

The Righteousness of the Law

Introduction

We have looked at the signs of the times and realized God has a plan to save us from disaster. This disaster is here and is going to get worse through the Three Angel's messages.

Daniele 2 and the Stone Kingdom is Christ in the tippy toes of the statue

Prophecy about the coming Judgment and Jesus the Messiah provides the human race a way to escape through Jesus paying the penalty of our sin. This means we do not come into judgment.

Now we will look at the Three Angel's Messages and begin unpacking the first message.

The First Angel's Message

The first angel proclaims:

Fear God and give Him Glory for the hour of His judgment has come Revelation 14:7

How do we fear God? What does it mean to be afraid of God?

In Genesis, Adam was afraid of God because of disobedience. The Hebrew word "Yahree" has two kinds of fear:

- Frightful fear like Adam because of disobedience; what it will bring (death).
- To respect, loyalty, to honor

What does it mean to Fear God?

especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children. Deuteronomy 4:10

The First Angel's Message is calling for the world to "fear" to obey, honor and be loyal to God's words. To obey his commandments.

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. Ecclesiastes 12:13

The First Angel is calling us to obey the commandments of God. But there is another kind of obedience that the judgment demands. Obedience was the first thing God asked of Adam.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; Genesis 2:16

Adam was supposed to have this kind of fear (loyalty, respect, obedience) – he would have never known the other kind of fear (worry about death, dread, anxiety, fearful expectation).

God created Adam in a state of perfect obedience, perfectly Righteous. Not one fiber of Adam was out of harmony with God's commands, word or will.

Psalms tells us that obedience to God's commandments is righteousness

My tongue shall speak of thy word: For all thy commandments are righteousness. Psalm 119:172

Righteousness is doing what is right. The Ten Commandments are the standard of doing what right looks like.

Adam failed to have obedience, failed at keeping the Commandments and plunged the entire human race under the curse of death.

Moses exacerbated the problem:

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." Romans 10:5

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." Galatians 3:10

These two ideas together clearly say that righteousness that comes from the law demands a perfect righteousness. This means perfect obedience is never once sinning.

Since Adam sinned and the bible says we all come out of the loins of Adam as born sinners, what hope do we have?

"It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen, and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God." (From the 19th Century)

Our obedience is a filthy rag. Our righteousness is no good. The Law of God demands a perfect righteousness and perfect obedience for eternal life.

But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

We have fallen, broken natures. The best we can produce is not enough to satisfy the law that demands ZERO infractions.

The First Angel's Message shows a way to have this life-saving righteousness.

The Second Adam

God sent a second Adam. God sent Jesus to this earth not just to idea as Adam should have, but to live the life of a perfect righteousness before God's law as Adam should have.

This was the purpose of Jesus living out 33 years on earth. If it was only his death that God needed to save the human race, then God could have let Herod kill Jesus with the other babies of Bethlehem. But God sent his son to walk the earth as a perfect man should have. To live and obey as Adam should have.

This idea is central to the 70-week prophecy.

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. Matthew 3:15

What does Jesus mean to fulfill all righteousness? He means to obey perfectly in all things. The next thing that happens to Jesus is the story of His temptation in Matthew 4. He is tempted by the devil to disobey God's commandments:

He is tested to disobey, to distrust God just like Adam did

But he obeyed perfectly and he is free from sin that he did not disobey God.

Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? John 8: 46

This was his method, his great custom.

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Matthew 5: 17-18

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5: 20

Real Righteousness

The Pharisees were considered righteous men, perfect law keepers. Jesus is saying that unless your law keeping is deeper than theirs, you will be lost. Christ understood what perfect righteousness looked like and they did not have it. He says he has come to fulfill. The word is "Pleroo" – meaning to demonstrate something in its fullness. To demonstrate what real law-keeping, real righteousness is.

The whole course of Jesus's life was on display. His perfect obedience to the Father. His real righteousness.

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Matthew 5:39-41

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you Matthew 5:43-44

Did Jesus live these principles in perfection? Did he turn the other cheek? Did he give his cloak? Did he go two miles when compelled to go one? Did he bless his enemies? Did he pray for those that persecuted him?

Let us go to Pilate's court and ask him when Jesus is being tried.

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" John 19: 4

Pilate could find no fault. He, who dealt with dregs of society, who could sniff out a liar and a criminal in seconds, says Jesus is faultless.

Jesus is the lamb of God. In the Old Testament every lamb was a representation of Jesus. Every lamb had to be perfect, without blemish and that was to represent Jesus.

but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:19

Paul makes the case about the righteousness we need

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3: 21-26

Our very lives depend upon this concept. All major religions believe you are saved by your own righteous good works. Christianity makes a great case that if our good works are what save us, what trouble we are in because even the great Daniel understood the real condition of man.

