

#71 *FORUM POST ON JACOB AND ESAU #2

Dear all,

Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, 7 nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this *is* the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

10 And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac 11 (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

So, Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.

Many people use this scripture to justify that God hated everything about Esau - perhaps even his soul, however: God is a Jealous God as Jos 24:19-20 says "He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good".

It would seem that even Jesus said we are to hate our mother and brothers.

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

You following along - Jesus was taught this by his Father above.

What Jesus is saying - is that yes, we are to love our fellow family members, strangers, friends, widows, orphans. HOWEVER - you do not take what they say over what the Lord says, though they can suggest advice, and everything of that nature no one is to put them over God first.

Okay, you still there - so if you are to follow Jesus you are to put the Lord your God first -> in loving God first. Second is loving your neighbor as yourself.

If this is written that God loved Jacob and hated Esau, was it not because of Esau rejecting the ways of God? And that was why he 'hated him' because of the gumption of his ways?

Esau ended up coming around to helping Jacob:

Gen 33:4 But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who

are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. 7 Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. 8 Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company[a] that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." 10 Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. 11 Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

So why did God love Jacob, and Hate Esau? Was it a hatred of his character ? Or a hatred of his soul? Did Esau become faithless, and God was jealous of him desiring him to come back yet his hardened heart became callous which he went and worshiped other gods, and that was why God laid his land to waste?

Mal 1:1-3 The pronouncement of the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi: 2 "I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "*Was* Esau not Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and *given* his inheritance to the jackals of the wilderness."

Just curious to anyone who may have any insights,

Thank you,

M

Dear M _____,

Esau was born first and is a "type" for the Old Man. The Old Man represents carnal mankind who dwells upon the earth. He is carnally minded and sinful. His father is Satan (the natural sun) and his mother is the bondwoman (the natural moon). After a believer receives the Early Rain and is called out from the world, Satan will plant his seed (spirit of anti-Christ) within the new believer. This will result in the Abomination of Desolation and make the believer spiritually "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**). The Old Man then becomes a Man of Sin.

Jacob was born second and is a "type" for the New Man and for the Elect. The New Man represents a child of God who dwells in the Kingdom of Heaven. He is spiritual and is without sin. His father is Christ (the spiritual sun) and his mother is the freewoman (the New Moon).

Jacob was born "second" to "type" this truth:

1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

Jacob is also a "type" for the Elect:

Rom 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth. 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

In this age, the Elect of Christ are the only ones who are going to be saved. They were chosen for this blessing from the foundation of the world for only one reason: "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth". To further teach this truth, scripture says that Christ loved Jacob but Esau He hated. Jacob was created to be a vessel of honor and Esau was created to be a vessel of dishonor.

In the end though, after Christ's purpose of election has been satisfied, Christ will be gracious to Esau and will save the rest of mankind.

This truth is "typed" by the scripture you quoted in your original post:

Gen 33:4 But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. 7 Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. 8 Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." 10 Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. 11 Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

Read this scripture again but this time with "eyes that can see".

The scripture above "types" the salvation of all mankind in the final age. The Elect (Jacob) will reign with Christ and will help Him bring in the full harvest of mankind. At that time, the Elect will say "**please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough...**

So how does Esau (mankind) respond? "**and he urged him, and he took it**".

This truth is also presented here:

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

And how do the "lost" of the final age respond? They respond just as Esau did.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Don't know.

All I do know is there is a separation of unbelievers and believers after this life, unless John is wrong.

It's come to my understanding though Esau would be the guy who could hunt (a man's man so to speak) while Jacob may have been a nerd in the house watching cartoons.

Either way, both you and Epi, make it clear that they are both pictures and types of someone with the spirit and someone who resides by the flesh.

Malachi stated that Yahava laid to waste Esau's inheritance and gave them to jackals of the wilderness?

Why?

M

Dear M_____,

The events of the OT are "types" which teach spiritual truths.

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our (the Elect) admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

The story of Jacob and Esau teaches a "type" that is spiritually fulfilled by the Elect vs. the non-Elect. That "type" also teaches the truth of "first comes the natural, then comes the spiritual" as I explained in my first post.

