serpent before it happened. This character God knew the serpent to be is the very definition of proud. Further study into the serpent's hardened, irreconcilable rebellion indicates that God had no intention of reconciling things between Himself and Satan. This, not because God is full of guile, but because God's love will not allow Him to spend idle time in relationship with anyone, good or evil.

God recognized that Adam and Hava were not being their normal selves, but were reflecting the image of the serpent. An image that God had come to understand. God's choices in judgment show us that there was a chance at reconciliation for the couple but not for the serpent. This lesson is an encouragement for us. It is an encouragement that we can have a more healthy network of relationship with one another if we use the system of sound judgment that we are given here in the first chapters of the Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, the BIBLE. Do your relationships seem hopeless in their utter failure to tap into the potential holiness that they could be? Follow the instructions, yourself, and trust that God will guide the way. You can control you.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

6. **What is prayer? Does the conversation here in the first chapters of Genesis fit the definition?**

Getting Personal & Scripture Meditation & Prayer - The answer to the bold, foundation question is in this Getting Personal prompt. Answer the prompt first, then come back to this Getting Personal prompt.

We understand the definition of prayer to be "conversation with God." This first conversation with God, which involves the full scope of what man is up against: our fallen nature, can teach vital lessons to those willing to <u>listen and obey</u>. To whom? Who are the vital lessons available to?

Here now, it is time to take stock of yourself. Your conversations with God: do any of them reflect the characteristics God displayed for us when Adam and Eve sinned? You, in all likelihood, still sin. Do you not? Maybe you do not. God showed, through these Scriptures, that His unchanging character involves looking directly at the sin, calling it out, and laying a pathway designed to help us overcome the sin, if conquering the sin is something we are willing to engage in with Him. Ask yourself what God's character may be when you are not willing to engage with Him in sorting the sin out of your life. He cannot stand before sin without destroying it, as we well know (Reference, Exodus 33:2) . We also know that there is a great deceiver whose sole desire is to appear to be God, even to the elect if possible (Reference 2 Corinthians 11:14).

What makes you think that you can go on in your sin, when The Almighty calls you out on it, not being elect yourself, and that you will, in any way, continue to get away with it? Do you think God will somehow change His character to suit your pride and faithlessness? God is love, and love does not spoil the child, throwing out judgment (Reference, Proverbs 13:24). He will by no means clears the guilty (Quote, Exodus 34:7). *You* are guilty. He is not talking about them, but *you*. He is **The Judge. Judgment** is going to be the first part of His character you experience when waking up on **Judgment Day**. Without judgment there is no Heavenly Father for you, buddy.

He has not, will not, and never will change His character to make room for your sin. If this life culminates in your standing before God, you're being judged based on your works (Reference, Romans 2:6),

wouldn't it make sense that a major theme of this life would be His judgment? Come now friend, because judgment and hard change is not reserved for the afterlife, you want to be judged by God and you want to take on the honorable and incredible challenge to be clay in His hands now. Friends, it is a sad thing that we must speak this way to some of you, but it is for your just path's sake, and for God's glory which you share in.

Look at Genesis 3:8 - 3:24 and ask yourself if the character you speak with in prayer lines up with His flagship characteristics illustrated in Genesis 1 - 3. Are you in an intimate relationship with The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or are you in relationship with the god of the world (Reference, 2 Corinthians 4:4)? Have you been deceived? What is your measuring rod for which to know if you have been deceived? If the way your god "makes you feel" is your measuring device, my friend, your life is cursed. It is time to throw out the worldly system of measure and make purchase. The Bible is called the canon because it is a canon, that is, a general law, rule, or criterion by which something is judged (Reference, Luke 1:1). Make purchase today.

Apologetics - Look at the exceedingly heavy curses placed on all involved in this horrible conversation. God chose to deal out judgment in exactly that way. One who does not have a relationship with God, would be tempted to blame God for being too harsh. If you have ascertained the maturity that is found beyond man's proclivity to sacrifice all for momentary comforts, explain why God was just in His judgment that day. Avoid seeing this harshness as human vengeance and focus on how the judgment aims precisely at the reconciliations needed for relationship with God to become full again.

7. **It says God was walking in the Garden in the cool of the day (Reference, Genesis 3:8). Why? What was His intention? How did Adam and Hava react?**

Going Deeper I - God wanted to speak with Adam and Hava. Adam and Hava, trying to avoid speaking with God, in essence is what? Use one word to describe the essence of their behavior.

a.) Considering God's character. God does not force Himself on people. If somebody is not accepting of God for who He is, the intimate part of the relationship is what they miss out on. He continues to be Almighty. Adam and Hava's reaction to God's desiring to speak with them, what did it lead to?

Going Deeper II - Use your imagination. Consider all the different ways God has approached people in The Bible. Consider all the ways He could have approached Adam and Hava in this scenario. If you are feeling up for it, write a few short Biblical fan-fiction pieces illustrating through creative writing, sculpture, portrait, video, photograph, or some type of creative artistic outlet, the different ways God could have approached them. Once that has been completed move on to step two. Complete step one, before reading step two.

Step two - If your study is being conducted in a group setting, with a moderator, leave the following instruction hidden until the above prompt has been completed: once that is complete, come back to the Scripture and look at the way God did interact with the couple. Ask yourself: why that way precisely, and not some other way?

Hebrew Challenge - Memorize, in Hebrew, the verse that says, "God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day."

Bonus - Study the Hebrew word for "walk". What letter is associated with walking? What part of God's character is associated with that letter?

8. **What was God's first question to Adam and did Adam answer truthfully?**

Note: Many of the prompts hereto successively build on one another: if you skip one, going to the next, you will miss your opportunity to honestly answer the previous prompt as the answer generally lies somehwere in the prompts counterparts. It is best for your spiritual development to answer the main question, then move on from prompt to prompt, answering the ones that only just stretch your spiritual/study/meditation muscle.

Going Deeper - This bold, foundation question asks what God's first verbal question was. What was God's first implied question?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew for "Where are you?"

Commentary - We are told that God was heard by Adam and Hava, "Walking in the garden in the cool of the day," (Reference, Genesis 3:8). The nature of a well engineered lie generally does a few things.

- The foremost is that it deceives the hearer to the end that it hides the truth.
- Secondly, a well engineered lie will use the truth in the lie.
- Another characteristic of a well engineered lie is that it will attempt to, whether subtly or directly, undermine the authority of the hearer, and generally by using accusation in tone or language against the hearers reasonable and currently truthful state of viewing the circumstance.

Adam did all of these things to God in his answer. The word that Adam used: "voice", can mean more than the sounds that come from somebody's mouth when they speak. It can also mean the atmosphere they cultivate by their presence, as in "As a boy growing up, I listened to the *voice* of my Father's house." God is a judge, and the essence of Adam's lie included putting blame on God for having a "voice" which caused him to hide. The Hebrew root Adam used there for voice is the noun "Qol" (pronounced like Coal).

קול , Noun
1. Voice
2. Sound (of an instrument)

In digression, considering that we are instruments in God's hands, is it not fitting that the "voice" of an instrument and the "voice" of a man are the same word in Hebrew, whereas in English it would be the "voice of a man" or the "sound of an instrument."

Adam, in the circumstance of this sin, used his voice to distance himself from God. God used His voice to address the problem and provide a pathway that led to a solution which would reveal love to Adam, Hava,

and all their offspring, if they would accept God's commanding voice, full of wisdom and sound judgment, in their lives. When you use your voice, let it be in prayer constantly, serving God and God's purposes. Do not make that same mistake Adam made, using his voice to accuse God, thus distancing himself from God.

9. **Consider that Adam was a spiritual, smart, witty, wise, and extremely able man, sagacious and farsighted in serving God, in all his ways. Equipped by God with all of the skills and knowledge he needed, likely far beyond any of us today. Based on Adam's behavior thus far, what was Adam likely insinuating when saying, "I was afraid because I was naked"?**

Apologetics - Use some creativity. Come up with a different way that Adam could have answered God's question which would have shown a different root than rebellion, but instead, repentance.

Commentary - Adam's response, "I was afraid because I was naked," has some subtle hint of admitting fault, or leaning in that direction, but that most probably was sub-conscience, and only a result of the matrix of existence which Adam was now living in as a result of having sinned. Adam, like a college student experiencing the inevitable behavior shown after becoming too intimate with the serpent: he was blaming God, calling good evil and evil good. Adam was not naked. He had sewn fig leaves for himself, but he likely still felt quite naked. This is a good sign that Adam was addressing the spiritual root of the question, "Where are you?" While this showed God that there was hope for Adam, hope is only necessary in desperate situations. Situations only are, or have become desperate because of problems that need to be addressed in their right timing.

So, while Adam was indeed addressing the problem at hand, he was addressing it improperly, Adam was blaming God for not providing adequate covering for him, or for being the "source" of his feeling naked. This nakedness, obviously, was not for lack of God's providing, but the feeling of nakedness was a result of Adam's disobedience. We know that a covering was provided: both physically and spiritually.

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "afraid" in the verse. Do a word study exploring other meaningful places that the Hebrew word is used. Consider writing a gregarious creative writing piece, or engaging in another creative activity and entitle it "Afraid". Capture the spiritual essence of afraid's true Hebrew meaning: not from man's standpoint but from God's perspective. Not that He is afraid, but that He sees and understands fear.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day

-God's First Conversation With Fallen Man-

10. **What was the first thing that God said to Adam, personally, after he sinned?**

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "naked" used in the text. While looking at other places that this word is used in Scripture, what connotations are derived from the use of the word beyond "being without clothing?" Does the definition in books published by men include these connotations in their appropriate sub-themes?

Prayer & Meditation - Use this prompt to guide a prayer and meditation for you today. God asked the question, "Who told you that you were naked?" God asked precisely that, and in that precise way with purpose. Consider other things He could have asked. Come back to what He did ask, looking for the essence of all He was asking and insinuating with all of their main themes and sub-themes.

Commentary I - God asked Adam two questions, with the first being this bold, foundation question's focus. God's question had some subtle and guiding characteristics to it. It was generally designed both as a test and was meant to be a rhetorical question to some degree. Now keep in mind that a rhetorical question is not without purpose. Keep these things in mind during your meditation on what man is in light of temptation because God's question was designed to reveal to Adam what he was, as man, in light of temptation.

Commentary II - A lesson concerning the trap of idle conversation. "Who told you that you were naked?" This question was designed by God to test Adam to see if it was possible to reconcile Adam to Himself. We can learn a lot from our wise and Almighty Father here. If Adam was reconcilable, then saving Adam was necessary. God's character requires salvation to the willing (Reference, John 3:16). You see, this question was further engineered to help God see where on the slimy, hardened slope of rebellion Adam was. Consider a rescue effort conducted by the National Guard: a person lost in the stink of the swamp, with its snakes and bugs and creepy crawlies cannot be saved until their coordinates are ascertained. This is why the first step of any rescue effort is to ascertain their coordinates.

God first tested the grounds of Adam's heart, God prodded, He opened up and felt around in the wound to find out how deep into the wilderness of death Adam had slipped. God found that the wilderness of filth and death and blindness had made quick work of enmeshing Adam's values and morals with the idea that God was in the wrong, that what was good was evil, because goodness didn't feel comfortable or provide him with what he felt he wanted or needed in that moment. A seemingly hopeless scenario. God was finding what, if any, mercy and judgment could be exercised to save Adam, and what that path from sinner to saved would look like for Adam. Our Father, God was looking to see if He would be able to provide that path and it not be in vain.

