



**The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guides
Lesson #2
“A Near Death Experience”**

The love of God was obviously demonstrated in the Garden of Eden by virtue of creation. It can also be seen in Nature. The beautiful world, though it is plighted by sin, still tells of a lovely designer with you and I in mind. The Scriptures also testify of God’s great love for His people. Through parables, as we’ve seen in Ezekiel, Psalms and Proverbs, and by direct inspiration, God has been telling man that he is still the apple of His eye. Yet, the real issue for mankind would call for an ultimate display of love.

1. In the book of Ezekiel when the child is a grown woman, how does she repay the love of God for saving her? Read **Ezekiel 16:15-59**
 - a. What has this child done to God?
 - b. Reread verse 15 “But you trusted in your _____ beauty, played the harlot because of _____ fame, and poured out _____ harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.”

- Does this sound familiar? Read **Ezekiel 28:12-17**

It is the very essence of Satanism to begin trusting in one's own beauty, wisdom and strength. It is what caused the original sin in the garden of Eden, and it still is the great fault of man today. Whenever we begin to feel that we can live a life without God, or in our own strength, wisdom or power, rest assured that we are on the certain road that Satan himself traveled.

- c. What would be the sure result of this child for choosing to follow her own way, rather than God's? **Deuteronomy 28:45**

“Moreover, all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be _____; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:”

- It was a well-known fact that God had promised to send them into captivity, and there they would be destroyed because they had turned their back on God. Now as they were being carried away the only thought they had was “when is God going to destroy us?”
- What does Paul say about the condition of the whole world?
- Read **Romans 3:19**

“Now we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and _____the _____ may become _____ before God.”

It is not just the Jews that are guilty of being this wayward child, but, in fact, we all are Ezekiel's child.

- **Discuss:** What are some ways in which you see yourself as this child of Ezekiel?

2. Despite what this child deserved what does God provide for her transgressions? Read **Ezekiel 16:61-63** (NKJV)

“Then you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an _____ for all you have done,” says the Lord God.”

- What has God promised to provide for the child?
- Is there any significance to God providing the atonement verses us providing our own atonement?
- Why does this child need an atonement? Read **Romans 5** and discuss what Paul says about why we need an atonement.

The one common denominator to all pagan religion was the idea that man could atone for his own sin. In fact, many Christian and other monotheistic religions also believe that man can atone for his own sins. It is clear in Ezekiel that God would provide the atonement. But how would he do this?

2. This atonement was actually promised long before the time of Ezekiel. When Adam and Eve sinned against God and broke the original covenant with God he promised that he would provide an atonement for them. Therefore, the reality is that **Ezekiel 16:63** is just a reminder of what God has already promised.

a. Read Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her _____; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

- What is the Seed?
- How does **Galatians 3:16** explain this?
- Who is the Seed?

The Seed is the first promise that the atonement would be a human from the flesh of Eve herself.

- b. In anticipation of this coming atonement what does Eve name her firstborn?
Read **Genesis 4:1**(KJV)

“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a _____ from the Lord.”

Most commentators agree that the preposition “from” is not in the original language. The text literally reads “I have gotten a man the Lord” Eve expected that her firstborn was this atonement that God had promised.

c. Read **Genesis 12:7**. What does God promise to Abraham?

“And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy _____ will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.”

d. Read **Genesis 49:10**. What is another name for this Seed?

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until _____ come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be”

The name Shiloh was a title for the coming One. The one promised to Adam and Eve and to Abraham, or simply the Messiah.

e. What does Moses call this coming atonement? **Deuteronomy 18:15**?

“The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a _____ from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;”

f. What does Isaiah call this coming Atonement? Read **Isaiah 7:14**

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____.”

- What does Immanuel mean?

g. What name does Daniel use to describe the coming atonement?

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the _____ the _____ shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

- Also read **Daniel 7:13**. What is another title that Daniel uses?

h. How does Haggai describe the coming atonement? **Haggai 2:7**

The _____ of nations.

As you can see the atonement had many names as the various prophets spoke about his coming, The Seed, The Man, Shiloh, The prophet, Immanuel, Messiah the prince, The son of man and the Desire of nations. There are many others as well, but these serve the purpose of demonstrating that the people were looking for the atonement in the form of a man that would be sent from heaven itself to save mankind from the penalty of rebellion against God.

4. Now that we know the atonement would be a being from God, still, there is the question how would this messiah make the atonement for man?

- Read **Isaiah 53: 6, 8, 10, 11&12**
- What do these texts say that Messiah would do for us?
- Read **Daniel 9:24**. What does it say that the Messiah would do?
- Read **John 3:16**: does Jesus fulfill this role?

The Scriptures are clear, and history is even clearer of all the would-be messiahs, sages, holy men, gurus and gods. There has ever only been one that claimed to be the atonement sent from God to save mankind.

5. How necessary was it for mankind that we have this atonement provided for us?
Read **Romans 6:23**

“for the wages of sin is _____”

a. Is there anything unique about this death that sin brings?

- Read **Revelation 2:11** and **Hebrews 9:27**. What are these texts saying?

The Bible says that there are two kinds of death. The first death is the natural death that all men experience, but the second death is the eternal death that no person has ever experienced; except one, and that was Jesus. Jesus came to save us from eternal death, and in order to do that He had to experience the second death for us;

so that in this way the punishment for our sin is paid for in Jesus. Therefore, His death is the atonement that was promised to Ezekiel's child which we read about in **Ezekiel 16**.

- Read **Romans 5:6-9**
- Discuss what this means to you?

b. How is the second death described in the Bible?
Read **Matthew 13: 41-42**.

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be _____ and _____ of teeth”

Often this gnashing of teeth is thought to be brought on by the extreme pain due to the fires of hell, but commentaries offer a more surreal explanation. Here is a quote from just one: “. . . that the wicked weep and grind their teeth in misery because the realization has hit them that they have lost eternal life. The city is before them, the redeemed are there, they can finally see the unseen realities, and now eternal destruction is all that lays before them.” The real misery of being lost is not one of physical pain, but it is the reality that one has forever been shut out from God's kingdom.

c. Therefore, with this thought in mind, did Jesus experience the second death?
Read these quotes taken from excerpts from a book called *Desire of Ages*.

“So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love. Feeling how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause. His form swayed as if He were about to fall..... Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

He went a little distance from them - not so far but that they could both see and hear Him - and fell prostrate upon the ground. He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His Divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression. . . As the substitute and surety for sinful man, Christ was suffering under divine justice. He saw what justice meant. Hitherto He had been as an intercessor for others; now He longed to have an intercessor for Himself.

. . . Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God And what was to be gained by this sacrifice? How hopeless appeared the guilt and ingratitude of men! . . .
DA 686.4,5

“But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.” DA 753.1

- **Discuss:** Did Jesus die your second death?
- Can you see How this is an ultimate demonstration of God's love for us?

6. Read **Romans 3:24-26**.

How can you receive such a wonderful atonement for you?