You mentioned Malachi 1:3:

Mal 1:3 but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left

his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

Esau represents the non-Elect who will not be the heir of Abraham. Jacob represents the Elect who will be the heir. Because of this truth, Esau will not have life in the ages and he will not reign with Christ. But as I pointed out in my last post, Esau will be saved at the end of the final age. He will receive life (salvation) but he will suffer the loss of not being an heir.

In the Mal 1:3, it says that Esau's inheritance was turned into a wasteland (wilderness). This happens because the wilderness is where Satan dwells and is who Esau follows.

I will now explain more on the symbol "wilderness" and where it is used elsewhere in scripture. This will take us down a couple of rabbit trails so please bear with me.

Because the symbol "wilderness" represents where Satan dwells, John the Baptist lived in the wilderness, because he, too, was a "type" for the Old Man.

Christ fasted in the wilderness to "type" the time when a believer (Early Rain only) cannot eat the bread of Christ and will "fall away" under Satan's deceptions. This time of falling away was also symbolized by Paul when he could not eat or drink in Damascus for three days.

Another example which uses the symbol "wilderness" is related to the symbol "woman". Please bear with me because I want to first give you a little background on the meaning of the symbol "woman".

A "woman" represents mankind's carnal nature.

The symbol "man" represents the carnal mind (the head).

Here is the formula for mankind's spiritual makeup:

CARNAL MIND + CARNAL SPIRITUAL NATURE = ONE FLESH

Symbolically, this formula can be restated as follows:

ADAM + EVE = ONE FLESH

This verse applies:

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

When Satan came to tempt Adam and Eve, he did so through the "woman" (carnal nature). It is through mankind's carnal nature that Satan tempts mankind. In other words, Satan eats the "dust

of the ground" (also a symbol for the carnal nature). When Eve believed Satan over Christ, she spiritually committed adultery with Satan. And because Adam wanted to please his wife (carnal nature), Adam also ate of the forbidden fruit.

This concept is what Paul is saying below:

1Cor 7:33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

This scripture also applies:

1Tim 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing (the birthing analogy applies), if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

Since Eve was the one who was in transgression, Eve is the one who will bear the penalty of sin (death). For that reason, the carnal nature of mankind will be destroyed in the Lake of Fire. However, mankind's mind (Adam, who was not in transgression) will not be destroyed but will be transformed into the Mind of Christ.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Because of Eve's adultery with Satan, the Garden of Eden became a wilderness and the marriage relationship that Christ had with Adam and Eve ended.

Furthermore, when Eve committed adultery with Satan, this event changed the "woman" into the symbol "Great Harlot". Then later, when a believer (Early Rain only) is indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ, Satan's spirit makes the Great Harlot the "habitation of devils":

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great (harlot) is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Because the Great Harlot follows Satan, she is shown to dwell in the wilderness. It is for that reason that John (who dwells in heaven/Garden of Eden) had to be spiritually taken to the wilderness in order to see her.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

When Christ comes to a fallen away believer whose carnal nature has become the Great Harlot w/devils, He will destroy it in "one hour". The Great Harlot's destruction is presented in symbolic detail in Revelation chapter 18. After it is destroyed (along with the spirit of anti-Christ), the believer will be converted. Conversion requires both the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) and the baptism of Fire (judgment).

With all that said, you should now be able to see why Esau's inheritance was turned into a wasteland (wilderness).

Do you see how Christ (God's Word) teaches us through "another language" (**Isa 28:9-12**) which uses spiritual symbols?

After a believer is given "eyes that can see", the spiritual language of Christ will open up to them.

Paul said this:

1Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Because Paul only taught in Christ's spiritual language (**1Cor 2:13**), the Corinthian church (who had only received the Early Rain) could not even understand the milk of the Word. Since the Early Rain is only a small measure of the Holy Spirit, a believer will remain carnal (outward & literal) in their understanding of God's Word. This is what it means to be spiritually blind.

Joe

Here is a related post concerning the Lake of Fire:

Dear S _____,

M _____ asked you this question:

Therefore does the Lake of Fire - not hold something of value that is light and the more closer you come to the light does it not hurt?

No, the Lake of Fire is only punitive and destructive. It contains only darkness.

The Day of the Lord presented in the scripture below applies to the Lake of Fire in the final age. The "people come, great and strong" is referring the Elect who will reign with Christ.