God asked two questions, with the first question here being a dead end question, meant to waste time in idle conversation: if Adam chose to answer it. If Adam had chosen to make his focus that dead end question, he would have shown that he was willing to go round-and-round in circles getting nothing done in terms of working towards his salvation. Adam, praise God, did not address the dead end question. Adam answered directly, the question regarding the root of the problem.

11. **God asked, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Why was this question aiming straight at the root of the problem?**

Going Deeper - What was this question engineered to do in light of its partner question?

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word for "eat" from the verse. Explore, beyond the physical act of chewing up food, what spiritual sub-themes eating has. Find other places in Scripture where the Hebrew word is used for cross referencing purposes.

Another Perspective - This conversation, instead of God asking Adam questions, could have looked like God telling Adam what he had done. "Adam, you have eaten from the tree which you have been told not to eat from, this has resulted in you (listing off all the bad things Adam was now doing to mitigate the circumstance he had gotten himself into)." God knew what was going on, and was asking Adam questions instead of telling him what was going on as a tactic in spiritual warfare for salvivic purposes. Consider that God was both engaging in

spiritual warfare for Adam, as well as using foresight and planting helpful seeds for Adam that would sprout in their day. From this perspective, write a short piece on this: a lecture, a sermon, or a Biblical fan-fiction piece laden with the value that the good Father works immediately to provide His children with the most appropriate path of reconciliation when they go astray.

Commentary - This second question was coupled with the first. If the first question had been answered, it would have shown no desire to be in relationship with God anymore, or possibly a whole lot more work for Adam and God to get to a reconcileable point in their relationship. Either way, God took that risk and made Himself vulnerable to work toward reconciliation.
Adam too showed he desired reconciliation as he did not answer the first in the series of two questions but answered the question that led to a path of possible reconciliation.

This second question, which Adam did address, grazed lightly at the root of the matter, but the root of the matter was indeed grazed. The issue was not that somebody "told them" they were naked: within themselves, they knew because they felt it. The issue was that they disobeyed a command God had given them, but God asked His questions in a way that invited the couple to waste time, or not address the problem. They, however, did address the problem directly even though God gave them a wide open door not to if they chose not to. This is a win for the couple, and shows that there was a chance at reconciliation, though that road was a long and difficult one.

Apologetics - Consider the questions that God could have asked Adam. Describe why the questions that God asked were the most skillfully asked and well placed questions for the circumstance.

12. **Although Adam answered the better of the two questions and indeed answered with some honesty, explain how his answer shows how pitiful a state his dilettantish experience with the serpent had left him in.**

Going Deeper - Explain why, even though Adam did say things that were true, he was using true things to shift the blame. In short, explain why it truly was Adam's responsibility to keep the couple safe from circumstances like the one described here, even though Adam was trying to show that the responsibility belonged everywhere but himself.

Commentary - Adam was not beguiled, as Hava was (Reference, Genesis 3:13). Adam knew that what he had done was wrong and he stood by idly watching as his wife's proclivity towards this weakness was leveraged for the serpent's horrible purpose. He failed to help her, instead, he entered into sin with her, on purpose, in a moment of weakness. He, as a result, is responsible for the fall of man. Yet, he childishly spewed the blame in every possible direction but where it belonged: himself first, the serpent next. Adam blamed the woman first and God next.

Getting Personal - Operating in our appropriate capacities, operating in what is, as opposed to the ersatz that the world has developed of what isn't, God is at the top of every hierarchy. Any structure contrary to that is mendacious at its very core. Men are under God in that hierarchy, also a necessary element for proper function in God's presence, then animals, then plants. Within the hierarchy of men, the males are at the top, then older women, younger women, and lastly children (Reference, Genesis 1 ; Titus 2:4-8 ; Ephesians 5:21-33).

Keeping this order in mind, look to your own life. How often do you shift the blame, not taking your proper place in the hierarchy of your family, your community, in order to address problems from a "The buck stops here" attitude? Are you allowing the weaker vessel (females) in the household or the community to be the one(s) who has (have) the final say, out of fear of the quiet tantrum that can sometimes stew for years? Do you believe the fight isn't worth it for the spiritual safety of your family? Are you taking all perspectives from all parties, then as the Head of the Household, choosing prayerfully the best solution to the problem not based on who expressed it, but based on which one lines up best with Scriptural morals and values? If the solution fails, how do you react? Do you blame shift and gaslight, or do you learn from the experience so your family can move forward in a more functional way?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

13. **Why was Adam created? In other words, why was man, why were we created?**

Going Deeper - In being created, Adam was meant to grow closer and closer to God for the purpose of serving God. Hava was meant to grow in being an amazing system of support. In supporting one another as well as serving God, the couple was meant to grow spiritually. Explain how, if the couple (or just one of them) had conquered in the serpent scenario, it would have resulted in the reflection of God's engineering the scenario for the couple in the process of the aforementioned goals. Who failed and why?

Commentary - The serpent scenario would not have resulted in the fall if Adam had reflected God to Hava: protecting her from herself by telling her not to eat the fruit. She had been beguiled into thinking that the fruit was "good" for food (Reference, Genesis 3:6). Furthermore, if Adam had reflected God to the serpent by quoting God's command to the serpent properly, shaming the serpent for quoting God's words incorrectly, and using his God given dominion and authority to send the serpent away from the tree, Adam would be known as a type of Messiah instead of a failure. It was Adam that the responsibility of failure rests upon.

Commentary II - One of God's roles is to protect us from ourselves and from the things around us. He does this in many ways, two of which follow: for the babes and new to faith, He simply does almost all the protecting for us. For those who have become mature and are growing in faith, He strengthens us to be able to protect ourselves by lsitening and obeying, albeit "protecting ourselves" is the art of allowing God's works, thoughts, and meditations to live richly in us and to come from us.

One of Adam's roles was to reflect God to Hava. Hava, being a dilettante in our serpent scenario, was designed so that Adam had to take authority over his wife and protect her from what had become herself: seeing that the food was "good" when it was decidedly quite evil, as God had described it. The Bible teaches that women are the weaker vessel. They are weaker physically, put any group to physical labor and that reality manifests itself. Woman was also made the weaker vessel in a scenario such as this. Women are more trusting and more likley than men to be beguiled, to have their minds twisted up causing them to see evil as good and good as evil.

In fulfilling his role as protector for Hava, Adam would have had a better understanding of God, God's circumstances, and God's responsibility to creation, existence, etc. Why, you might ask? Well, God is above man in the hierarchy, and men (no different than women), are the bride of God: to God men are a weaker vessel that needs His protection and does not always accept His protection with gratitude and respect the same way women need and are often recalcitrant to the protection of their husbands and trusted men in the community. Instead of sacrificing his wants and needs, Adam chose disobedience.

Bonus - When Hava answered God she said that the serpent "tricked, or deceived" her. Look up that word in Hebrew and look at other places in the Tenach where the word is used. Further, find other times in Scripture where Hava's experience with the serpent is referenced.

14. **The most fundamental definition of repentance is to turn to God. Here in the serpent scenario, a large part of our fundamental illustration of the God-man relationship, what kind of turning do we see? Explain your answer in detail.**

Going Deeper - Describe a difference that you see, concerning the concept of repentance, between the rest of us and Adam and Hava.

Bonus – God came to Adam & Hava to have a monumental chat with them. What did Adam & Hava do when they realized God was inviting them into that conversation? Look up the Hebrew word used to describe their hiding from God, and do a word study, cross referencing several other uses of that same Hebrew word throughout Sacred, Holy Writ.

Getting Personal – I have a clock that chimes 5 minutes before the hour. The beautiful sounds of the westminster chimes fill my home, beautifully, but not quite at the right time. Most people would throw the clock out. I dont. To me it is a reminder of repentance. Let me explain. If I were to fix my poor clock, I would turn its chime mechanism to the top of the hour. That would be hitting the mark, so to speak. If I were to turn the chime mechanism to the quarter hour, there would have been a "turning" but it would be worse off than at the beginning. Repentance is this same way. Repentance is so much less about what you are turning away from, as many people have mistakenly defined repentance, but it is about turning to the bull's eye, the mark.

In your life how many times have you gone through the rigorous work of turning from sin, only to find yourself stuck in another sin? Were you turning away from sin or were you turning to God? It is possible to do both, but not if your focus is turning away from sin. That is only a sub-theme. Be creative, write up a short story, or autobiographical piece, sculpt, paint, or make a video, make an installation, or weld some metal together that creatively sings the song of the mistake you made and how you will fail to fail next time that the opportunity to turn to God comes up.

Another Perspective – Consider God's character. Come up witha a creative way of describing what life might be like today if

a) Adam had stopped Hava from eating the fruit of the tree

b) Hava had eaten the fruit, but Adam had tried to stop her, then chose not to eat it himself.

c) Adam & Hava had the mistake just as they did, however when God came along, Adam had turned to God, instead of away from Him, and handled the conversation in a morally upright and righteous fashion.

Genesis: Who Is God In Relation To Man Continued
When Temptation Is Included
A Look At The Way God Handles Sin
Read Genesis 3

After God's questions were asked, Adam and Hava answered. The serpent was dealt with, and The Almighty lovingly mete out judgment. First, God, through His accusatory questioning, provided a challenge for the couple to openly and forthrightly address what had happened. He, purposefully, withheld His judgments for them until after He (and they) participated in their accusations. Is it not profoundly compelling that judgment does not rest solely upon the act of transgression but extends to the manner in which we contend with its consequences? For those who rise to the accusations with courage and humility, their extant character emerges as a testament to the potential for spiritual vitality through reconciliation—a luminous force that redeems and refines them in the crucible of moral reckoning.

By contrast, those who falter, surrendering to mendacious justifications or churlish defiance, risk being consumed by far more pernicious spiritual decay than the original worng-doing would have produced in itself. In this interplay between error and response, we discover that redemption is found in embracing the transformative opportunity whose purchase can be made by walking a singular path: being attentive to the sussurant voice of The Almighty while in the whirlwind of selfish desire. Thus, our rejoinder becomes the reflection of our deepest selves, an answer to our loving accuser's deep question: which of our deepest values will we allow to manifest through us when the torrid flames of accusation lick our lives? It is these times that shape not just how others see us but how we become—either diminished by our failings or fortified through our resolution to be obedient to Our Father.

