Lesson #5 God’s True Nature

*There are several epochs or ages of time that God has designated in His word. Below are the 4 main ones that pertain to the point of our lesson today.*

*1)****The Patriarchal Age****: This was time before the Old Testament laws were given to mankind, through Moses. There were sinful things occurring during this time but there were no consequences from God for those sins during that time.*

* **Romans 5:13** For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed (held against) when there is no law.

*Q. Were there however, ramifications of sin between one another during this time?*

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* **Genesis 4:23-24** Then Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;  
  Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!  
  For I have killed a man for wounding me,  
  Even a young man for hurting me.

If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,  
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.

*Q. Who was making up the rules in* ***Genesis 4:24****?*

A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*2)****Old Testament Law****. This is the Old Covenant including the 10 commandments and 633 other laws for mankind to try to keep to be made right in the sight of God. This was a system of earning, working, striving, and failing.*

*Q. According to the following verses what was the purpose of the law?*

* Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” A.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Galatians 3:4 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

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*3)****The Gospel Age:*** *Also known as Inner-Testament Age: This was the time between the Old and New Testaments when Jesus was alive for 33 years in bodily form on the earth. He was beginning to deal with mankind in a new and living way. The people during this time were still under law but God in Christ was challenging their hearts to see that there was a new way of life ‘in’ Christ about to explode and set them free from earning their way to God.*

* **Luke 4:18-19** “The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me,  
  Because He has anointed Me  
  To preach the gospel to *the* poor;  
  He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
  To proclaim liberty to *the* captives  
  And recovery of sight to *the* blind,  
  *To* set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
  **19**To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

*Q. What are some ways that these people were poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed? And are these similar to people today who are either not yet born again or do not understand their identity in Christ?*

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* **Luke 4:42-43** Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; **43**but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”
* Luke 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; **21**nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

*Kingdom = King’s Domain. The Kingdom of God is the domain of our King Jesus. For this purpose, He came. To preach the gospel (good news) of the domain of God that with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit literally moves into the born again believer!*

*4)****The New Testament Church Age:*** *Also known as the New Covenant. This is the dispensation of time where mankind no longer looks to their self, their own effort, their keeping rules and laws to be in right standing with God. This is the beginning of a time when mankind can be born from above and have the very nature of God placed within their being. This is the time that the grace of God empowers born again mankind to live a life in agreement with God’s principles from a heart that desires Him and His ways. This is the time we are now in praise God!*

* Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

*Let’s look at the nature of God that we see in the New Testament. Nothing that has happened throughout all the timelines of mankind has happened accidentally. There is no willy-nilly to God’s ways. We are living during this exact time in history for God’s purposes. This exact time in history God has a way that He relates to His people. To all people. All people are His people. He is God to the world, but He is Papa to His children.*

*For those that have not yet accepted Him… He is constantly wooing them.*

* Psalms 145:18 The Lord *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.
* John 3:15-17 That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
* John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
* Acts 2:38 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
* Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
* Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.
* Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
* 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*For those who have received Him… He is constantly reminding them of who they are, why they are, what they have, how to be… Why is God doing this? Why does He take the time to tend to us, care for us, guide us, help us to grow and go forward?*

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* 1 John 4:8 God is love

***Who we are in Christ…***

* John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name
* John 15:15-16 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
* 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
* Ephesians 2:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
* 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

***Our purpose, why we are in Christ…***

* Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory;  
  I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”
* Isaiah 43:21 This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.
* Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
* Revelations 4:11 KJV Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

***What we have in Christ…***

* 1 Corinthians 2:16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
* 1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
* Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
* 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

***How to just be, in Christ…***

* Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,  
  Because he trusts in You. **4**Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.
* 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
* 2 Corinthians 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
* Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3**For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4**When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
* Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. **2**For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.
* Hebrews 4:9-11 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. **10**For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.**11**Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.