Joel 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: 2 A

day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

The Lake of Fire is not a "place" as you are understanding it. The Lake of Fire is a spiritual symbol which represents the judgment of the Law which Christ will administer upon sinful mankind. And since all mankind is "condemned already" (**John 3:18**), all mankind will be destroyed by the Lake of Fire.

Since the Elect are saved prior to judgment coming to them, they will not experience any "wrath" during their time of judgment. Only the Elect believer's worsened carnal nature (Great Harlot w/devils) will be cast into the Lake of Fire for destruction.

Note: Please see my post #18 in the thread entitled "Jacob God loved, Esau God hated". It is in the Bible Study Forum. It will teach why only the carnal nature of mankind will be destroyed.

When the Elect believer's judgment begins, the new child of God will have already been born and gathered to dwell with Christ in heaven. When judgment starts, the child of God (the Bride) and Christ will ride white horses over the believer's own judgment. These events are all spiritual and they happen within the believer. Revelation chapter 19 teaches this truth.

However, for the "lost" of the final age, they themselves will be cast into the Lake of Fire for destruction. They will experience wrath during their judgment in the Lake of Fire. But before they perish, Christ will have mercy upon them (**Mat 23:23**). At time, Christ will give the "lost" the Early and Latter Rain which will cause the birth of a new child of God. The new child of God will then be immediately gathered to heaven. Judgment will then continue in the Lake of Fire upon the person's carnal nature until it is destroyed.

S _____ said:

**But I understand the fire to be curative, rather than punitive.
It burns "wood hay and stubble", figuratively speaking.**

The Lake of Fire is not curative, it is totally punitive and destructive.

Here is what you are missing in your understanding and it applies to only the Elect's time of judgment:

The Day of the Lord (Judgment) has **TWO** parts.

1). The Judgment of the Man of Sin (spirit of anti-Christ) and the Great Harlot (worsened carnal nature).

2). The Judgment of the Old Man (carnal mind).

PART 1: The judgment of the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot occurs quickly (in "one hour") and it takes place symbolically in the Lake of Fire. In the Lake of Fire, the believer's "worsened carnal nature" (includes the spirit of anti-Christ) will be destroyed.

Judgment in the Lake of Fire happened to the Jewish Elect on the Day of Pentecost when they were "converted". As I said, it is a very quick process. The new spiritual nature of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) is given to the believer and the old carnal spiritual nature is removed and destroyed.

PART 2: After the believer is converted, they will still have a carnal mind (symbolized by the Old Man) with all its "wood, hay and stubble" which must be removed. During this time of judgment, the carnal mind will be transformed into the Mind of Christ.

To remove the wood, hay and stubble, Christ will chastise the believer through "trials". As the wood, hay and stubble are removed, the believer will "walk by the Spirit" more and more.

This verse applies:

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

John the Baptist is a "type" for the Old Man (carnal mind). As Christ judges the Old Man, he will slowly decrease within the believer. As this occurs, Christ within the believer will increase.

This verse also applies to this chastising judgment:

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the (New) earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

The "earth" is a symbol for mankind's spiritual nature. The Old Earth is carnal and is governed by the flesh. The New Earth is spiritual and is governed by the Holy Spirit. When the judgment of Christ comes from the New Earth, the believer will learn righteousness (Christ will increase).

The scripture below teaches both parts of a person's judgment:

Rev 19:20 (PART 1) And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 (PART 2) And the rest (carnal thoughts and beliefs of the carnal mind) were slain with the SWORD of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth (truth of God): and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thanks for your detailed and thoughtful reply.

Separating the Elect from judgment creates an issue, as does predestination in general.

We know that only those that God draws by his Spirit can come to him.

The dark side of predestination in this light is that EVERYONE is either predestined to life or death.

To not be predestined as the Elect means to be predestined to eternal separation from God. (hell) I am speaking in the terms of the institutional church. I don't believe this to be the case.

What is your take on this problem? Why would God choose who to save and who to damn?

As a Christian Universalist, I understand that all of humankind are saved already, and will be redeemed.

Some are called to a relationship with God in this lifetime, and others will find this relationship in the afterlife.

Specifically in the Age of Restoration.

