



# THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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## ADAM

Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 both reveal that, in Adam, all mankind inherited sin but that, in Christ, all may inherit righteousness. These passages are frequently used to contrast the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden with the obedience of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane; giving rise to the "Second Adam" title often attributed to our Lord Jesus Christ and His redemptive work.

Adam certainly disobeyed the LORD God, but why? Was he deceived? Was he willfully rebellious and defiant? Was he, as Satan was, consumed with pride in his created perfection?

1 Timothy 2:14 tells us: "*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*" That seems to eliminate the deception argument pretty convincingly. Scripture remains silent as to Adam's motivation in committing his infamous sin. Yet, there is an interesting possibility...

Genesis 1:26 states: "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*"

If God created Adam in His own image, we must ask ourselves: "What is God like?"

1 John 4 tells us repeatedly that "*God is love.*" Now, let's examine the only biblically recorded statement of Adam while yet in his sinless state, Genesis 2:23-24: "*And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*"

Evidently, Adam truly loved his wife Eve. Not as we understand human love today, in a post-fallen world, but he loved her with the perfect love of God. Jesus said in John 15:13: "**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**" Adam knew that Eve's unthinkable sin had just separated her from both God and himself. Not willing to let her perish alone, he apparently chose to "cleave" unto his wife by sacrificing his own life, in sin, to regain his cherished relationship with her.

Do you see a pattern? She couldn't reach back to him... he could only join her where she was.

Romans 5:14 "*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*"

God understood Adam's motive.

Jesus, the promised Messiah, became sin for us. Separated from the glory of heaven, He gave His all to restore a lost but cherished relationship with you. Eve's response was her faithfulness, what is yours?



שַׁאֲלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lī'im ←--- Shalom' ←--- Sha-alū



### MISSING PORTIONS

Isaiah 53 paints such an accurate picture of Jesus Christ that Gentile Christians often refer to it as the “Holy of Holies” of Messianic prophecy. In fact, this prophecy was so accurate that it troubled many Jewish Rabbis who related faith in Jesus Christ with the atrocities and persecutions committed by many so-called Christians against the Jewish people in early (and sadly, later) Church history. Eventually this troublesome passage was eliminated altogether from weekly readings in many Jewish Synagogues.

This month should have contained the reading of this passage, but it has become known in Synagogues throughout the world as the “missing portion.” How very sad for the Jewish people. As the Jewish religious calendar nears Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), the very passage that proclaims their final atonement in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is quietly ignored. What a wretched disservice the wild olive branches have done to the olive tree (see Romans 9, 10, 11).

Recently, as I mourned for the Jewish people and prayed for the spiritual “veil” to be removed from their hearts, I found myself reciting the Sh'ma (Deuteronomy 6). As I groaned within myself, I longed for His revelation to be granted to the Jewish people.

Suddenly, the Lord spoke to my heart with such a passion that I became overwhelmed with emotion. You see, He longs for this restoration too. Have you been praying for the Children of Israel? Whatever you may personally feel toward the Jewish people is immaterial. Do you understand how He feels toward them? Have you an idea of the great love and sadness in the heart of God for the Apple of His Eye?

God spoke to my heart with moving conviction. The Sh'ma is recited by the Jewish people at least every Shabbat (Sabbath). In it, the Jewish people are commanded (and Jesus reaffirmed): “*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*”

As I prayed, God whispered: “That’s not just a commandment, it’s a promise. I have spoken it.”

Isaiah 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.*”

John 1:14 “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*”

The time of the Gentiles will soon be fulfilled. God is preparing to reconcile the hearts of the Jewish people to Himself and they will soon recognize the One who was pierced...for all of our transgressions.

“*Shma Y'Israel, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad. Baruch Shem K'vod Malchuto L'olam Va'ed!!!*”



## John 1:12

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even to them that believe on his name:*”

### FOR GOD SO LOVED YOU

Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart? God loves you very much.

Please do not be eternally separated from Him by your sin...

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

Romans 3:23: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

Ezekiel 33:11: *“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”*

Why not take this moment, right now, to face your life and your future? God is Holy. Sin cannot abide in His presence. You cannot make it to heaven for anything you’ve done, or can ever do. It is all tainted with sin. Our best “righteousness” is as filthy rags in comparison to God’s. Even our very thoughts often betray us, do they not? Please accept Jesus Christ into your heart today. Believe on His Name and his sacrificial atonement, once and for all, for your sin and let Him change you into a new creation in Him.

Imagine: “the power to become a son of God.” What a marvelous gift of grace! ***Lord Jesus, I believe that you are the promised Messiah, God in the flesh, the Lamb slain to take the sin of the world in my place. I believe that, after your sacrifice, you rose again; the first fruits of all to be so raised. I invite you into my heart today to be my Lord and Savior, for now, and forever. Amen!***

**Rick Wagnon** is a born-again Spirit-filled believer that was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. His father was a full-time pastor that raised Rick with a solid foundation of faith, knowledge, and hunger for God’s Word. Rick’s professional background has been in law enforcement, protective security, and anti-terrorism; serving as a supervisor and trainer in these fields. Recently he transitioned to the field of public health preparedness to coordinate disaster response training. He also performs additional duties related to intelligence, security, planning, and logistics. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the Lord. He has served as a church trustee, usher, children’s church teacher, and itinerate guest speaker. Rick believes in living as a bold witness for Christ, loves to worship the Lord, and is available for special speaking engagements in your area.

