

“GO YE ...”

20 REASONS FOR SOUL
WINNING

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INTRODUCTION

For God So Loved ...

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Everybody knows John 3:16. In this one verse, the bible shows us clearly the heart of God for His people. I always tell people that God did not create religion. He did not create Christians. He created the human race so He could shower His love and blessing on us. Remember that we were created in His image and we were created to rule:

*Then God said, "Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26, emphasis added).*

God also made sure that the creation of all nature was complete before He brought out His masterpiece: man. The Father made sure that man had an environment that was conducive and comfortable for him to thrive in and be productive.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being ... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good (Genesis 2:7; 1:31, emphasis added).

Life was so comfortable that Adam's first day on earth was God's rest day! Adam just woke up to enjoy God's provision and blessings (Genesis chapter one and two). Of course, Adam was not idle because he was given dominion over every living thing that God had created.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

So Adam's job was to tend to and manage God's creation. He did not have to struggle to get anything: everything he needed was already provided for him. What a delight this would be if we came to understand this: that **man lived and worked from a place of rest!**

How Sin Entered the World

Now Adam and Eve were free to eat of all the produce of the garden except that of one tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did, they would surely die:

The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17).

You could say Adam and Eve ruled this world because God the Father had entrusted them with all authority over all creatures on the earth. As Psalm 115:16 says: *"The highest heavens belong to the LORD but the earth he has given to mankind"* (NIV).

But Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying the commandment of God and eating from the very tree that God had forbidden (Genesis 3). They listened to the voice of Satan that made them question the integrity of God and doubt His goodness. This act of disobedience was in effect high treason. By doing so, they lost their privileged position over all of creation. Thus the power and authority that God had given them went to Satan by default. Their fall brought all humans into the bondage and corruption of his rule.

Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man, and death as the result of sin, so death spread

to all men, [no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned (Romans 5:12 AMPC).

The bible depicts satan as an evil being whose plan is always to destroy God's prized creations. "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy ...*" (John 10:10a) Satan is always seen killing, stealing and destroying. To steal means to take away from someone that which is not yours. In the Garden of Eden, the word "Eden" means "Delight," and it showcases a place of delight and enjoyment, without struggle, problems, frustrations and fears. But satan invaded that sanctuary and managed to steal the good things that God had made for man.

Death therefore came into the world as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve. Death became the number one enemy of humanity. None of our modern day medical technologies is able to keep us alive for ever. This is because death is beyond the physical: it is something spiritual.

God's most beautiful of creations, were now bound and trapped in the hands of a wicked adversary. But God could not immediately eradicate evil since He is a righteous God and must abide by His own laws. Man had willfully surrendered his dominion of the earth to satan and his cohorts, giving access to the entry of evil in his life and still does to this day. That is why satan is called the "prince of the power of the air."

God's Rescue Plan