

In the beginning... GOD CREATED!

He did it for a PURPOSE...

and THAT PURPOSE WILL NOT BE THWARTED!

GOD CREATED!

... the WORLD, as a reflection of his glory and goodness.

- ... PEOPLE, as his "image-bearers" to rule over the world in God's behalf.
 - They were to work with creation in a way that increasingly revealed God's glory and goodness in creation. In doing this, it would result in increased blessings for the people themselves.

What could go wrong?

What if the humans chose to NOT do this?

- ✓ It would be a rejection of God's glory and goodness and all that goes along with such a rejection. This is "sin."
- It would result in hostility, alienation and separation from God

 and all the other consequences that God calls "death."

DEATH - NOT "ceasing to exist," but:

- "SEPARATION" from all that is good, and experiencing the fury of the wrath of God – wrath that must necessarily exist in the presence of evil.
- When people choose evil over God's goodness, it is a rejection of all that God is.

The human race did choose the path of death. Our first ancestors – Adam and Eve – chose to sin. *Every human* since that time has reaffirmed our first ancestor's choice by their own choices.* This choice had consequences. This choice had consequences. It is now our <u>nature</u> to sin – and thus, to be under the wrath of God. This originally included those who are *now* saved: Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath. Ephesians 2:3b (BSB) People often ask why "bad" things happen to "good" people. But since we have rejected the *source* of good, we should be asking why "good" things happen at all. *It is only because God has plans to accomplish, that he has delayed the final judgment.* * (To whatever extent they have the conscious ability to make choices.)

The horrible consequences of sin.

Our thinking on moral issues is now distorted.

- Sin now looks less sinful and more desirable. (We may even compare ourselves to "worse sinners," to make our own actions look "better"!)
- Righteousness appears *less* desirable, perhaps even counterproductive (unless we can use it for attaining our own personal goals).

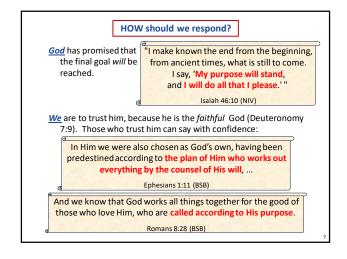
The ultimate consequences are devastating.

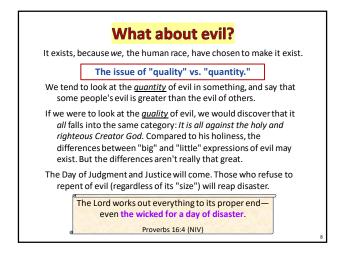
- For us: We are under the wrath of God. We should have been destroyed at the moment of our first sin. Justice undelayed would have meant the immediate wrath of God.
- ✓ For creation: Ultimately, it results in the ruin of God's good creation – which we were originally instructed to use and develop for the glory of God.

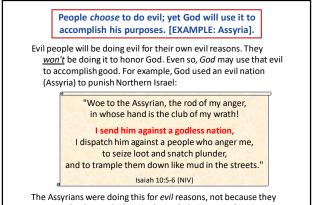
Even so, God's purpose will NOT be thwarted! Nothing the human race does can oppose God's purpose, and succeed. Scripture has revealed some his plans to us!

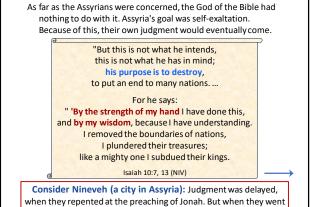
In Scripture:

- We learn the "basics" about God's purpose: How it has developed in the past, and where it's going in the future.
- But we don't know everything: <u>God</u> sees the whole picture; but <u>we</u> only know the basic outline. We might be able to see the general flow of history toward that goal; but not all the details of getting us there.
- What we can conclude: The small (day-to-day) details may look very confusing at the present time. Many things in our lives don't make sense... and they won't, until we reach the end-point – the time when God's plans are finally accomplished.