For Adam & Hava, part of their judgment included a sacrifice. This sacrifice was a picture for them of what had to happen to Yeshua, so that sinful men have the chance to rise to goodness in the flames of accusation (Reference, Revelation 13:8). Our Father, acting as Priest, slaughtered an animal to make them skins to cover themselves (Reference, Genesis 3:21). Why was part of the solution for Adam and Hava to slaughter an animal? It is a poignant question, but just the question one should be asking. Adam and Hava had no chance at reconciliation in and of themselves. They needed a Savior to do that work for them. The animal sacrifice was a clue, a subtle citation of the work done that created the one doorway that might lead to their salvation: Yeshua's dying for our salvation, for their salvation (Reference, John 3:16). The sacrifice to cover Adam & Hava with clothes was a first step on a long journey for them, and it began to solve the problem of them running away because they were naked. This sacrificial act that God lovingly performed for the couple, subtly points to mercy being nested within the bosom of judgment (Reference, Psalm 89:14)

Let's concretize this concept for you, my friend, by breaking down two of God's characteristics found in every single interaction of His between He and man: judgment and mercy. When true mercy and judgment are

being executed in righteousness (Reference, Psalm 89:14), both are present. In the Historical event we are focused on today, the mercy part of the equation is found in God's sacrificing to provide a path towards salvation. The sacrifice meant there was a chance at reconciliation and that the two of them were not permanently separated from God: mercy. Alas though, they were banished from the garden and dying both physically and spiritually, albeit much more slowly than man has been dying since the times of Noah (Reference, Genesis 3:23-24): judgment. Further judgment can be found in the fact that if they did not labor daily in the fields of salvation, they would be banished from heaven as well. Previous to the fall, death was not even possible. After the fall, death became a sure thing, them having certain separations from God to a degree that was not salubrious, or healthy for them: again, judgment, wrapped in the same package as mercy. Echad.

In this section, we explore some of the consequences God metes out as a result of the forbidden fruit event. We wish to warn you that this part of the study asks questions that, in many ways, are unpleasant to explore; however, it is exceedingly important to have a full and deep understanding of the way that God metes out judgment. The truth is that, regardless of the narrative of the world, and the narrative of God's church in the generations around the Gregorian year 2020, God does judge us in this life and in the life to come. Both to the end that we improve on our ability to work with God in conquering sin, and sinful desires within.

A well know Anthropologist of yesteryear, Ralph Linton, is known for the quote "The last thing a fish would ever notice is water." Much like a fish could not be more surrounded by water, yet never notices it, we humans are swimming in a sea of consequences, both positive and negative, that are the result first, of the setting we are thrust into, and second by the way we handle that setting. God does help us, for a time, to live with unconquered sin, or sin fettered to a degree, but the gospel message is not satisfied with the containment of sin within the saved.

The evidence that we are responsible for purchasing the entirety of the gospel message surrounds us daily. I say again, mankind are like fish, swimming in a sea of consequences (or as Scripture puts it: judgments). Most are not aware of the control they have over these judgments or even that the judgments exist as being manifest of The Almighty. This, as a result of never having put the hand to the plow. It is God who orchestrates all of the positive and negative consequences in everyone's lives. A key and a secret for you, my friend: though subtly, and nearly imperceptibly at times, He orchestrates those consequences not based on His deepest desires for you, but based on your actions. This character of God as the ultimate Judge in this life is penultimate to the final judgment of mankind on Judgment Day where "He will judge everyone according to what they have done" (Quote, Romans 2:6) or, as it is written a second time "...And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Quote, Revelation 20:12).

For many who are governed by the desires of the flesh, an often overlooked truth about the consequences in men's lives is that men do possess the power to transform their lives through the practice of sound moral decision making. Like water to a fish, this aspect of consequences is often overlooked. For some others consequences are perceived improperly yet still perceived at least. For the perspicacious, they understand that God being judge, He is and will be judging them, their family, and their friends today, tomorrow, and forever. If man will equip himself with a full, Biblical understanding of the way The Almighty Elohim judges, then we are less likely to be tricked like Hava was, to accept instruction and judgment from an ersatz of God: from the ersatz of God.

In closing, we are all being judged all the time. If we know the way God judges, then we can learn to accept God's judgment and shun the evil one's extremely skillful replica of judgment which is designed to seem like a lack thereof at the first, which we will add: is much more pleasant at the start and decidedly abominable in the end, as our stories unfolding teaches us. This section of our devotional aims to give you a solid foundation in learning God's character as judge, laid out in the first narrative of Sacred Scripture. If you do well, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do well, sin is at your door. My friend, its intention is to devour you, but you must rule over it (Reference, Genesis 4:7).

Adam & Eve's Consequences

God Rendering Appropriate Loving Judgment

1. **Who was the tool God used to bring about the fall?**

Going Deeper - Nowadays we are all perfectly aware that it was HaSatan that tricked Hava and strong armed Adam into disobeying God. In reading the text without the collective knowledge our communities provide, it isn't so clear: it reads that a snake or "the snake", described as being more subtle than any beast of the field, provoked the fall.

Consider the characteristic of the serpent described in Genesis 3:1 and the description of HaSatan's body as being an instrument of pipes, beautiful to the eye and buffed to a high polish (Reference, Ezekiel 28:13). When looking at the two together, what kind of a picture is painted for us concerning the kind of power that darkness uses against man? How can we use that same power for good? Is it wrong to see the skills and power that evil uses so skillfully and learn to use them for good? Use Scripture as the foundation of your answer.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - It could have been that God allowed HaSatan to come directly to Hava. This was not what happened. Instead, the enemy had to possess the serpent, using it as a vessel to speak through, for Hava's beguiling. Through time spent in prayer and meditation, consider why the enemy had to find an animal to possess, instead of coming to her as himself. What lesson does this teach? How can you live differently, more

justly, as a result of that lesson?

Commentary - The serpent was used of HaSatan to steal away Adam and Hava from God. HaSatan not only stole Adam and Hava from God, but he also tricked Adam and Hava into giving up their relationship with God as it was, which was the most valuable thing they had. They spent the rest of their days reconciling, then serving that relationship, but it was never restored to its previous merits.

2. **The first set of consequences God administered: who were they to, and what were the consequences?**

Going Deeper - Consider the ways that the serpent was cursed above all animals. Ask yourself what a curse actually is, then describe how the serpent's consequences are a curse. Key Note: use Scripture, not preconceived notions, to define what a curse is, and its purpose. This section of Scripture reveals the foundational definition of a curse through the advanced use of context clues. This is the perfect time to use the Law of First Appearances to allow The Holy Spirit (רוח הקדש) to change the way you define a term.

3. **Allegorically, what does the serpent represent? Allegorically, what does the serpent eating dust represent?**

Apologetics - Use Biblical stories and verses to describe why what Satan did per se, was evil. Then, build up a body of accusation describing the various evils the serpent committed in order to satisfy his mission.

Commentary - HaSatan makes flesh desire to sin, and steals the being of fleshly people as a result. When a person is consumed by sin, they in essence are distracted from fulfilling their purpose to serve God. Their preoccupation with the desires that have rule over them, cause them to spend their time catering to those desires for themselves and for others who share the same desires. This is the path that leads to destruction.

Sin attacks from many angles at once. Another layer to the sin problem is that a result of sinning is damage: to both the person sinning and the people around them. It takes time with God, and effort put forth within the wheelhouse that is obedience to heal that damage, but it can be healed. The Scripture teaches that Satan came to destroy (Reference, John 10:10). He is much less like a United States Hiroshima fighter pilot, carrying a nuclear bomb, and a lot more like a vampire bat. Vampire bats get into the hen house, very subtly creep under a mother hen brooding on her eggs, and then use their razor sharp teeth to make a small and unrecognized cut on the mother hen's chest where a large vein is nestled. A vampire bat will feed, nestled there at the hen's bosom, slowly sucking the life out of her. She is deceived into acting as if she is just feeling one of her eggs or little ones underneath her. This slow, mendacious destruction much more closely resembles the Great Deceiver than what many immature children of God think of when they think of Satan's character.

When we sin, we are walking a path of destruction that leads to more destruction. Satan is very good at capitalizing on destruction. It is important that we, as God's creation, recognize that sin is normal, but we are set-apart. It is vital for us to recognize that, as God's creation, we must sacrifice our desires for His desires to live in us. As God's creation, it is always in fleek for us to be of that ilk who recognize when we trespass, that is what we are doing in a very literal sense: we are trespassing into territory that is not meant for us to operate in;

but when we are obedient we are no longer on foreign property. This idea of staying within the walls of our Kingdom for protection is why God has put such a poignant stress on the importance of keeping His commands.

It is verboten to stray from His commands, and despite what the world teaches even within the walls of our weaker faith communities, the path of destruction is not a new thing. Rebellion, in its many forms, always boils down to trespassing, One accoutrement of maturing in the ways of The Kingdom is that so long as we are where He wants us to be, and serving Him, The Kingdom comes with us wherever we go. We have a myriad of personal bodyguards, attending to our needs as we attend to His, exceedingly skilled in carrying out precisely the will that is our Father's. It is important for us to recognize that our purpose is not to serve ourselves or our country or our families until we first learn how to serve God. Once we are grounded in proper service to God, only then can we properly serve in our communities without catering to and causing more destruction. This because the deceiver deceives: making good feel evil and evil feel good (Reference, Isaiah 5:20 ; Romans 1:18 – 32)

Among the many different angles of attack that an enmeshment with sin disposes a subject to, it will distract a subject from their created purposes by consuming them with desires that have been left unfettered or fettered to a degree. While enmeshed in the acts of sin, the subject is causing damage to themselves and others. That damage takes time to heal from. That healing is a necessary part of finding footing on the just way that is both difficult and narrow. That way leads to an abundance of life and is worth ascertaining and faithfully making purchase of.

4. **What is the relationship, based on God's consequences, between woman and the serpent?**

Going Deeper - Consider both Hava's personal relationship with God as well as the general realtionship women share with God. Is this consequence of woman's rooted in man's relationship to HaSatan, with man being the head of woman? Or is woman's consequence solely on her shoulders, without having any interference by man whatsoever? (Reference, 1 Corinthians 11:3) (man being woman's protector)?

Bonus - Look into the verse describing the enemy's curse, in Hebrew. Find the words for "bruise", both describing what the enemy will do to the heel of the woman's Seed, as well as what the woman's Seed will do to the serpent's head. Is it the same word? Search through the Bible's Tenach and find other examples where the Hebrew word(s) is (are) used. Consider writing an essay concerning what The Almighty shows you through The Helper, that is The Holy Spirit, while you study.

Prayer and Meditation – a) Man is the head of woman, much like women are the illustrious head of their children: both of these relationships, when done properly, reflect God being head over righteous men. As a man, consider your wife's responsibilities to your family as laid out in Genesis 3. How is it that you can provide strength and support in her blossoming as, and presiding eminently and victoriously over her children as a woman of faith in regard specifically to her Genesis 3 responsibilities?

b) Secondly, as a women with female friends, how can you and your friends "lay your lives down for one another" in order to form a team of faith, shields linked together, in accomplishing your Genesis 3 tasks at hand for your families and communities? The world is ever spending resources on the war against your submissive and chaste mission in providing a healthy, functional, holy home for your husband and

children. If your community is already occupied in making use of your Godly, extant character: what a light you are! How can you strengthen this area where you are doing well?

c) Diving deeper into prayer and meditation, with the fundamentals of a woman occupied in her holy calling laid out before us, look at the prophetess Devorah (Reference, Judges 4). If you look at her objectively, is she occupied with what it fundamentally means to be a woman? If she does not, ask God: what's up with that? He will answer and the truth will be revealed to those who handle truth in righteousness.

Commentary - God has put enmity between the woman and the serpent. The serpent, in this state of enmity, is fighting a losing battle: the serpent's head is bruised while the Seed of the woman's heel is bruised.

Man's fleshly strength is physical and logical in the world's ways. The battle is not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities spiritually. Man's superior bodily strength is an image of a man's potential spiritual strength, if a man chooses to attend to his call towards spiritual fecundity. Why would God make man stronger than women? In order to fulfill his calling. Why would God make women weaker than men? In order to fulfill their Godly calling. The man woman relationship is an image, when done properly, of the God mankind relationship.

