

Looking At God's Love For Mankind

How can we, even in a small measure, understand God's love for man if we haven't looked at its extent?

Every believer has heard, "For God had such love for the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever has faith in him may not come to destruction but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)." Even unbelievers have heard that verse.

The following verses are well known also. We look at it and see that God sent His Son to die for us even before we knew about Him.

But God has made clear his love to us, in that, when we were still sinners, Christ gave his life for us. (*Romans 5:8*).

¶ But it was our pain he took, and our diseases were put on him: while to us he seemed as one diseased, on whom God's punishment had come. But it was for our sins he was wounded, and for our evil doings he was crushed: he took the punishment by which we have peace, and by his wounds we are made well.. (*Isaiah 53:4-5*).

Here we see that even several hundred years before Jesus' Passion at the Cross, it was prophesied that He would do this. We are blessed and made even more aware by this of His concern and love for us.

Let's go a little further back in scripture and gain more insight as to the extent of His love for mankind. In the book of beginnings in the Garden of Eden we see an even earlier evidence of God's love for us.

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins for their clothing. (*Genesis 3:21*).

These skins from a sacrificed animal were given to Adam and Eve not only to cover their nakedness but also as a picture of God's love and concern for mankind. God made an overt move not only to cover man but to bring man to Himself. These skins are a picture of the sacrifice of the Sinless Lamb of God that would provide redemption for us at the Cross.

Then let's look a little further back to see an even larger view of the extent of His love for man.

... whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**. (*Revelations 13:8*)

The Lamb of God was slain from (before) the foundation (conception) of the world (the whole cosmos). In other words before God our Father even conceived the world in His mind, He determined that this Lamb of God, His Son, would die and in Gods mind had already died that we might live unto Him.

Before *Genesis 1:1* God had determined to bring man to himself. As we think about these things we can gain a measure of insight into the extent, degree and greatness of our Father's love for us and His desire to have us in His family.

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