



ELIJAH MESSAGE: PART FIVE

Satan ascribes his own Good and Evil character to God; thus by beholding a false god (Baal) we retain our fallen nature of Good and Evil, *lex naturae*

Life-long couples tend to become alike in every way, even in appearance. Why is that? Everything we come in contact with seems to influence us in one way or another: books, movies, music, friends, etc... etc... How come? The Bible contains a principle which applies to all humanity, which is that by beholding we become changed. Why? Did God create us to be like this?



But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord,
(2 Corinthians 3:18, emphasis added)

This passage not only lays out the mimetic (imitation) principle but also tells us that it is by beholding the glory of the Lord Jesus

Christ that we are transformed into His image, His likeness. By beholding Him we assimilate His character which is the same character as that of the Father. The Book of Micah states the same principle:

For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever (Micah 4:5, emphasis added).

How important is it to have a correct knowledge of God?



Children emulate their parents' behaviours

All people walk each in the name of his god. What does this mean? If “name” means character then this means that our characters become like the character of the God we behold. Just like children imitate their parents we imitate God, our heavenly Father. We copy God’s behaviour, we emulate His motives and we become replicas of His character. How important is it to have a

correct knowledge of God? It is extremely important, otherwise we will replicate a false image and become like the false god!

When Adam was created, he was made in God’s image which means that he “walked in the name” of His Creator until he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 1:27). Being made in God’s image meant that he was exactly like God in character. After eating from the Tree of Knowledge Adam began walking in the name of another god, the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

After the fall, Adam’s children did not reflect God—they reflected Adam’s fallen nature, which was the same nature as that of the god of this world:

And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth (Genesis 5:3).

In John chapter eight Jesus Himself said that He did what He saw His Father doing:

I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father" (John 8:38).

Jesus also made it clear that there are two fathers in the world: His Father, and the false father, Satan.

But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father," Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:40-44).

How can we tell the difference between the two fathers? It is very simple: the false father is a murderer. Why? Because he has no love for his children.

This principle is beautifully demonstrated by Solomon when he was called to arbitrate between the two harlots who had given birth on the same day. One of the children died in the night and the other survived. Now both mothers were claiming to be the mother of the living child and one of them was obviously lying. In the wisdom which God had given him and which he had asked for, Solomon goes straight to the heart of the matter and reveals the truth by revealing the hearts of the women:



Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other." Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him." So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother" (1 Kings 3:24-27).

The true mother would rather give her child away than to see it killed. The false mother had no love for that child and demanded its life just to prove her false claims. Jesus expresses the same wisdom as Solomon when He said: "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep," John 10:13 (emphasis added).

In Jesus' teachings, actions, life and death He strove incessantly to show us that God loves us. "For God so loved the world..." Jesus knew that if we could perceive God's love for us we would also be able to differentiate between Him and the false god.

If Jesus' interlocutors had been worshipping the true God they would have have a kindred spirit with Jesus and would have loved Him. But they had nothing in common with Him. On the contrary, they wanted to destroy him just as Satan wanted to destroy Him. It was clear who their father was and it was clear who they were worshipping because they had the same murderous desire to kill Jesus as their father had.

In John 10 again, Jesus clearly sets out the identifying marks whereby we may differentiate between the true God and the false god:



I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:9-10).

Who is the true God? The One who gives, protects, and saves life, because He loves His children. The false god comes to steal, kill and destroy because he cares not for the sheep. It is really so simple and yet the greatest problem humanity has had is its confusion regarding God. How can we be still so confused after all Jesus came to teach us?

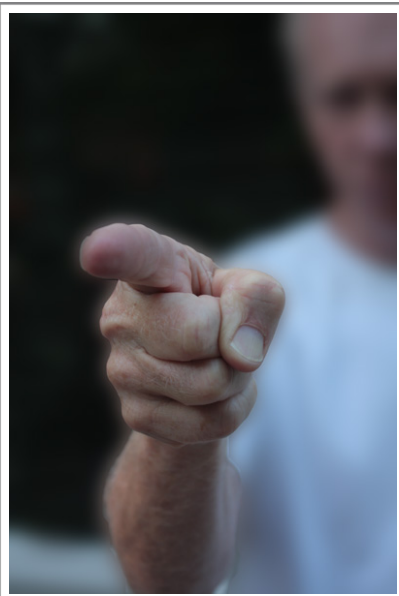
Elijah's message is a call to end such confusion. "How long will you waiver between two opinions?" cried out the prophet. It is high time that this question be settled and yet we labour along in our Laodicean stupor. We must awake to the fact that Satan ascribes his own attributes to God in order to confuse us:

Jesus was a fountain of healing mercy for the saving of the world; for by precept and example he represented the justice and love of God to men. When the nature of man is renewed by grace, he will be full of tenderness, sympathy, and love. Thus the character of God will be unfolded to the world as it is, and Satan will not be able to fasten the minds of all humanity in his snare, charging God with his own attributes, and misrepresenting his character. {ST November 28, 1892, par. 6}

After Adam sinned by eating of the forbidden Tree, humanity lost the knowledge that God's justice is entirely intertwined with His love and mercy. Jesus came to give us back that vital knowledge. By looking at Jesus as He reveals the true character of God, our natures may be renewed by His grace, and like God, we will become full of tenderness, sympathy, and love for every human being. Satan then will no longer be able to deceive us into believing

that God is like himself, a stern, accusatory, condemning, wrathful, exacting judge.

