

PThe God of the Bible as He revealed Himself to the nation of Israel: יהוה - “Jehovah”;
The One who Exists!

God created the universe, the earth, and everything in it in six literal days.

God created Man in His own image; a free-will individual who has a right to himself, that is, he has a capacity to reason and a right to his own existence. This is the basis for Man’s ability to make choices and to seek out those things necessary to sustain himself.

God created Man as “good”, meaning man’s goodness is intrinsic to the nature of his existence. It means Man has the capacity to act in accordance to the purpose for which he was created: to think, to reason, to live, to BE.

The Bible teaches that the flesh is WEAK and not evil, but it can be used to do both evil works and good works.

The Bible describes Sin as an entity that seeks to control others through condemnation. It uses the Law to tempt others through the WEAKNESS of the flesh.

There are two groups of people in the world: those who are “under law” and those who are “under grace”.

- Every person ever born into this world is “under law”, meaning they are subject to the Law’s jurisdiction. Every person still under law at the end of his life will be judged according to the Law; either the Law as revealed in scripture or the Law written on the heart of every person (the conscience). Those under law are therefore subject to condemnation by a single transgression.
- Every person who is “born again” or “born from above” is “under grace”. A person under grace is no longer under condemnation because there is no longer any law that can judge him. The “old man” who was under law has been crucified with Christ and reborn as a New Creature; the literal offspring of God the Father. Since the Law can no longer condemn him, this New Creature CANNOT sin because where there is no law there is no sin. Therefore, he is righteous as a state of being, not merely “declared righteous”. This frees the believer to act according to a new Law of love; showing love to God and to others by obedience. Those under grace fulfill the Law by a single act of love.

CThe “Atonement” is an Old Testament concept that describes the covering aspect of the Law. During Old Testament times, a believer’s sin was imputed to the Law. The Law took believers into protective custody. In this way, Old Testament saints were preserved from condemnation upon their death.

SJesus Christ is the promised “seed” of Abraham. He is the “testator” of the Law. His death on the cross signified the ending of the Law, and He took away all sin that had been imputed to the Law. Because the Law is ended, believers now no longer need a “guardian”. There is no need for a “covering”. Believers are righteous because of the

New Birth, and there is no more condemnation for those who are in Christ because the Law has been ended.

Justification is the term the Bible uses to describe the one-time, instantaneous event in the life of an individual whereby that individual is made righteous as a state of being. This event happens because of the New Birth, when the “old man” who was under Law (and thus under condemnation) literally dies (crucified with Christ) and is reborn as the literal offspring of God the Father. Because this “new creature” is the offspring of God, he bears the Father’s same righteous nature. The new creature is no longer under the Law’s jurisdiction and therefore CANNOT sin, because where there is no law there is no sin. Therefore, the basis for justification is the New Birth and NOT some standard of perfect law-keeping.

Sanctification is the term the Bible uses to describe the process of cleansing for the purpose of making a place or thing distinct from that which is common or ordinary. With respect to the born-again believer, it is the process whereby an individual is set apart for God, making him distinct from those who are unsaved. Sanctification is a cooperative effort between the believer and the Holy Spirit and is informed by the Law. It is the means of a believer’s growth into maturity.

HThe Law is a term that the Bible uses to refer specifically to the Mosaic Law as codified for the nation of Israel, the law of God written on the heart of every man, or to the whole of scripture in general. The Law serves two purposes depending on what an individual’s relationship is to it. For those who are “under law” (the Biblical definition of a lost person) the Law brings condemnation. For those who are “under grace” (the Biblical definition of one who is born again) there is no more condemnation, and the Law is used to inform one’s Sanctification and lead the believer to maturity. In either case, the Law can be used as a vehicle for both the lost and the saved to show love to God and to others through obedience. During Old Testament times, sin was imputed to the Law, and it took saints into protective custody until the “Promise” came, thus preserving them from condemnation. The Law is NEVER meant to be a means to merit righteousness.