The difficulty women face is that men are not God, men are flawed, much like themselves. This difficulty was given to women on purpose and with purpose. Many women live thier entire lives running from that purpose with all they have. Those women are on a wide and easy road with much fellowship to enjoy. Women fulfilling their purpose are on a narrow and difficult road, lacking honor from men. Their path is laden with various challenges that forces deeper felowship with The Almighty. You go girl! We honor you here and now for being the salt of the earth and a light on a hill. Your strength is a testimony and a blessing. You have a greater place in heaven that awaits you.

Going Deeper - What verse(s) describes man's being the head of woman? What does that verse reveal about who is the head of man? Explain the overall point(s) being made in that chapter of Scripture. Note: this Scripture is found in the Brit Chadashah, the New Testament (ברית חדשה).

Bonus - In verse 15, God is speaking to the serpent about woman and about woman's Seed. In that verse God uses the word "it" to describe to the serpent just what will be bruising his head. What Hebrew word is used there and whom is the word describing?

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

5. **How are the responsibilities associated with bruising the serpent's head also in man's hands, based on verse 15?**

Going Deeper - This use of the word Seed is a very useful polysemy. Describe how "seed", referring to those in the loins of Hava, puts the responsibility of bruising the head of the serpent in the hands of all people. Then, look at it differently: describe how the use of the word "Seed", referring to Yeshua (who was in the loins of Hava), describes Yeshua's responsibility concerning the bruising of the head of the serpent.

Now that both us and God's responsibility concerning this Scripture's insinuations has been addressed: the essence of this Going Deeper prompt: Describe how, although the responsibility to bruise the serpent's head rests in both the hands of Yeshua and men, the ways that the responsibilities between the two of us are carried are quite disparate. Furthermore, despite the many differnces, there are many similarities. Write an essay, Biblical fan-fiction piece, or a lecture, paint a painting, or carve a sculpture creatively evoking this lesson. Before making your art, using a venn diagram, draw yourself a map that begins to deeply dive into this subject.

Going Deeper Yet Still – a) Now, with the goal of bruising the head of the serpent being the same between man and Yeshua, and the responsibilities in attaining that goal being both similar and disparate: explain how this God-man goal and relationship is a good reflection of a healthy husband wife relationship.

b) Once the similarities of the healthy God-man, husband wife relationship are addressed, describe how a healthy God-man and God-woman relationship do not share the same boundaries as a healthy mairrage.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Consider that Hava had been beguiled. Describe why it is a fitting punishment that Hava and her Seed would bruise the serpent's head as part of the serpent's curse.

Commentary - Now here, we have another reference, from the beginning, pointing to Yeshua: pointing to His relationship with us; further, how we may interact with Him in a healthy and appropriate way. Yeshua is a Seed of woman. No, not really. Instead, Yeshua is The Seed of Hava, not "a seed". You and I were also in the loins of Hava but we have the choice to reflect the first Adam or the second Adam (Reference, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49): disobedience or obedience. So if we choose obedience repeatedly, the Victorious Seed sprouts and lives richly in place of the weaker plant. This Seed, invigorating us with an abundance of life, leads to times of fruit bearing and the victory of The Good Seed over the weaker plant. Yeshua's purpose is to provide salvation from the serpent both without and within.

Here, Yeshua is referenced in supernal fashion, precisely where He is needed most: as the source of victory over not just sin, but the enormously powerful potentate which sin's desire and the seeming necessity of performing sinful acts springs from. You see clearly now, no? Like a message in a painting you've gazed upon dozens of times, patiently waiting for your readied eye. Now, your gaze grasps gracefully, knowing now that it is not man who needs sin, but it is the enemy who needs for man to sin.

Here in these verses, victory is planted as seed. From the beginning of the battle against the enemy, the solution is presented: as if planned. It was planned. You are able. Yeshua wants to be victorious in your life. Do you want Him to be victorious in your life? Are you willing for your heel to be bruised to avoid being devoured? Nay, are you excited for your heel to be bruised, looking at the victory that will result? He laid His life down, making known His desire to save all willing. He put on display His capability in overcoming not just sin, but death itself. He made a public mockery of the enemy (Reference, Collosians 2:15). Have you wholly sacrificed your life on His altar in order that these things can become possible for you? Most who engage in this study have partially done so. Without your participation, the illusion of your just living which has cultivated

your rebellion stands.

Some of the virtues you hold most dear were made dear to you, your community, your nation, by the hands of the evil one precisely for his rebellious spirit to live richly in you. This, not that we murder, steal, and rape. He would have us doing those things if he could, but when he cannot, he must be more subtle and less destructive, desparately grasping for whatever he can. Once his grip takes hold it is no longer he that is the desparate one. It was a hopeful grip on your heart, making you a vessel for his desires: for sin, for wickedness that led you not astray from salvation, but from strength in your relationship with God. You must count the cost and make purchase if you will love God. More so than ever before. More. You need more love for God everyday, lest you fall continually into the trappings of the Great Deceiver.

Adam & Eve's Consequences

Eve

1. **What are/were the consequences meted out to woman as a result of her fall?**

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Of the two sins, Hava seems to have been the least guilty as she was beguiled into thinking that what she was doing was good. Adam was not beguiled, so the nature of his sin is different than Hava's. Now, of the curses meted out, Hava's curse involves enduring the highest level of physical pain. Consider why this pain was a necessary part of the solution to the problem of her being easily beguiled.

Another Perspective - Let's take a look at the curse of woman involving the male female relationship. "Your desire will be for your husband, and he shall rule over you," (Reference, Genesis 3:16). How might this have been a deviation from the culture of the male female relationship previous to the fall?

Going Deeper – a) In the fall, Hava did two separate actions: the first action was to eat the fruit herself. What may have changed for her after eating the fruit?

b) After taking some time to meditate on that, then: the second action was to deliver the fruit to her husband in a way that was arguably enticing to him.

Spend some time in prayer, sorting through both of these separate actions and how God handled each of them. Keep in mind the theme of this study, teaching us the difference between what man is and what man is not while meditating.

2. **Within the consequences given to woman was labor being very painful. Describe how this punishment fits the crime. (Hint: consider God's feelings.)**

Considering the Commands - Contemplate the nature of events that constitute childbirth with its pain, its

inherent discomforts, and its unvarnished realities. Reflect, too, on the divinely ordained decrees concerning childbirth—mandates designed to safeguard the woman, both physically and spiritually, whose body serves as the salubrious vessel for the perpetuation of life during such an unvarnished time.

Within The Almighty's sagacious directives lies a profound metaphor. Consider how the arduous realities of childbirth, in light of God's loving commands, serve as a canvas for contemplating the spiritual labor of bearing fruit. What lessons might these physical trials reveal about the deeper calling to bear spiritual fruit? Reflect upon this metaphor and its implications, and articulate your own insights on this beautiful canvas whose subject is bearing fruit.

1. **Do the consequences that are a result of God's sound judgment serve to fix problems? Are they selfless? Do they come as a flippant response driven by emotion and anger, failing to be founded on a great deal of love, logic, and wholeness?**

Going Deeper - Take a look at Yeshua's death. It is an extreme display culminating in both His love for fallen mankind, and His strength over the enemy. Now look at the creation of man, the work He gave man to do, as well as the curses that were the result of man's fall.

This prompt requires an intimate knowledge of both events and a close relationhsip with His Ruach in order to answer in a satisfying way. If you are not there yet, my friend, I again encourage you not to be discouraged, but to move to the prompt that is just beyond your reach as oppossed to a leap you are not yet prepared to take. There is no shame in respecting where you are in your walk, so long as you are indeed ever moving forward.

How is the account in Genesis a more well-rounded accounting of God's love as compared to the account we see looking at only the work He performed for us on the cross? (Hint: let this glean some of God's character for you by considering God's wants and needs, more than your own: much like you would in any healthy relationship).

Commentary - God's consequences are logical and are served with a great deal of understanding, attention, grace and purpose. Yet, the requisite suffering involved in being on the path that garners such attention from God, the path of righteousness, can be challenging to accept. Further, while in the throes of discipline, it may be hard to see the love of God's actions, but for those who submit to His correction, a life of joy and fulfillment begins to emerge. The enemy's counterfeit to this life-giving discipline is vengeance, which seeks not redemption but destruction.

People often decry God's judgment as a result of the pain and needless, or inefficient suffering they have experienced as a result of man's vengeance. Human judgment, or as we have more accurately described as vengeance, frequently seeks to harm rather than heal, offering fleeting satisfaction to the one who judges while leaving the judged more broken and clever than before – a decidedly negative impact whose consequences are shared by all. While the consequences of human vengeance are so disparate from the salubrious environment cultivated by God's judgment, it remains inevitable that humanity will experience human vengeance. This stems from mankind's failure to accept God's judgment.

Contrary to the nearly inescapable vengeance of mankind, God's judgment is desperately needed as a regular part of our lives. Elohim's judgment is a cornerstone that one must seek diligently and accept wholeheartedly with joy and gratitude if they will be made whole by it. Furthermore, **God is a Judge**—a Righteous Judge—Who does not permit His children to persist in sin (Hebrews 12:6). He must be accepted as He truly is, or He will not be as present in our lives as we might want to believe. This, God's being distant in our lives if we choose to reject His judgment, is a hard truth that many of us cannot handle right now. It is a painful and emotionally draining reality. It hurts, my friend, I know. You are not alone. I have been there too. The good news is that there is a solution to the problem of the mendacious distance from God that we often feel nagging just under the surface of the loud part of our psyche.

Understanding that our chastening is guided by purposeful, healthy, and loving intent that is wholly functional at the highest degree possible plays a vital role in building the resilience required to endure the correction that transforms us from victims of sin into victors over it. This understanding, working in harmony with other truths found in the discipline, contributes significantly to the strength needed for such transformation to be found wholly effective and pleasing. Embracing this truth is no simple matter. Perhaps the greatest hurdle, even for the astute and mature, is learning to trust what can feel so akin to human vengeance and to do so with gratitude. It is leaping into this gratitude that hampers even the shadow of backbiting. Gratitude, like a red carpet, welcomes the presence of God.

Getting Personal - Let’s explore this foundational man-God conversation as Canon, to help determine if we were deceived or serving the One True God in times of intimate prayer. When have you been guilty of sin in your life and gone to God with it? When you did go to God, it is possible that He may have allowed the enemy to muddy the waters of conversation. It may have been confusing and you may have not been sure which answer or voice was His. Let’s build your confidence on solid ground. Now, look at the character of God displayed in this circumstance between God and the woman Hava (Genesis 3). Couple Hava’s circumstance with others in Scripture where God displayed more mercy. Really take the time to meditate and pray on all the aspects of the circumstances, weighing God’s judgment in each.