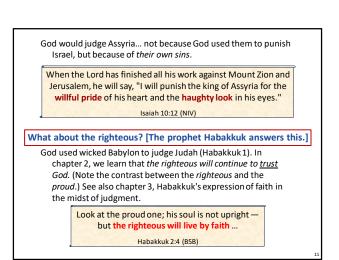


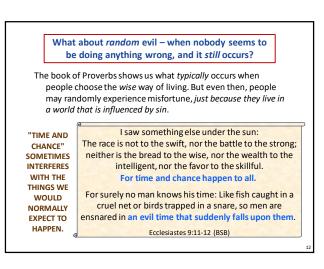


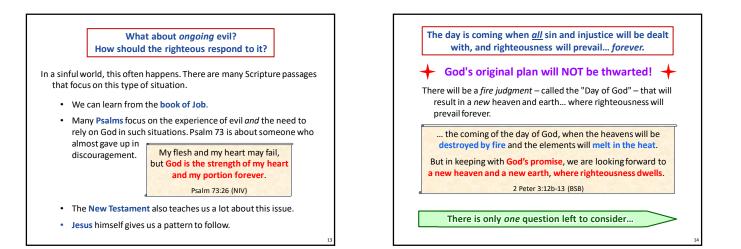


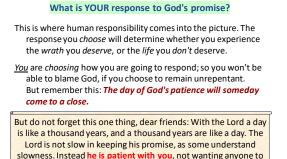
back to their sin, they were destroyed. (See the book of Nahum.)

he Assyrians were doing this for *evil* reasons, not because they wanted to honor God. So in the end, their own judgment can be described by the word "woe" (v. 5).









slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)



God's purpose for creation will be accomplished.

God's people have a wonderful future... a future that starts now!

Don't wait for the *future* to start pursuing righteousness! (A changed heart will make a person *want* to pursue it <u>now</u>!)

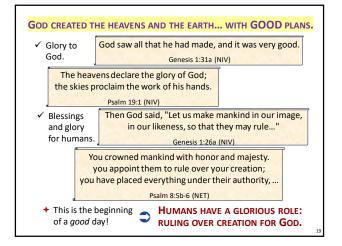
Since everything will be destroyed in this way [see previous verses], what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live **holy and godly lives** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

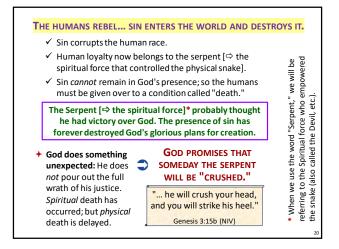
So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found **spotless**, **blameless and at peace with him**.

Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, **be on your** guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:11-12a, 14, 17-18a (NIV)





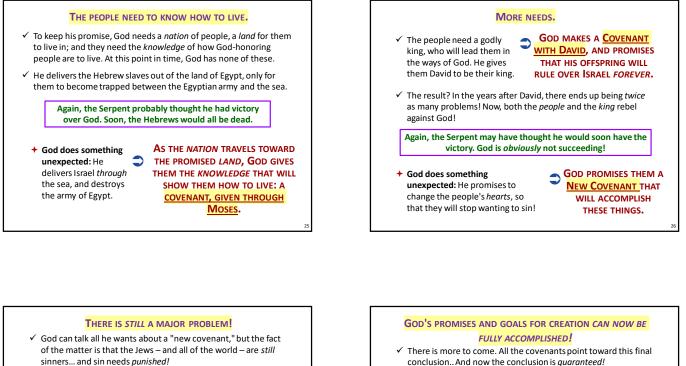










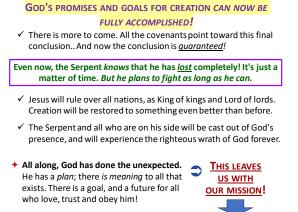


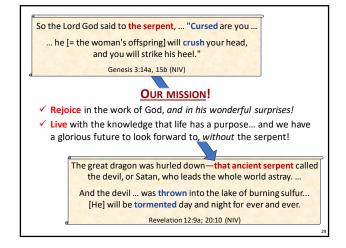
Again, the Serpent probably thought he had victory, at least a permanent "stalemate" - since all these "sin issues" remain unresolved!

+ God does something unexpected: **SINLESS JESUS GETS** He sends Jesus, who lives a sinless PUNISHED FOR OUR SIN. life. And ..

Well, the Serpent couldn't get Jesus to sin... but he did get him to die! So perhaps he still could claim victory! GOD RAISED JESUS FROM + God does something unexpected: Because Jesus was sinless, something THE DEAD. IN DOING could occur, that could not occur with THIS, THE SERPENT HAS anyone else in creation ...

NOW BEEN "CRUSHED."





	Every "victory" by Satan is going to be turned into a defeat! Don't choose to be on the side of the loser!
	Credits
SCRIPTURE	
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