

BORN TO BE WILD?

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY SOME ANIMALS ARE DOMESTICATED AND SOME ARE NOT? WHY DO WILD ANIMALS AND EVEN MOST DOMESTICATED SPECIES HAVE A NATURAL FEAR OF MAN? WHY MUST WE WORK TO TAME LIVESTOCK TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THEM IN OUR ARENAS? EVEN PUPPIES AND KITTENS, IF THEY ARE NOT HANDLED BY PEOPLE EARLY IN THEIR LIVES, BECOME HARD TO TAME.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY. IN THE VERY BEGINNING, GOD CALLED HIS CREATION "VERY GOOD."¹ HIS DEFINITION OF "VERY GOOD" INCLUDES "THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH, NOR SORROW, NOR CRYING. THERE SHALL BE NO MORE PAIN,"² SO WE CAN INFER THERE WAS NO FEAR BECAUSE IF THERE IS NO PAIN OR DEATH, WHAT IS TO FEAR?

BUT ADAM AND EVE (GOD'S FIRST PEOPLE) INTRODUCED DEATH AND SORROW (AND FEAR) WHEN THEY DISOBEYED GOD,³ AND THINGS GOT WORSE AND WORSE UNTIL "THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY INTENT OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY."⁴ SO GOD DESTROYED THE WORLD THAT HE CREATED WITH A GLOBAL FLOOD, BUT SAVED ONE FAMILY IN AN ARK. AFTER THAT FLOOD, GOD SAID TO NOAH, "THE FEAR OF YOU AND THE DREAD OF YOU SHALL BE ON EVERY BEAST OF THE EARTH, ON EVERY BIRD OF THE AIR, ON ALL THAT MOVE ON THE EARTH, AND ON ALL THE FISH OF THE SEA. THEY ARE GIVEN INTO YOUR HAND."⁵

SINCE NOAH'S FLOOD, ANIMALS HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF MEN AND MEN HAVE HAD TO TAME THE ANIMALS THEY WANT TO USE.⁶ ULTIMATELY THIS IS BECAUSE OF MAN'S SIN. SO WHEN YOU ARE

WORKING WITH YOUR LIVESTOCK, OR TRYING TO COAX A KITTEN TO COME TO YOU, REMEMBER THEY FEAR YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN. WHEN ADAM AND EVE SINNED, THEY DISOBEYED GOD'S CLEAR COMMAND ABOUT EATING THE FRUIT FROM A CERTAIN TREE,⁷ AND THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THEIR PUNISHMENT OF DEATH WAS PASSED TO THEIR FAMILY (ALL OF US), BECAUSE WE ALL SIN.⁸

IT'S TRUE, WE ALL SIN, AND IF GOD HAD TO CONDEMN ADAM AND EVE FOR BREAKING ONE COMMAND, HOW DO YOU THINK HE WILL JUDGE US AFTER ALL OUR SINS? IF I ONLY BREAK ONE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS,⁹ I AM AS GUILTY AS IF I BROKE ALL OF THEM.¹⁰

THINK ABOUT YOURSELF, HAVE YOU EVER LIED? STOLEN? USED GOD'S NAME IN VAIN? COMMITTED ADULTERY (EVEN IN YOUR IMAGINATION)?

WANTED SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE ELSE OWNED? MOST OF US HAVE BROKEN A LOT MORE THAN ONE COMMANDMENT, SO WE EACH DESERVE GOD'S JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT, WHICH IS ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM HIM IN HELL.¹¹

BUT GOD KNEW HIS JUSTICE WOULD REQUIRE A PUNISHMENT, SO HE TOLD EVE HE WOULD MAKE A WAY TO FORGIVE US. GOD SAID HE WOULD OVERCOME THE DEVIL THROUGH EVE'S SEED, ONE OF HER DESCENDANTS.¹² 2000 YEARS AGO JESUS OF NAZARETH FULFILLED THAT PROMISE. BEING FULLY GOD¹³ AND FULLY MAN,¹⁴ JESUS LIVED A PERFECT LIFE,¹⁵ OBEYED EVERY COMMANDMENT AND THEN WILLINGLY BECAME THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR THE SIN OF THE WHOLE WORLD WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS.¹⁶ THEN HE PROVED THAT HE OVERCAME OUR SINS BY RISING FROM THE DEAD.¹⁷

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¹ GENESIS 1:31
² REVELATION 21:4

³ GENESIS 3:6-10
⁴ GENESIS 6:5
⁵ GENESIS 9:2
⁶ JAMES 3:3,7

⁷ GENESIS 3:6,12
⁸ ROMANS 5:12
⁹ EXODUS 20:2-17
¹⁰ JAMES 2:10

¹¹ MATTHEW 25:41
¹² GENESIS 3:15
¹³ COLLOSSIANS 2:9
¹⁴ ROMANS 5:15
¹⁵ HEBREWS 4:15
¹⁶ COLLOSSIANS 1:19-20
¹⁷ ROMANS 4:25



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JESUS ACCOMPLISHED WHAT COULD NOT BE DONE WITH ANIMAL SACRIFICES.¹⁸ HE RESTORED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IF WE BELIEVE IN HIM.¹⁹ AND WHEN HE RETURNS, HE WILL ALSO RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS. ISAIAH, A PROPHET WHO PREDICTED MANY DETAILS OF JESUS' LIFE, ALSO SAID, "THE WOLF ALSO SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB, THE LEOPARD SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE YOUNG GOAT, THE CALF AND THE YOUNG LION AND THE FATLING TOGETHER; AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM...THEY SHALL NOT HURT NOR DESTROY IN ALL MY HOLY MOUNTAIN, FOR THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD."²⁰

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¹⁸ HEBREWS 10:4
¹⁹ HEBREWS 9:13-14

²⁰ ISAIAH 11: 6, 9

HERE IS A SIMPLE WAY TO ACT ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE: TELL SOMEONE ELSE THAT YOU BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART THAT:

1. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.²¹
2. YOU ARE A SINNER WHO NEEDS TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN.²²
3. JESUS' DEATH WAS SUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SIN.²³
4. GOD RAISED HIM BACK TO LIFE FROM DEATH TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE FORGIVEN.²⁴
5. THIS FAITH IN GOD IS NOW THE MOTIVATION FOR ALL YOUR ACTIONS.²⁵

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ONE WHO CREATED YOU FOR HIS LOVE, VISIT:

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²¹ ACTS 9:37, 1 JOHN 4:15
²² ROMANS 3:1-12, 23
²³ HEBREWS 2:17, 1 JOHN 2:2
²⁴ ROMANS 10:9-10, ACTS 17:30-31
²⁵ GALATIANS 2:20, PHILIPPIANS 2:13

