

## Gospel to the Heathens

Brookings SDA

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Gal 3:6-8 "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed."

Some Christians believe the Old Testament has salvation by doing good works, and the New Testament is salvation by grace, faith, and a gift of God. Paul clearly corrected this false teaching in Eph 2:8,9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." After we are saved, and receive a new heart, then we are empowered to do good works which do not save us, but help save others.

### A. Some ways God preached the Gospel, not only to Abraham, but also to Adam and Eve:

#### 1. God's Prophecy and Promise

Gen 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." God promised to put "enmity" (war) between the seed of Eve and the serpent. In this war, Eve's seed, Christ, would be "bruised in the heel" In crucifixion, spikes were driven into the hands and heels to keep criminals upright on the cross. But Christ by His death and resurrection crushes Satan's head and destroys him. Heb 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

#### 2. Adam and Eve Taught Their Children and Descendants

For over 900 years, they had to explain their responsibility for bringing sin, pain, and death to God's newly created perfect earth. As little children, this had to be difficult for Cain, Abel, and Seth to understand. But to talk about creation and living in the Garden of Eden was easier because of physical facts. Adam and Eve were created, had no bellybutton, and Adam was missing a rib. The children were born, had bellybuttons and all their ribs. Often, when Adam and Eve tried to correct people, they replied: "It's all your fault!" "You started this mess!" Ellen White's comment, "*Adam's life was one of sorrow, humility, and contrition... Filled with the keenest remorse for his own sin, and doubly bereaved in the death of Abel and the rejection of Cain, Adam was bowed down with anguish,... yet after beholding for nearly a thousand years the results of sin, he felt that it was merciful in God to bring to an end a life of suffering and sorrow.*" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 82

#### 3. Sacrifices of a Lamb for Sins

Gen 4:3-7 God rejected Cain's sacrifice of fruits and vegetables, but accepted Abel's of a lamb which symbolized faith that Jesus will die for our sins. Rev 13:8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Which requires more faith? To sacrifice a lamb, a symbol of Christ, and believe in the future He will die for our sins, or at the Lord's Supper believe Jesus did die for our sins in 31 A.D.

#### 4. Nature: Psa 19:1-3 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*" God's wonderful creation speaks in every language to every person on earth. Paul emphasized this truth in Rom 1:19,20 "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

#### 5. Prophets: Jude 1:14,15. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.



6. **Judgment Day** Psa 87:4-6 "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this *man* was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, *that* this man was born there. Selah" In the judgment, God counts, takes into account, even the nation and city people were born in. (Jerusalem or Sodom)
7. **Noah's Ark:** Gen 6:13-22 God told Noah to build an ark to save people and animals from the flood. Noah worked, warned, and preached for 120 years. The construction of this large boat was a tourist attraction for the curious, and learn more about God. Some came to ridicule or curse Noah for scaring the people.
8. **Angels Guard Garden of Eden,** Gen 3:24: Angels guarded Eden with a flaming sword. Physical proof of God for those who denied the Creator. Eden became a tourist attraction for people to see animal life that was vegetarian, lions eating grass, and lambs playing with tigers. No falling dead leaves, diseases on flowers, or biting mosquitoes. Angels could teach people the truths about God and Satan
9. **Holy Spirit** Gen 6:3 "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" . John 16:7,8 The work of the Holy Spirit is to reprove (convict) people of their sins, righteousness, and judgment.
10. **Jesus Christ:**Heb 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" Jesus died for all the sins of the world. Rev 7:9,10 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." John saw the saved, from all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues stand before God's throne, praising God and the Lamb. People and tongues (languages) include small tribes and isolated groups of head-hunters, lepers, and cannibals. These saved prove God's salvation is for the worst of the worst, like the demoniac with a Legion (4,000 to 8,000) of devils) in Mark 5:1-9

**B. God's Ten Commandments Existed in Oral Form Before God Wrote them at Mt. Sinai**

God's only command to Adam and Eve was not to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and evil. But, after they sinned, and Satan began filling their minds with evil, God gave (spoke) to them the Ten Commandments . How could Adam break the 7<sup>th</sup> command in Exod 20:7, "Thou shalt not commit adultery"? Eve was the only woman on the earth! The Ten Commandments reveal sin. See: Rom 7:7

- I Exod 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" Gen 35:2-4, Jacob buried the strange gods
- II Exod 20:4-6 "Thou shalt not make any graven image" Gen 31:19 Rachel stole her father's images.
- III Exod 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" Gen 4:26 Seth and his children began to "call upon the name of the Lord." Gen 6:2, Later, the "sons of God, Seth's descendants, took wives of the daughters of men, Cain's descendants. These mixed marriages, often bigamy, was in vain.
- IV Exod 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy." Exod 16:25-39. No manna fell on the Sabbath day, people were to rest. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day, a double portion of manna fell and could be kept overnight without worms and stinking. Some disobeyed, and tried to find manna on the Sabbath. Israel knew the Sabbath law before they reached Mt. Sinai, and heard God speak (write) the Ten Commandments
- V Exod 20:12 "Honor thy father and thy mother." Gen 9:20-23 Shem and Japheth covered Noah, their father, with a garment. Noah was drunk, naked, and asleep in his tent.
- VI Exod 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill." Gen 4:8 Cain killed his younger brother, Abel.
- VII Exod 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Gen 20:3-9 Philistine king knew adultery is a great sin.
- VIII Exod 20:15: "Thou shalt not steal" Gen 31:19 Rachel stole her father's images (idols)
- IX Exod 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness" Gen 20:1-3 Abraham told Abimelech Sarah's my sister
- X Exod 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet ....anything that is thy neighbor's" Gen 25:29-34 Jacob coveted Esau's birthright and bought it for a pottage of lentils and bread.