Now look at your own sin and the times you brought that sin to God. Did you experience the same character as those patriarchs who serve as examples of relationship with God to us? If you did not, you are being beguiled. Satan’s job is to trick you into thinking that he is God. He isn’t just called the deceiver, but he is called the Great Deceiver (Reference, Revelation 12:9), for he will win over many, ensnaring them in his trap. That title would be a misnomer if he was not capable of deceiving great people of God, if God in His infinite wisdom would allow it. This, my beloved friend, I know is a hard question. This challenge, if truly considered, leaves most of us feeling vulnerable and uncomfortable. This vulnerability you may be feeling right now is not a result of this question: this question only brings a hidden thing to the light for those who have been beguiled. In other words, your vulnerability was always there, while you were deceived into thinking that everything will be fine, just fine... In this Getting Personal prompt, consider what has been said, what you have learned from this section about God's true character and seek to find not what you want God to be, but what He truly is. You know who He truly is based upon studying His attributes as displayed in Sacred Writ. We learn from the prophet Hosea that “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

Bonus - Find the Hebrew word for judgment and study it out. What does it mean when you dive deeper? Find also the Hebrew word for consequence (or penalty, or punishment) and explore at least 3 times it is used in the Tanach (Old Testament). Use this new found knowledge to write an essay, or a paper comparing and contrasting the differences and similarities of these words which The Helper guided your eye to see. If your talent is song, then write a song, or a painting, sculpture, etc that creatively sings the song of what God teaches you through this prompt.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day

Read Genesis 3

2. **Direct your eye towards the second of the two penalties for woman. Are today's women accepting this consequence?**

Getting Personal - Women who have accepted the second penalty's consequence: how are their marriages going? How are their relationships with God going? Those who have not accepted these consequences: their marriages and seeming relationship with God? What do you see as the fruit of these two distinct groups of women?

Considering the Commands - Make a list of all the commands that you believe point to the differences between man and woman, giving mankind helpful instructions on how the husband-wife relationship ought to be governed. Now look to the New Testament and find Scriptures that dive deeper into Torah's foundational concepts, agreeing with The Tenach's commands considering man and woman.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Look at the relationship between mankind and God. How does that relationship reflect in a Biblically healthy relationship between a husband and wife?

3. **When man responded to God saying, "the woman … she gave me [the fruit]...", was this true?**

a) Explain how Adam's response was both deceitful and a reflection of Satan.
b) How could Adam's response have changed Hava's view of Adam in that moment? How would it have changed Hava's view of Adam in retrospect? Consider these questions both from resentment and bitterness as well as from forgiveness and humility.
c) If Adam had responded to the circumstance appropriately, how would this have changed Hava's view of him in that moment? How would that appropriate response have changed Hava's view of Adam in restrospect for her?

Going Deeper - While both Adam and Hava made big mistakes, God had planned for their lives to be for help, support and protection of one another. Describe how resentment and bitterness puts big roadblocks in the way of a healthy relationship between man and woman. Consider this phenomena between Adam & Hava. What kind of resentments would they have been naturally disposed to have for one another? How what might the fight have looked like to find reconciliation between themselves?

Adam & Eve's Consequences

Adam

1. **What were the consequences meted out to man?**

2. **Think about why the need to eat is a curse. How does man view eating?**

Going Deeper - With most men considering food to be a leisurely, enjoyable activity to partake in, consider the engineering of a curse. What is its purpose? How is it applied?

Considering the Commands - There is a command in Torah that instructs us to pray to God after a meal has satisfied us (Reference, Deuteronomy 8:10), in thanks to Him. In light of this curse, how does the command strike you? If you put your feelings aside, what does logic and love teach, in thinking about these two truths at the same time?

Another Perspective - Consider writing an essay, lecture, Biblical fan-fiction, or creative writing piece that compares and contrasts the two ideas for "curse" - the Hollywood rendition of the word, and God's more trustworthy and stalwart way of seeing it.

Commentary I - The answer provided in the moderator's copy of the study concerning this bold, foundation question could easily be misconstrued to say that man viewing eating with pleasure is a bad thing. That would show that the foundation that was taught, concerning what a curse truly is, from the previous section was lost.

This, man finding pleasure in eating, is not a bad thing. This is a piece to the puzzle that teaches what a curse truly is, and to help us understand God's nature more clearly so that we can display His image more accurately. If you misunderstood the nature of this question, take as much time as is necessary to go back over previous sections that provide a more realistic foundation concerning the semantics for the word "curse". Taking the time to go back and reorganize your thoughts would be to do yourself and those in your community a big favor.

Commentary II - This section of Scripture provides us with the first curse, replete with the various intricacies of the curse. The first time a term comes up in Scripture, that term tends to define that thing as a foundation. Let's take the opportunity. Thanks to movies, magik, and witchcraft we often see curses as being horrific, sometimes weird and obscure things. Here, in this first curse, we find it was not sourced in a witch or a sorcerer, but it was given to Adam from God.

As a nearly neccesary digression: while God's hands do not curse, it is He that orchestrates or facilitates shall we say, the hands that do the cursing, the degree to which the curse can play out, the nature of the curse, the length of time the curse is effective, and so on, all while not being intimately involved with the curse itself. How profound it is that the details and boundaries of the curse are wholly and completely under God's control,

yet He is not the one doing the cursing, nor is he intimately involved in it. The enemy, who hates Him, succoring his hateful desires under the sway of The Almighty's power. Imagine living in a reality where the punishments from God that we endured had nothing to do with the crime. There was never a why, or a how to do better from it, and no sense at all to our suffering? If the enemy were having it his way, we would live in that chaos.

An example: The owner of a landscape company has two crews: one crew of men with no tattoos, no swearing, and they pray before every work day as well as volunteer one day a week to conduct a Bible Study together. Another crew smokes, cusses and volunteers their off time to drink together, chase women, and devise ways to steal from the company. The owner has been training a promising, but young man for an entire summer and winter. The young man one day, the boss finds out, has began to drink more often, and in bad taste. The boss takes the young man off of the good crew and puts him in with the rough crew. The boss does not do this in hopes that the young man will become part of the rough crew, but that it will help him to learn not to behave in that way. It ends up working. The young man sees all the negative things that happen to him when he is surrounded by those who are much further down the road he stepped foot on and he cleans his act up. He has no desire to become like that. It takes both leadership judging with righteous judgment and the one being judged recognizing whats going on and humbling themselves to the leaderships chastening for that scenario to work out well.

Just like with the young landscaper we see that Adam's curse was given as a direct result of Adam's actions; this falls in line with the Scripture that assures us that a curse undeserved shall not fall upon a person (Reference, Proverbs 26:2). So we have established where a true curse comes from and that it, for the true child of God, always has a loving purpose: being that its sticking or not sticking is God orchestrated. As an aside, it is important to note that this varies, not drastically but somewhat, concerning those who are not heaven bound. God does not chasten those who do not love Him, they experience a similar but different thing that directs them in different ways, in short, in the world's ways.

Now, let's look at the nature of the first curse. When God made Adam, He gave Adam two disparate tasks. One of the tasks had an end: naming the animals; but, another task was to till the garden. A meaningful note to consider in forming who God is in your mind: Adam's tilling the garden task had great spiritual significance. Adam was made from the clay, or the dust of the earth, or the ground. Adam was told to till the ground, the thing he was formed from. His tilling the ground around him was meant as a guide in the caretaking of himself. As he labored each day he would be producing both physical fruit as well as spiritual fruit for God within himself. So there was a beautiful purpose to Adam's task, man's task (as in Hebrew the word Adam in fact means man).

Once Adam was banished from the garden, did the task that was given to him change? Adam's task did not change, he was not manumitted from the purpose God had given him, and he did not evolve into a being who was tasked with another purpose or ideology. His task was still, at its core, to serve God through working the ground. Now, however, he was no longer allowed to till the ground inside the garden. He had trespassed God's command over his life and the result was that he now lived in enemy territory outside of the garden. Here, where we children of Adam have our being in enemy territory, Adam was tasked with tilling the ground yet still; the task took on a more mendacious air outside of the garden, the ground now would also produce thorns and thistles. Do you see the mechanics of this curse? There was no change in task or purpose although the landscape where the task was to be completed did change. Do you see how it changed? Unfruitful labor

included alongside the fruitful labor, confusion, deceit, disappointment and disarray among the order. This is an important distinction to make for anyone who is wishing to be a high functioning member of the body of Messiah. This distinction will help us to see what God is doing in our lives because whether we are conscience of what He is doing or not, He will be doing it. Loved one, let this hard truth be a truth you see in your life, so as to strengthen your relationship not with who you want God to be, but with who God is.

3. **Explain what it was that Adam did to be cursed.**

Commentary - Adam's sin is detailed out like this: he heeded the voice of his wife in a matter of sin, instead of taking authority over her and putting his foot down when she thought that sin was the right thing to do.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - We have explored how Adam's tilling the ground was a reflection of his tending to himself. In meditation and prayer, consider how Adam's tending to the ground, and tending to himself, would help him build his skills in his relationship with his wife Hava and cause Hava's "desire for him" to be a positive and prolific desire for her and in turn for them.

Going Deeper - Looking for deep contextual allusions to the sanctification, consecration, and eventual salvation of Adam and Hava, see if there is anything in the text that hints towards Adam and Hava finding favor in God's eyes, repenting to Him away from their sinful nature, and finding that they were able to be fruitful and multiply not just physically, but spiritually as well.

Bonus - Look up the word in Hebrew that is translated to "curse". Explore other uses of the word "curse" in The Canon. Find at least three more uses beyond our study text and use strictly the context clues from our examples to define that Hebrew word. Spend some time on that: consider writing a one page(ish) paper on what you find. Now, once that is complete, look up the way that Brown Drivers Briggs, Strong's and other concordances define the term. Compare and contrast. Lastly, compare those definitions with what a person generally means when they use the word curse.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

4. **Hava was taken from Adam's rib and formed. There are many reasons why Hava was formed. According to the text, what is a major reason for Hava being formed?**

Getting Personal I - If God gave Adam a garden to till, and Hava was his helpmate, what was Hava to do?

Getting Personal II - If Adam was banished from the garden, where does that leave Hava?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Exploring these foundations of the roles God ordained for men and women to fulfill for one another, look at how we are taught, using virtue, to behave in these relationships. Are the virtues we are taught in line with our true foundational purposes? If not, what can we do to find reconciliation with God's vitues?

Scripture Meditation, Prayer, Going Deeper & Getting Personal - As the body of Messiah it is very easy to look to the LGBTQ+ movement pointing the finger, and rightfully so, as their selfishly driven mendacious behaviors devastate our society. We find ourselves utterly incapable of getting a handle on the situation as they continue to rampage through our communities with their morally destabilizing virtues. Their filth has scarred our children's minds, starting at a very young age. History will not speak kindly of us, being a community who was not able to keep their radical sin in the dark, behind closed doors, and at the very least around adults only.

It is easy to point the finger at them, because God has designed the curse, that is their sexually driven and perverse culture with its virtue signalling, niceness, and political corretness, on our world on purpose and with purpose. Let that resonate for a moment before moving on: that particular sub-culture has such power, and not another - on purpose: He could have orchestrated it such that some other morally perverse group has power, but He has not. Now, their subculture is a reflection of a problem that is occurring within God's people, it is a reflection, though indirect, aligned enough to guide our open eyes to see what in our hearts we need to change in order to please God. Taming the immorality within is how to get a handle on what's going on around us. "Take the beam out of your eye, before removing the speck from your brother's eye," more or less (Reference, Matthew 7:5).

Really take the time to pray and meditate on this opportunity which God is placing before you, beckoning you to change the way that you operate, fight for that change, go on the adventure you are being called to, and claim victory over the dysfunction in your life, so that you can stand strong, being more pleasing to your Father's eye than you once were. The beating heart of the body of faith stands before the mirror which the world operates within. Don't ever forget that.