Acts 3:21 NIV

Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

S

Dear S _____,

You said:

Separating the Elect from judgment creates an issue...

The Elect are not separated from judgment. To be converted, everyone must be baptized by fire. The Elect will experience this baptism.

However, the Elect's judgment is not done in wrath.

1Thes 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

The Elect's judgment is administered by a loving Father who chastises His children.

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

But since the "lost" of the final age are not children of God when judgment arrives for them, they themselves will be cast into the Lake of Fire where God's wrath is poured out in accordance with the Law. However, before they perish, Christ will give them a new birth and will gather the new child of God to heaven. From that moment on, the person will no longer experience wrath.

However, to complete their conversion, their carnal nature will remain in the Lake of Fire to be destroyed. This is where the Elect's carnal nature was destroyed but since the Elect were made into a child of God prior to their judgment arriving, Christ removed their carnal nature from within them and cast it into the Lake of Fire for destruction. Neither the "lost" of the final age or the Elect of this age will experience the any wrath when their carnal nature is destroyed. Why? Because the person will be "born again" prior to their carnal nature's destruction.

If Christ were to destroy a person's spiritual nature prior to them receiving a new one, they would be "perished".

Also, remember what I have described above are spiritual events and they happen within a person.

Does this make any sense to you?

You said:

....as does predestination in general.

We know that only those that God draws by his Spirit can come to him.

The dark side of predestination in this light is that EVERYONE is either predestined to life or death.

To not be predestined as the Elect means to be predestined to eternal separation from God. (hell)

I am speaking in the terms of the institutional church. I don't believe this to be the case.

What is your take on this problem? Why would God choose who to save and who to damn?

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

God chooses some vessels for honor and some for dishonor because it suits His purposes for this creation. It is really that simple.

The term "predestination" applies only to the "order" of mankind's salvation. Those who are "predestinated" are predestinated to be heirs of Abraham who will receive life during the ages. Predestination has nothing to do with whether or not Christ will save all mankind.

But since the apostate church does not believe Christ will save all mankind, and they falsely believe that the "offer" of salvation only applies to this present age, they DO HAVE A PROBLEM with predestination. Also, predestination conflicts with their belief in "free will".

I have discussed this issue with members of the apostate church before and it is amazing how they twist and deny what scripture says about it. I have found that most will say that because of God's foreknowledge, He knew in advance who would (by their free will) choose Christ and be saved. And because God knew in advance, God says that they were predestinated for salvation and that they were "chosen". But this argument makes no sense at all. With that argument, the apostate believer is saying that since God knew in advance who would accept Christ, God, in turn, says that He chose them.

Here is the truth about God's foreknowledge:

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God's foreknowledge comes from the certainty of what He says He will do, will actually happen. God then works all things to make His Word not come back to Him void. Scripture never says that God is a fortuneteller who looks into the future and sees how things turn out. Scripture says that God makes everything turn out just as He said beforehand. This is where God's "foreknowledge" comes from.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

God chooses some vessels for honor and some for dishonor because it suits His purposes for this creation. It is really that simple.

How would you feel if you found out that you were on the wrong side of the predestination fence when it was too late to do anything about it?

There would probably be a crowd that were just as dismayed as I imagine you would be. Some saying "Jesus who?" Never heard of him. "Eternal what? ... Why?"

S

Dear S _____,

You asked:

How would you feel if you found out that you were on the wrong side of the predestination fence when it was too late to do anything about it?

I would be in torment and would have weeping and gnashing of teeth just as scripture teaches.

Also, mankind has no ability "to do anything about it" and we never have. To believe that we have an ability to do something about our own salvation only proves that we believe our salvation comes from our own "works". This belief in "works" is why a called out believer is not under the New Covenant and is why they are not saved. As a result, they will remain under the Law just as the unbelievers are. When their time of judgment arrives, they will receive their portion with the unbelievers in the Lake of Fire (judgment by the Law).

Non-Elect believers presently believe that they are saved. They will continue in this false belief until they die. But after they are resurrected and have appeared before the White Throne, they will finally know the truth:

Mat 7:21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work lawlessness.