**Ellen White Comment:** "Adam taught his descendants the law of God, and it was handed down from father to son through successive generations. But notwithstanding the gracious provision for man's redemption, there were few who accepted it and rendered obedience. By transgression the world became so vile that it was necessary to cleanse it by the Flood from its corruption. The law was preserved by Noah and his family, and Noah taught his descendants the Ten Commandments." Patriarchs Prophets, p.363 (1890).



Paul and Ellen White's Comments  
Salvation of the Heathen

**A. Lost Condition of Many Heathen**

1. **Rom 1:18,19** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed *it* unto them," God is angry with the ungodly, because He revealed truth to them, and they rejected it for lies. How did God reveal truth to these heathen?
2. **Rom 1:20** "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even his eternal power and Godhead*; so that they are **without excuse**:" God revealed to them His glorious creation, the physical stars and life forms, to help them understand invisible things, like His eternal power and Godhead. Because they knew the truth and rejected it for false teachings, they have no excuse.
3. **Rom 1:21,22** "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," They became fools, by knowing God, yet refusing to glorify the Creator and be thankful.
4. **Rom 1:23,25** "And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" Their rejection of God led them to make and worship idols of animals, nature and humans. By changing God's truth into a lie, they worshipped creatures, man made idols, more than the Creator. This sad rejection of God's truth is not limited to the early humans of ancient times. Many today, proud of their higher education, and scientific ability, reject God as Creator of humans after His own image, for the theory of evolution. Fortunately, not everyone uses their free will, and reject the light God gives them.

**B. Saved Condition of many Heathen**

1. **Rom 2:11** "For there is no respect of persons with God." Jesus presented this fundamental truth in common language in His Sermon on the Mount: **Matt 5:44,45**, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." We all experience God's blessings of sunshine and rain, even if we're evil or good. Jesus told Nicodemus, **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God loves the world, everyone, good or bad, Jew or Gentile, atheist or believer.
2. **Rom 2:14** "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:" Gentiles (Heathen) which do not have the law (Scriptures), become their own law. Paul means more than have a clean conscience that we are doing good things, and deserve the praise of men and even God. Read on:
3. **Rom 2:15** "Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their thoughts*..." They have the law (Scripture) not in a book but written in their hearts, to guide their conscience and thoughts. This results in good works, as evidence they are saved. **Matt 5:16** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
4. The Trinity work together to save sinners: **John 1:9,10** "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." Christ gives everyone light (truth). **John 16:8** "And when he (Holy Spirit) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" and **Rom 12:3** "God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." God the Father gives enough faith to believe the light given by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **No one has an excuse to be lost!**



Ellen White's Comments. =  
Salvation of the Heathen

1. "Wherever there is an impulse of love and sympathy, wherever the heart reaches out to bless and uplift others, there is revealed the working of God's Holy Spirit. In the depths of heathenism, men who have had no knowledge of the written law of God, who have never even heard the name of Christ, have been kind to His servants, protecting them at the risk of their own lives. Their acts show the working of a divine power. The Holy Spirit has implanted the grace of Christ in the heart of the savage, quickening his sympathies contrary to his nature, contrary to his education. The "Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" ( John 1:9), is shining in his soul; and this light, if heeded, will guide his feet to the kingdom of God." Christ's Object Lessons p. 385(1900)

Summary: How The Trinity is able to save those in the depths of heathenism. They have no knowledge of God's written law or even heard the name of Christ.

- a. **John 16:8** The Holy Spirit reproves sin, and righteousness. He implants in the heart of the savage, impulses of love and sympathy contrary to his nature, and education.
- b. **John 1:9** The light Christ, gives everyone, including savages, is shining in his soul. If heeded (believed) guides heathens to God's kingdom.
- c. **Rom 12:3** The Father gives a everyone, savages too, a measure (pinch) enough faith to believe, and accept the working of the Holy Spirit and Jesus.
- d. **Eph 2:8-10** After being saved, heathens are created in Christ to do good works, such as:
  - 1). Kind to God's servants
  - 2) Protected God's servants at the risk of their own lives **John 15:13** "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. "Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

How surprised and gladdened will be the lowly among the nations, and among the heathen, to hear from the lips of the Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"! How glad will be the heart of Infinite Love as His followers look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval." Desire Ages, p. 638.

Summary: How the Trinity save heathen who worship God ignorantly, never had received light by humans, yet they will not perish!

- a. Holy Spirit influenced in the heathen a spirit of kindness, they have been a blessing to others.
- b. Heathen befriended missionaries at risk of their own lives.
- c. Holy Spirit touched heathen hearts, they are recognized as God's children
- d. Heathen heard God's voice speaking to them in nature
- e. Heathen surprised and glad when Jesus tells them. **Matt 25:40** "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". Note Ellen White's last sentence in Desire Ages, p. 638
- f. above: "His (God) followers (angels, disciples) look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval (on the heathen who found God through nature and the Holy Spirit, not by people)