5. **Are Adam and Hava's curses equal?**

Going Deeper – a) There were two things Hava did as a vessel for the enemy to precipitate the fall. What are they?

b) Explore the different ramifications the first sin of Hava had, and the ramifications of the second as well. Of these two actions, which of them is shared by Adam? Which of the two actions is not shared by Adam?

Apologetics - Consider this question's Going Deeper prompt, set up a defense for God using virtue as described by Scripture, explaining why God's cursing Hava differently than He cursed Adam is just, right, true, and full of virtue: good.

Considering the Commands - Considering this question's Going Deeper, and your knowledge of Torah, write up a short paper describing the laws broken in Hava's fallen action. Then, also the laws broken in Hava's second fallen action. If your talent is not in writing you can apply yourslef to any creative outlet to answer the question – media, design, video editing, etc.

Getting Personal - Considering this question's Going Deeper, Apologetics, and Considering the Commands: look to your own life and find things that you have done that are images of what Hava did. If you are a child, look at how you did these things against your mother. If you are a young man or young woman, look at how you

did these things against your father. If you are a wife, look to how you did these things against your husband. If you are a husband, look at how you did these things against God. Now, don't overwhelm yourself, beloved: pick one of those things that you have not brought to God. Bring it to God and look for judgment and mercy to heal your broken heart concerning this thing. Have faith, The Almighty is powerful to forgive, save, strengthen.

6. **Although Adam's cursing was not directed to him personally, it did in fact curse him. What was the curse that affected Adam the most?**

Commentary - At the first, Adam's presence in creation was a blessing to it. His naming the animals was a blessing to the animals; circles of learned men understand the naming of a thing to be very special: giving the named a purpose and value. Adam's presence in the garden was a blessing to the garden; but when Adam sinned against his Creator, The Almighty: because of him the ground which he had to till became cursed. This reveals that a man, when he fails or succeeds, the consequences of his victory or defeat do not stop with him, but is shared among, at the least, those things he is responsible for.

Going Deeper - Consider this question's Commentary and write a similar Commentary pointing to the various effects that were delegated as a result of Hava's sin, showing that her fall did not affect only herself. Keep in mind that the first sin of Hava was her being beguiled, which is very hard to avoid, unless you know just what to do to avoid it. Seek The Holy Spirit's guidance and be obedient to His call.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Hava was beguiled into seeing that the tree was good for food when it wasn't. How could she have dodged that bullet? Hint: consider the resources that were at hand, if she had only reached out and used them.

Adam & Eve's Consequences

Making Sense of God's Judgments

Read Genesis 3 (still)

1. **What was the most major consequence (not necessarily listed as one of the curses) to Adam for his sin?**

Going Deeper - Adam was told that in the day that he ate of the fruit, he would die. Explain what God meant by that.

Going Deeper Yet Still - When the fall occurred, Adam was both separated from God and reconciliation was available. Explain what attribute of God's character is being displayed in the separation from God. Explain what attribute of God was being displayed in reconciliation being made available.

Getting Personal - This Getting Personal, more or less and in short, answers the Going Deeper Yet Still prompt. Do not read this question if you intend to genuinely experience the previous prompt.

Look at the attributes of God described in the Going Deeper Yet Still section of this question. When you have sinned, did you find that the "God" you interacted with displayed the same character presented here in this story: showing not just mercy, but using sound judgment to provide for you both the comforts of chastisement and the comforts of mercy together, working as a team, to bring you to a place of strength against your fall? Or have you entered into a committed relationship with a "Higher Spiritual Power" which has provided you with comfort minus the strength needed to more than hamper the use of your vessel for sinful desires again, making absolutely certain that you continue in anti salvation?

2. **After Adam was chastised and given the terms of his future chastisements, he was given a coat of animal skin. What had to take place for the animal skins to be provided?**

Considering the Commands - Look into the types of sacrifices in Torah. Considering the type of sin that was committed, what kind of sacrifice did God likely perform for the couple?

Going Deeper - What is being alluded to for the couple, and for us, in the covering them over with animal skins?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Use the Scriptures to describe Adam's death (as defined here by God). Use the Scriptures to describe Adam's life (as Biblically defined).

Commentary - Adam was banished from the garden, separated from God. Adam was given a coat of skin to wear, keeping him from nakedness before The Lord. This kept Adam from being wholly separated from The Father, running from Him constantly. The coat given to him by God is a picture of Yeshua, who reconciles us to God: a clue for the couple, who did not have the benefit of the gospel in plain language like we do today, that God was about the business of reconciling man to Himself despite man's propensity for mendacious behavior.

3. **When Adam was made, what was he made from?**

Bonus - Find the word(s) for "dust of the ground" in Hebrew. Consider studying it out.

Going Deeper - Scientifically we understand that the same elements that make up the dust of the earth, make up the human body. Exactly the same elements: this is because the earth was used to make us. We understand, scientifically, that these same elements make up animals as well (this is an assumption from the author). When reading the Scriptures you see that God takes the time to go into detail about the various physical and spiritual elements that make man what he is. Consider why God takes the time to inform us of what we "Adam" (pronounced Ah-dom) are made of, while leaving this information out in the description of the animals being created.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Ask any Bible believing person what man is made from and "dust of the ground" will most likely be the answer. Another thing we are made from is the breath of God, which was breathed into our nostrils (Reference, Genesis 2:7). Consider two things in your meditation and prayer time today.

1. Reading the text in order, what is the first thing man is made from, or "in"? (Hint: it is neither of the first two things mentioned here). Remember The Law of First Appearance when answering this question and pontificating on the nature of man.

2. The word for "man" in Hebrew is "Ish" (pronounced eesh). Sometimes, though, God uses the word "Adam" to refer to man. This reference is on purpose and with meaningful, life giving purpose.

Another Perspective - The Book of Leviticus is often called the heart of The Father, as it is all about how to sacrifice properly. The first chapter of Leviticus is the proper procedures when an "Adam", not an "Ish" comes to attempt sacrifice properly before God, with a Priest (Hebrew, Cohen) there to guide the sacrifice and handle the flesh after its passing on.

Consider the nature of man, with it being made from the two substances: earth and Breath of God, which of the two substances is an "Adam" being called to sacrifice? Once that question is answered, ask The Helper within both why, and how this will benefit you (not just God) once the sacrifice is complete. Hold on to this answer next time the sacrifice is taking place in your life and it seems too great a sacrifice to endure.

Hold on to hope, there is a day that's soon approaching. The weak are made strong. Hold on. Trust in His love, even though the night seems like forever.
Hold On

4. **When Adam was placed in the garden, what was he placed there to do?**

Going Deeper - In tilling the garden, name some of the vegetation that Adam was responsible for caring for. Was there any vegetation he was to let grow wildly? Would he have been found rebellious to allow any of the garden under his care to grow wildly?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Although Adam was told directly to till the ground, physically, of the

garden, this command was the penultimate goal. What was the main purpose underlying the direct physical command?

Hebrew Challenge - Look up the words Abba (Hebrew: Father) used to command Adam to till the garden, or to tell us that Adam's office was to care for the garden. Memorize that verse in Hebrew.

Bonus - Look up the Hebrew word that scholars translated to "till". Look up also the word "ground". Enjoy a creative study deeply diving into the spiritual significance of these words and their place in the fabric of reality we so freely practice our being in.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day
Read Genesis 3

5. **When Adam was cursed, what was he still meant to do and where?**

Bonus - Look up the word "curse" in Hebrew. What do you find it is defined as? What do you find it is translated to? The previous two questions asked are asking what Concordances and Bible commentaries define and translate this term to. Now, using The Law of First Appearances, and your personal and powerful relationship with The Almighty, define the term.

Going Deeper - Look at the conversation God and Adam had with one another about sin. Look at the way Adam reacted. Now, look at the way the earth was meant to react to Adam's tilling it. If you see a connection, consider going off on a tangent explaining the harsh, yet beautiful intricacies of the order that we have the pleasure of existing within. If you are not a tangential thinker, simply describe the connection you see in the way that God is calling you to describe it.

Commentary & Going Deeper I - As a society today, we have lost a great deal of value in understanding the nature of the Lord-Servant roles. Kingdoms, or Oligarchies do not exist like they once did. For those who do not study History, the common narrative would lead one to believe that History unfortunately lacks kingdoms with leadership displaying truly servant hearts. This is likely due to a gross misuse of power on the side of lords of yesteryear. For metaphorical purposes, take a moment and consider how an Oligarchy could work well in a world that was whole and healthy.

Considering the fantasy of a positive relationship between a Lord or King and his subjects, look at Adam. He is God's subject. Adam was created for a purpose and given a beautiful, living, prolific territory to govern within the very protected walls of the Kingdom. Adam's King did all the work of providing that territory for Adam, while Adam did nothing but receive the free gift. Seeing this persepctive, extrapolate on these thoughts.

Commentary & Going Deeper II - As God's subject, Adam was eventually banished from the Garden, or the Kingdom's inner, protected chambers. Let's consider one of the several appropriate boundaries that were set around the terms of the banishment. Was Adam banished from serving his King?

Once this question is answered, ask yourself if mankind has slipped away from their purpose, with the governments of this world tending towards a less Heavenly Doctrine of rule. Although our governments often times fail to reflect Heaven, or to connect themselves to heaven as their top of the hierarchy, is it possible to personally connect yourself to God as the top of your hierarchy and interact with others who live their lives, willingly within, that nesting system of hierarchy from individual, to family, to community, to province, to Kingdom, to King, to King of kings?

6. **What was Hava's curse?**

Going Deeper - Consider Hava's curse: what was the curse and what good thing came on the other side of going through the curse? All of the following prompts use the answer to this question in them. Fully explore your answer before moving forward to other prompts if you intend to genuinely tend to the garden of your heart.

Going Deeper & Getting Personal - God tells us that today, a woman's birthing process has an "increased" amount of pain. This means it was meant, before the curse, to be very mildly painful and the level of discomfort minimal at best. Consider the various differences that would be the reality in the mother-child relationship if the beautiful honor of bringing children into the world were not cursed the way it is.

Going Deeper Yet Still & Getting Very Personal - Look at the two women who brought Solomon's first great judgment before him (Reference, 1 Kings 3:16 - 28) The guilty woman: how had she killed her baby? Describe how this singular physical event describes a very universal spiritual problem all mothers must overcome. Victory here promises fecundity in familial relationships and healthy prosperous living, instead of dysfunctional but prosperous living as we in America have found. Be ye set apart, holy, as your Father is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

Bonus I - The word "increased" is used to describe the curse of pain on labor. This word is translated from what Hebrew word? Find at least three other closely connected uses of this word in the Tenach. Also see if you can find a few that are similar, or tangentially similar. Use this body of knowledge to write a paper on the definition of the Hebrew word, how God uses it, and how it points to God in a meaningful, intellectually stimulating, or beautiful way. Consider common misuses of the word.

Bonus II – Now that you have mastered the use of the word "increase" symantically founded in sacred writ, consider common misuses of the word.

7. **Consider the curse which affected Adam the most. What was it and how did it affect him?**

Going Deeper - Consider the curse which affected Adam, what good thing came on the other side of the curse?