God is the Creator. As such He is also the provider. Our present lives are made possible because of God's constant care and providence. From our every breath to our food, water, sunshine, we owe it all to God's loving providence. Paul's speech to the Greeks reveals the God who provides for the needs of the human race:



"God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring' (Acts 17:24-28).



Baal (Satan) usurped God's place as the provider and made his followers believe that God's providences were conditional, based upon human merit. Paul is very clear, however: God gives *life, breath, and all things* to each and everyone of us regardless of merit. As we have seen in our earlier issues, God sends the sun and the rain on the good and the evil unconditionally. Baal would have us believe that it is immoral to do good things for those that don't deserve it because Baal operates by the merit system.

By beholding a false god (Baal) of reward and punishment we retain our fallen nature; instead of beholding the true God so that we become changed, we are fooled and prepped for perdition.

We may be highly moral in Baal's realm. So moral that we demand that justice be done to evildoers through harsh punishments. In

fact, Satan's kingdom is all about this perverted, cold, and cruel morality—this is why it is so deceiving.

NEITHER DO I
CONDEMN YOU.

— JESUS —

— JESUS —

Jesus' morality on the other hand was unconditional love, compassion and mercy. Jesus had mercy especially towards those who were shunned, ostracized and persecuted by the highly moralistic followers of Satan. Satan's moral law is characterized by its inherent cruelty, God's moral law by its mercy and compassion. Consider the following quote from The Great Controversy:

It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry. {GC 569.1}

Why is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy? Because by doing so some are blinded and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. What is the real nature of sin? It is a deceiving code of ethics based on merit; it is a cruel and violent moral law that causes men to cause harm to each other in order to "please" God. And "the" Sin is to believe that God operates by this demonic code of ethics.

What are the obligations of the divine law but to love friend and enemy alike, to have impartial love toward both the good and the evil? So then how is it that Satan's sophistry gives men license to

sin? He gives men license to sin by making them believe that in order to set the offender straight, in order to reform him, they must punish him, they must harm him, they must be cruel to him until he is compelled to change. He gives mankind license to sin by making us believe that it is alright to use violence against one another, that this is God's will, that this is His moral law.

Satan's moral law demands that we reward the good and punish the evil; it tricks us into thinking that evildoers can only be reformed through punishment. But that is not the biblical stance. The Bible is very clear that it is God's goodness that leads any of us to repentance:

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance (Romans 2:4)?

The above quote stated that Satan's morality is even embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. This has been true throughout human history and today we can witness this perversion of the moral law at work through the cruelties being perpetrated in the name God by Christians (yes, the wars fought by Christians are no holier than the wars fought by their enemies), Moslems, Jews, and so on. For that matter, this applies to every human being because no one is exempt. Satan's deception takes in the entire world:

...that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world... (Revelation 12:9).

From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Hence he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself,—as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving,—that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan hoped to so confuse the minds of those whom he had deceived that they would put God out of their knowledge.





Then he would obliterate the divine image in man and impress his own likeness upon the soul; he would imbue men with his own spirit and make them captives according to his will. {5T 738.1}

What an amazing feat of defamation, slander and misrepresentation! Isn't it high time we become wise to Satan's sophistry and stop believing his lies? Do we want to allow him to secure us to himself? Do we want to become like him? And yet we do just that when we listen to his misrepresentations of God.

Have we a concept of God that is clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself? Is our God arbitrary, severe, unforgiving? Do we fear Him? Do we shun Him?

By presenting the Creator to our minds as if He had the same attributes as Satan, the prince of evil obliterates the divine image in us, and impresses his own likeness upon our souls. He imbues us with his evil spirit and makes us captives according to his will.

By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.{DD 29.1}

Christ is the only solution to this human problem; in Him the God of love was revealed fully.

In the apostasy, man alienated himself from God. The separation is wide and fearful; but Christ has made provision again to connect us with Himself. The power of evil is so identified with human nature that no man can overcome except by union with Christ. Through this union we receive moral and

spiritual power. If we have the spirit of Christ we shall bring forth the fruit of righteousness, fruit that will honor and bless men, and glorify God. – {5T 230.3}



When at the Garden of Eden Christ promised that he would put “enmity” between the serpent and the woman He was promising that he would provide a way for mankind to come to know God as He truly is. In that knowledge He would open a way for us to exit Satan’s conditional moral law of reward and punishment and return to God’s unconditional kingdom of mercy and grace. Christ opened a way for us to behold the true God again and in so doing He opened a ways for us to become recreated in His image.

In the promise of putting enmity between us and the serpent Christ was setting before us the plan of redemption— redemption from Satan’s system of reward and punishment, redemption from the serpent’s lies about God. In that promise Jesus was saying that He would set straight the Father’s character so that we, and for that matter the whole universe, would be able to behold God as He truly is.

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

God seeks those that would worship Him in Spirit and in truth and the truth is that He is not like us, who are Good and Evil. God is love, agape love. The prophet Isaiah states:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).



And the Psalmist states:

You thought that I was altogether like you (Psalm 50:21).

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: PART SIX

Freemasonry and Satan's moral law of Good and Evil

THE MAGIC FLUTE AND THE MORAL LAW OF OPPOSING FORCES.



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