Mat 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

When Christ rejects an apostate believer at the White Throne, they will have "weeping and gnashing of teeth" because they believe that they are now going to be tormented in literal fire for all eternity (or be killed). But their understanding of Christ is wrong. Christ is not the "hard man" as they have been led to believe:

Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given,

and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

You said:

There would probably be a crowd that were just as dismayed as I imagine you would be. Some saying "Jesus who?" Never heard of him. "Eternal what? ... Why?"

Judgment in the Lake of Fire is tailored to the sins that a person commits. Some will receive only a few "stripes", whereas others will receive many:

Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not (an unbeliever), and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

A child will not receive any stripes but a fallen away believer will receive many. But the literal fire and brimstone that they fear will never come. Then after they have received the "stripes" that the Law requires (paid the last penny), Christ will come to them before they perish and show them mercy. It is at this time that Christ will graciously give them the free gift of the Holy Spirit that He earlier gave to the Elect. After the last person is saved, God will be "all in all" and the ages will come to an end.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Here is the truth about God's foreknowledge:

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Doesn't this make our loving God a cosmic tyrant?

S

Dear S _____,

You asked:

Doesn't this make our loving God a cosmic tyrant?

No, it makes Him our God.

This verse applies:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

And because God leaves nothing up to chance or up to mankind's "will", mankind hates Him for it:

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

To become one of God's children, God wants us to experience evil and to experience tribulation:

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Ecc 1:13 An experience of evil God has given to the sons of humanity to humble them by it.

From this difficult experience that God is putting us through, we will learn to appreciate the goodness of God and will learn to trust Him for all our needs. Only then will we truly be the kind of children that God desires us to be. We are His workmanship.

Joe

Dear S _____,

You said:

The law?

The old covenant law?

All mankind has sinned and because of such, they come under the Old Covenant of Law.

1John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Paul said this:

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Circumcision is a "work" of the Law and was the issue at hand in the church at that time. But any "work" will cause a believer to fall from grace. The most common "work" in the apostate church comes from the Doctrine of Free Will. This doctrine teaches a believer to have a "works" based belief system (which is what our carnal nature prefers). Because the apostate church has this belief system, the apostate believers will say this to Christ just before He rejects them:

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

The apostate believers think that they, at least in some way, have "earned" their salvation - whether it was through good works or just by making a "free will" decision to accept Jesus as Lord. By believing this way, they are mixing "works" with faith which is the reason Christ rejects them. In other words, they have not entered into the rest of Christ. They are not trusting Christ do all the works of saving and converting them. Faith in Christ to do 100% of the work of our salvation is what opens the door for Him to do it.

The pathway to salvation requires every person to pass through the Old Covenant of Law because it is the Law that is our schoolmaster which will bring us to Christ and the New Covenant.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

You said:

Non-Elect believers? Wow.

And the law thing again?

Not sure where you are coming from. Sabbatarianism?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Most of the world will remain unbelievers. But many people are called out from the world. From those "many", a "few" are also chosen. They are the Elect. Those who are called out but not chosen are non-Elect believers (or whatever term you want to call them).

I answered the "law thing" above.

You said:

Stripes? Like the lines on meat that comes off a BBQ grill?

Your understanding is still carnal. God's Word is spiritual and Christ uses spiritual symbols to teach His truth. Stripes is one of those symbols. It merely means punishment for sin. Christ will not literally whip a person. The symbol "fire" is similar. Christ will not literally use fire in the Lake of Fire. Fire is a symbol which represents Christ's judgment by the Law.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

No, it makes Him our God.

Like that is something to celebrate in worship of Him? (while our loved ones burn)

S

Dear S _____,

You said:

Like that is something to celebrate in worship of Him? (while our loved ones burn)

I thought you understood that "fire" is not literal fire but merely represents judgment. I also thought that you rejected the false teaching of "free will". However, I am not so sure now. Many of the things you have said recently makes me think that you have a works based belief system - it is just more hidden in you than most other believers.

In the final age, the Elect will be reigning (serving) with Christ to save the rest of mankind. They do this because they love them. I know that my mother, father, brother and sister are going to be cast into the Lake of Fire as most of mankind will be. It will be a difficult time for them but I trust Christ to see them through it. I know that Christ loves them every bit as much as He loves His Elect and He will do all that is necessary to save them through the fire.

Joe