Going Deeper Yet Still - One of the curses was the need to eat. Consider how much time and resources eating takes up in a man's life. Now ask why. What do you find? Was God just in doing this? Finally, look at the canvas that is food production, cooking, and eating as used by God to paint many spiritual ideas for us. Ask yourself if the way you govern your affairs with the rebellious others in your life looks like the way God dealt with Adam. Is your image that of God?

As a friendly aside: if your answer is, "No, I don't handle affairs in this way" - do not forget to look to

Sodom and Gomorrah, David and Goliath, God and Nabal and the prophecies in Revelation also. If these seemingly disparate images of our Father's character leaves you stumped, fast and pray for God's guidance in governing your relationships in a healthier way that is more acceptable to God. This is a battle worth fighting.

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Look at the nature of how the curse which affected Hava was placed. Look at the way in which Adam's curse was placed. In your time of meditation and prayer throughout the day, ask God, The Hepler, to show you the subtle difference in these two ways that the curses were placed for the couple. Once you see it, ask how the differences were perfectly personal and appropriate for the couple's road of repentance.

Considering the Commands - At this point in the Canonical narrative Torah had not been given to Adam, or "man-kind" yet. None-the-less, the rules of engagement laid out in Deuteronomy 28 were still governing, as they are today. Today, we can simply open The Book and the reality of the way The Creator governs the universe are explained to us in simple, easy to understand terms. Back then, people were in the dark. This structure available to us, was only available to those whose minds were soft and malleable in the hands of The Potter.

List a few of the commands in Torah that describe to us, who are blossoming in God's ways, Torah's rules and regulations surrounding the bringing of fruit up and out of the earth. With Adam toiling in the venture of gardening, how successful do you think he was in learning God's way of gardening? Use Scripture, if possible, to back up your reasoning.

8. **The previous two questions were designed to guide you in the successful purchase of the true nature of a curse on those who love God, but fail to fulfill their created purpose. What is the true nature of a curse? What is the purpose of a curse?**

Adam & Eve's Consequences

Reconciliation

Read Genesis 3 (yet still more)

We all agree that man has a propensity towards sin. Where the author's opinion on the matter differs from most is that man also has a propensity towards victory over sin. This study helps to reveal a reason why we sin. Many people, knowing that the serpent is the father of all sinful things, point the arrows of blame in his direction. His powerful sway over the flesh is the reason we sin after-all, isn't it? That is a mistake. We see this sway in the first section of Genesis. The serpent's agility in handling sinful man is part of understanding what man is. Knowing the nature of our weakness, its root, is helpful. This understanding provides us with, if only a glimpse, eyes on our vision, our purpose, our adventure, the dragon we must slay to save the village and bring back the bounties it guarded for the Kingdom to share in.

While knowing why we sin is helpful, it, by itself, does not solve the problem. Stopping short at knowing why we sin is like seeing the enemy and then doing nothing to face the enemy. Unfortunately, knowing why we sin, for some people, has the opposite of its appropriate effect. Some of God's beloved children, when they see why we sin, settle into believing that man is so sinful, and Satan so powerful, that it is not possible to overcome sin on this side of the dirt. With that mentality, it is truly impossible to overcome sin. Making the vision seem impossible to achieve makes it impossible to achieve for the victims who believe that lie. Believing that overcoming sin is hopeless, is a dangerous cancer that has the world's heart and mind under its tyrannical boot.

That hopeless gospel message bears bad fruit. It is for this purpose that the enemy has made purchase of that lie. Believing sin is too powerful to overcome is a lie that has a stronghold on most of our brothers and sisters. It is alive and flourishing, being preached from the pulpit and putting a mouthful of lies into well-meaning, but ignorant children of God. Most, sadly, live their lives as victims to their unfettered desires. Some of us find a little glorious freedom from sin and live a life where the worst of sinful desires are indeed fettered, to a degree, and we have victory over much of that victimized life of sin. Having experienced this little taste of God's power, many stop short. Many do not make purchase after tasting the free sample, and indeed finding it to be good.

What does this hard message, this jagged pill, this seemingly discouraging message have to do with what man is and what man isn't? The wonderfully good news is that The Gospel's message, its purpose, does not stop short where some people do. As stated before, knowing why we have a propensity towards sin is helpful, but is not the only tool we need to fix the problem. An even more powerful tool than knowing why we have a proclivity towards sin, is having the skill to nail down exactly what actions are considered sins and precisely what actions are not. How can a warrior fight a phantom enemy?

Hitting a target that you can clearly see is much easier than shooting in the dark. Furthermore, avoiding traps that you can clearly see is a whole 'nother ball game, my friends. This alludes to a more advanced understanding set apart for another study. Let it grow: your desire to ascertain this strong tool of knowing what sin is and isn't, until the time for God to reveal this to you comes to fruition. Pray fervently for this understanding and the strength to wield it properly. What a wonderful and celebratory day that will be: with shouting and songs in heaven for your community's coming ever closer to victory. This study lays a solid

foundation for you to advance in maturity, being able to see the difference between what is holy and what is unholy, between what is clean and what is unclean, between what is sin and what isn't sin. The author of this study has been anointed, not by flesh and blood through the religious institutions of this world, but by God to be a Priest to those who will listen and obey. The Biblical definition of a Priest starts with the purpose of showing the people the differences between the aforementioned unto their salvation and strength.

The Gospel and today's religious institutions certainly address the problem: man is hopelessly sinful. Stopping short at יהוה Elohim addressing the problem, but not moving forward into יהוה Elohim's solution to the problem, renders the Gospel, in many cases, hurtful in the life of the victim of sin, pernicious even. This leaves, in the mind of such a beloved victim, the Gospel's goals in the reaches of "hope" at best, and will not allow hope to mature into faith: the evidence of things not seen (Reference, Hebrews 11:1). With God, all things are possible (Reference, Matthew 19:26). Scripture preaches that ישוע has overcome sin, and not just for Himself. The Gospel also gives several examples of our holy family members whom Yeshua has manumitted from the sinful shackles that we are born with. Believing that Yeshua led a life in victory, while not making that life available to all who are willing to make purchase, would be to make an egregious error, leading to the serving of an egregore of The King. Another mendaciously misunderstood part of the good news is that He did not just overcome sin for "the" time to come. The Gospel message preaches that He overcame sin for "a" time to come, in every individual who seeks to make a lifestyle of pleasing God with all their heart, mind and strength, and for every community jointly doing the same. He has given us a vision as individuals and communities of a brighter future, in this life, that is worth fighting for. My friends, it is worth dying for.

A good example of this victory over sin can be found in David's life. Singling out David from the greater community of Israel and comparing him to our culture is wrong. He must be compared to the culture of his day. Further, the culture that God was endeavoring to make, using David to spearhead that vision needs to be considered as well. In short, both the culture David was living in, and the culture God intended to make, must be the canon by which David's character is measured. We know it is a comfort to look at big awesome Biblical figures and their supposed flaws, but that is not the blessing. Furthermore, looking at this man without considering the generations that preceded and followed him is dilettantish as well.

So, to honor what God did through David we must look at David both in his place in the culture, and his generational place. For reasons that are not completely clear to me (an author of this study), the truth being alluded to about the measure of this holy man, David the King's character, is a truth that God hands to us on a silver platter, if we are willing to accept it. It is not hidden and we do not have to answer a riddle to know. We only have to accept God's measure of David and let go of our own to make purchase in this instance. God records His measure of David in The Book of The Kings of Israel. To paraphrase, David was pleasing to God in all he did except in an event that took place in his mid-fifties (Reference, 1 Kings 15:5). Taking that as you will, consider comparing that measure, with the measure that your community takes of David. Next, ask yourself if your measure of David agrees with Scripture or if it agrees with today's church culture? Are we living in the time spoken of in Acts where what is good will be called evil and what is evil will be called good? Consider if David is still today, the victim of Yeshua's warning and promise to His children, that they will say all kinds of nasty things, all kinds of evil about you for My sake. After reading the "how-to-guide" above that will aid you to align your measure of David's character with God's, try this prompt in your free time: Give two examples where David had the opportunity to do what was wrong in the eyes of The Lord, but instead did what was pleasing to God. Remember, we are not picking out what David did that would have been pleasing to our culture today, even in the church, we all know that if David was pleasing to today's church culture he would be

far from pleasing to God.

While Adam did not fight the good fight when he saw separation occur between his loved one and himself, David proved strong and very courageous. He counted the cost and made purchase. He was not spending all those resources, sacrificing his reputation, sacrificing the way some would measure his character, and sacrificing all his potential comforts to be fighting for himself. He was fighting for God. God was fighting for Israel. David inturn was fighting for Israel: not with Israel's material prosperity as the aim, but he was seeking first the Kingdom of God and trusting that all would follow. Was David's spearheading God's vision foolish? The evidence we see in Scripture speaks for itself. You will know of a man's goodness or evil by his fruits.

David's life is one circumstance after another that proves one can overcome much sin in this life. There is one instance that proves otherwise, in a rich and full 60 years of righteous living. The spiritual and physical resources that are the fruit of David's life are a veritable smorgasbord of wealth unimaginable to man. The key to unlock what is so readily available is sacrifice. Now, see this: ignoring the latter few years of Solomon's life and focusing on the Kingdom that he reigned over for the 40 years or so following his Father's life is a snapshot, a physical picture of the spiritual riches that are in store, in this life, for those who choose to take the dragon head on. The *spiritual* riches can be tough to see with all the camel's milk, wine and gold in the way, my friend, however the resulting bounty is mainly spiritual, and hidden, just as the spirit tends to be. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the honor of Kings to seek out that matter. Those riches are lasting forever, stored in heaven for those who honor God, and God's work through the hands and feet of Messiah Yeshua.

Unfortunately, people now-a-days do not attempt to fight the dragon. They have learned to make the dragon a bed in their home, are made to believe they have tamed it, they feed it, they protect it when friends come along and try to help them rid themselves of it, and are made to believe that they have counted the cost in handling the damages inevitable to their home whenever the dragon takes a jaunt through their lives and the lives of those around them. The Gospel message shows us that we can destroy the dragon, that as His children we are able to put the snakes under our feet, and live in victory over sin. The Gospel is not about keeping others under control: this is about taming yourself first, tending to yourself, and trusting God will produce good fruit for you, through you, if you make purchase of The Gospel of Almighty God in your life: making you a good tree. No man builds a tower without first counting the cost. There is a cost to you, if Yeshua is going to apply to your person the efforts needed to free you from sin. The tower is strong and worth the purchase.

With the leading of The Ruach, through this study and meditation so far, you have seen that God's judgment is good. This judgment is meant for the good, not of the world, but for the good of us, His royal sons and daughters. God's judgment on Adam and Hava was not coming from a selfish place. God's judgment on Adam and Hava was designed to strengthen both them and their seed against future attacks from the enemy. God's intention in strengthening them was hinged upon success in, victory over, and more than conquering those attacks. God's mission statement, as spoken from the pulpit:

> The Spirit of The Lord is upon Me,
> because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor;
> He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
> to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
> to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of The Lord (Quote, Luke

4:18-19),

This quote from Our Lord Yeshua comes originally from Isaiah chapter 61 in it's first verse. The above part of the quote alludes to salvation. Reading further in that quote reveals that after rendering salvation for an accepting child of יהוה , Adonai intends to strengthen His people via a journey which eventually leads to no longer laying the same foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God (Reference, Hebrews 6:1). You, my friend, can do all things through The Messiah, who allows you to remain weak? No! You can do **all** things through The Messiah who strengthens you (Reference, Philippians 4:13). This meditation has endeavored to teach you to see yourself, a man created by God with purpose, with your true identity in sight.

While the enemy has been victorious in spreading the lie that we are weak, we know that if we be in Messiah part of that identity is strength. Strength over what? Strength to no longer be a victim to your own unfettered desires, or the desires others have to see you sin. Your life has been structured on some sand as a result of your performing mental gymnastics to fit God's plan for you into what you desire from your life, or from what you see as being too strong to overcome.

That is weakness. God is Almighty. This strength over sin was God's intention for Adam and Hava after the mistake that they made. The consequences Adam & Hava received as a result of their weakness under sin was engineered precisely to stengthen them over it. If you seek to find the reflection of God's working out your own mistakes, you will find that God's character is the same from the beginning, that He is not a respecter of persons, and that His love for you, your family, your friends, is the same love He had for Adam and Hava. Did they fall foolishly for the mad mendacious lifestyle laid out for their destruction? Or did they accept God's love and find the strength that awaits? Will you?

1. **Who named Hava?**

Going Deeper - What are the deeper, spiritual implications in giving somebody a name?

Bonus - Hebraically, what does the name Hava mean? What do each of the individual letters mean in her name? What concepts are delivered when those letters' meanings are put in order?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - Why was "Hava" her chosen name?

2. **The serpent told Hava that when she ate of the fruit, that she would become like God. Was this true? If it was, where was the deception?**

Commentary - This commentary's lesson, unlike many of the lessons found here, is one that is debatable. It is not a "verily, verily, I say unto you". With that said, let us begin. Satan had tricked Hava into seeing that the fruit was good for food, when we all know that it was decidedly bad for food. While she knew that too, somehow, the conversation she had with the serpent "beguiled" her (Reference, 2 Corinthians 11:3) to such a degree that it appeared as though it was good, righteous, true, and virtuous to eat the fruit. How?

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." -Genesis 3:5

Once breaking free from God's instructions and placing themselves under satan's instructions, it could be argued that Adam and Hava did become like God, in that they had a heightened awareness of both good and evil. While the following section explores how that is not entirely true, let us explore this point a moment. The serpent made it seem as if having more knowledge of good & evil than they already had was a good thing, but like cancer is a disease where more cells are produced than what is healthy, so to was this extra knowledge. Also, like cancer is a death sentence, the extra knowledge gained them a death sentence.

While the serpent twisted the opening of their eyes to seem as if it was good. It was not good. It was bad enough that God had to keep them away from the tree of life, so that they would not forever live in that state. God had created them with strong defenses against evil: being asleep to *that* particular kind of knowledge. Those defenses, however, were not impenetrable. When the couple chose not to walk circumspectly, their strong defenses became weak. My friends, when we are walking with God, we must remember that while He set up defenses to protect us from evil, if we choose disobedience, our part in the strength of that defensive matrix falls, and we leave ourselves shark-bait for a hungry and desirous enemy just like our ancestors did.

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." -Genesis 3:5

The above thought process hinges heavily on the idea that evil knowledge is not salubrious for us, but is in fact something we must manumit ourselves from as we are infallible. Evil knows where we are most weak and has cleverly designed evil knowledge such that it sticks and is very hard to clean away. We now know that evil knowledge affects man in that way, but what about God? Does He have intimate knowledge of the ins and outs of the way that evil functions? It turns out that He does not. Even God, with all His might and power, has shielded Himself from the intimate knowledge of evil (Reference, Jeremiah 7:31). Although God does know how to keep authority over sin, He does not have intimate knowledge of evil and its ways. The fruit that the couple ate opened their eyes to things that God had purposefully ensured He is acquainted with, but not intimately learned in. This important truth helps us to see where exactly Satan had been deceptive in his words.

Since God does not know evil the same way that He knows good, Satan was lying when he said "you will be like God". He was lying because he meant "you will be like me, the god of this world (Reference, 2 Corinthians 4:4)," when he knew full well and intended for the couple to believe he meant *you will be like your friend, God, who created you*. Satan is very cruel and deceptive. He has molded many of us, through the trials of life we must endure, to reflect the same self absorption and selfishness he displayed when tricking the couple. We are corrupted so much that many times when we behave in what we think is a selfless way, we do it because it serves our flesh to one degree or another. The heart truly is deceptive about all things. Who can know it? The partial truths that the enemy uses to deceive us are generally quite difficult to detect. How do we defend against this sort of thing then?

In most cases, like the case at hand, truth is the lion's share of the deception. It is very similar to a virus

or bacteria being only an infinitesimally small fraction of the greater make-up of one's body. A true saint must study themselves approved and be very intimate with The Holy Spirit. The sagacious nature of that student of the Canon's mind will carry them far on the path of victory against falling for even the smallest amount of folly. Much like God and God's people have struggled to ensure they are intimately connected with goodness and not corrupted by evil, satan and those of the flesh are carnally minded and they are blind to the good and pure ways of The Spirit. In fact, God's ways appear as foolishness to those who are after the things of the flesh.

God's ways return a 404, forbidden, does not compute sort of code in their minds. We can take that idea even a step further because "it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love Him." (Quote, 1 Corinthians 2:9) The struggle is very real, very long, and has more pitfalls than solid ground, but it is worth ascertaining what He has prepared for us.

We must remember to trust in God's ways, protect one another from falling when we have been tricked, and to be sagacious when adding to knowledge of good, so we can avoid being corrupted by the knowledge of evil. The best way to, truly the only way to do this is to trust in God's Word. He designed His Word to teach us all that we need to know about both good and evil, without corrupting us, so that we can fellowship with Him in all we do, having one mind with our Lord and King, Yeshua Messiah.

This Break Is Designed To Give You A Stopping Point For The Day

Read Genesis 3

3. **What did God do to help the couple after their sin caused them to feel naked?**

Going Deeper – This prompt has the answer to the Original Prompt in it. Do yourself a solid, and answer the Original Prompt before moving on to this Going Deeper Prompt.

What had to happen in order for those tunics to be made?

Scripture Meditation & Prayer - This prompt has the answer to the Original Prompt in it. Do yourself a solid, and answer the Original Prompt before moving on to this Scripture Meditation & Prayer Prompt.

What does the tunic represent spiritually? How would the process of the tunic's being made and the covering of the couple have affected them when it happened? How would it have affected them many years later in pondering what God did for them? Why did God do just that for them and not use cotton or some other plant material?

Apologetics - Imagine you are in a courtroom and you are the prosecuting attorney against Cain, and the defending attorney for God. Explain why, when though Cain and God both ended a life: God is just, and would have been wrong not to do what He did, while Cain stands guilty without excuse.

Bonus - This prompt has the answer to the Original Prompt in it. Do yourself a solid, and answer the Original Prompt before moving on to this Bonus Prompt.

In English the word used for what covered them is "tunic". Look up and study that word in Hebrew.

Further, do the same for the word “covering”.

4. **Now, let’s talk about what God did concerning the couple’s setting, as a result of the sin that they partook in. What did God do concerning their place in the garden after they sinned?**

Going Deeper I - This prompt has the answer to the Original Prompt in it. Do yourself a solid, and answer the Original Prompt before moving on to this Going Deeper Prompt.

Before the fall, the couple was confined to the Garden of Eden, a very specific place of safety, fecundity, and salubrity. While that is the truth, we know that human nature is to want the “freedom” of wide open choices to metaphorically roam wherever desire may strike the fancy. Look at Adam and Eve's first situation compared to their second – being banished from the Garden. Which one appears to provide more freedom? Between the two which one is the better choice?

Getting Personal - This prompt has the answer to the Original Prompt in it and the Going Deeper I Prompt. Do yourself a solid, and answer the Original Prompts before moving on to this Getting Personal Prompt.

Take a look at the Gonig Deeper I Prompt and explore it. Then, look to your own personal walk with God. When has it reflected this same character? Often times, when we are being further confined as a result of judgment we feel as if it is a judgment from God. Can you recall a time when God has given you an abundance of freedom as a result of disobedience – as is the case with Adam and Hava?

Going Deeper II - The answer to the main question lies in this prompt. Consider answering the question above, before going into this deeper prompt.

Explain how Adam’s being banished from the garden was both a blessing and a curse.

Commentary - If you intend to answer the above prompts without the ideas of this Commentary as a guide, go through the prompt(s) that you desire to complete first, before going through this Commentary.

The garden was a good place, where an intimate relationship with God was cultivated and blossomed continually, so being banished from it is a very bad thing; however, it is being banished from the garden which gave them, and gives us a chance at reconciliation. Because of the fall, man needs to die, and the focus of man’s life needs to be reconciliation to, and skilled service for God. These are the first steps in finding our purpose in this life, in finding what man is. The garden is so full of God’s life giving sustenance that living in it, even in a sinful state would result in this life being forever, and the life to come always being only a potential, like a seed that has never come to full maturity, being whole in bearing its fruit abundantly.

5. **What was placed at the east of Eden and what was its purpose?**

Bonus - Do a study of the word “cherubim” and find other places where the word cherubim is used. Compare and contrast.

End

We hope you both enjoyed and found fruit in the adventure that this gem of a study grants to its readers. Studying yourself approved is a genuinely fulfilling endeavor few sacrifice to undertake (Reference, 2 Timothy 2:15). To meditate on God's word (Reference, Psalm 1:2), and to work out your own salvation in fear and trembling (Reference, Philipians 2:12), together with studying yourself approved is a three fold cord that every individual and community must choose to weave into their being if they will be granted the title of Faithful Servant. Congratulations to you Faithful Servant! You are doing Great!

We pray that through this study, you have developed a gravity about you that reverences God as Creator; we pray you have recognized His providing for us a basic, honest, understandable account of creation; we pray that the purpose of His relationship to us, to evil, and to creation has begun to blossom beautifully for you; we pray that this knowledge does not continue to reside in the fantasy part of your mind, out of reach in times of real need, when push comes to shove, when the rubber hits the road, when all hell breaks loose, but that in the days of this study you have made purchase, and are now one of the few chosen who experienced having the narrative of God's journey migrate from the fantasy part of the mind to the logical, faith filled, trusting part of the mind, so that when bullets start flying your faith remains strong, no excuse, not a shadow of turning.

If this has happened for you, it will affect the decisions that you make, the things you sacrifice, and it will affect your grip on Our Father through the tsunami and various waves of evil. Those waves have been designed to break the weak free from their hold on God. In short, we here at Gleaning the Scriptures, pray you have been edified. If the fruit in the previous sentences has not been found in your life, take stock of what you are holding back from God, put it on the altar, and go through the study again. You will be amazed at the difference.

Consider sharing this study with your friends. Hard copies are in the works and will be found online for purchase when they are ready. An e-book for your smartphones, tablets, and e-readers can be found at www.GleaningTheScriptures.com as well as a PDF printable version. All except the hard copies are free of charge with a suggested love gift of $35. We here at Gleaning the Scriptures have been commissioned and anointed by The Most High God through His faithful servants in miraculous ways to help strengthen those who have already found Yeshua as Lord and we thank you for partnering with us in doing so. We pray for and are grateful to all our evangelistic brethren who are bringing God's sheep into the fold. Their skill is unparalleled and their sacrifice is valued. Let us be made stronger together, now. Thank you for growing with us today.

May His Face Shine Upon You.
Shalom