O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. Daniel 9:7

For salvation. Not the end of the law like now it no longer has any meaning. But Christ is the end of the law “for salvation.”

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4

The law brings awareness that you are a condemned dead man and only Christ can stand perfectly without fault in the full light of the Law. He will do that in your place just as he took the curse of the law in your place.

Imputation

By what right can God do this? He imputes it to us. Which means “accredit to your account.”

What then shall we say that Abraham our father^[a] has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was^[b] accounted to him for righteousness.” Now to him who works, the wages are not counted^[c] as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, Romans 4:1-5

God declares you righteous when you are not

He declares you righteous when you believe that He will do so

You need to submit to that righteousness

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. Romans 10:3

We can have this righteousness imputed in the same way we had our death sentence imputed to Him by repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin, a confession of sin and a rejection of your righteousness and a confession that you need His righteousness.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10

The First Angel's Message Clarified

Prior to the second coming of Christ, in light of the broken world we are living in, steeped in sin, as was in the days of Noah and Sodom, God has announced there is a judgment that every person must come to.

We pass through that judgment by having Christ as our representative. There is a law that demands perfect conformity, perfect obedience (fear) before God. Any who break that law are punished by death.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Romans 3:19

The solution: God sent the second Adam. Sending His son into a world as a man to live the life we should live and die the death we should die

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. Romans 5:10

God proclaims that based upon his son's life and death, he will impute your sentence of death upon Jesus and he will impute His righteous life to you and in this way the Law is satisfied. He proclaims the law and God satisfied over your account.

to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26

In the day of judgment, when your name enters the court docket and there is your life record revealed before an unerring God, Judge and Law, you can have confidence because the law is not judging you. If you have repented, have submitted to the righteousness of God, rejecting your own, turning from sin, confessing your need of both Jesus's life and death on your behalf, then you are hid in Christ.

The law judges Jesus on your behalf and you are free.

I will bear the indignation of the LORD, Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness. Micah 7:9

Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger. Zephaniah 2:3

until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. Daniel 7:22

"By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the law perfectly for me. By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the law. He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the law. I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness. He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent." 1sm396

Together the 70-week and 2300-year prophecies announce the coming of the Lamb of God and His death on our behalf. He said in Daniel 9:24, *"He would bring everlasting righteousness."*

He does this by living as the second Adam and then imputing his righteousness to those who come to Him by faith.

The Everlasting Gospel and Righteousness

Unless you understand the Everlasting Gospel, it is impossible to understand the First Angel's Message that says to fear God and give Him Glory. The way you fear Him and give Him glory is to renounce your righteousness, renounce your life of half-hearted obedience and claim His righteousness.

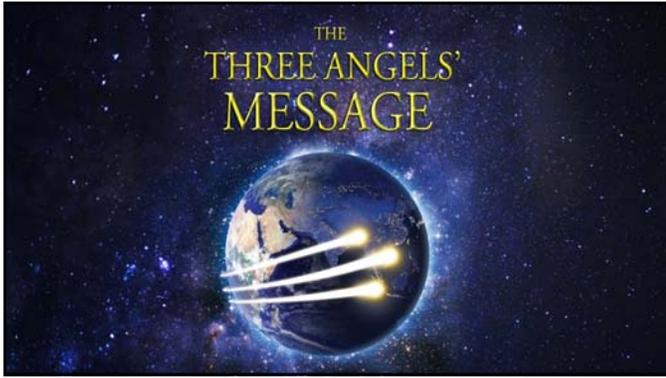
This is the kind of righteousness that gives you favor in the judgment of the saints

What is the response of your heart when you receive that righteousness and perfect obedience on your behalf by faith?

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:10

There is obedience to the commandments. The most perfect righteousness a human can have (but never the kind that will satisfy the law for salvation.) It is evidence that your faith in his righteousness was genuine.

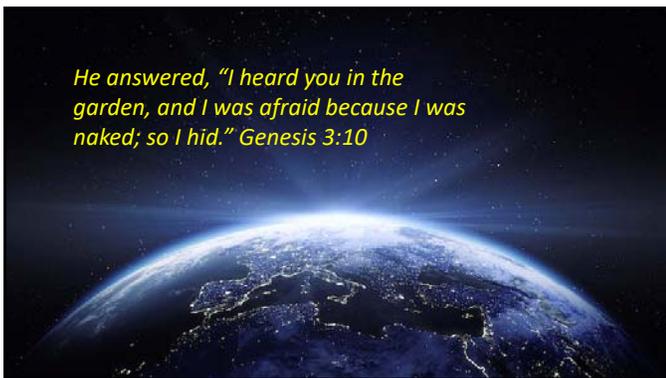
Christ is the righteousness of the Law.



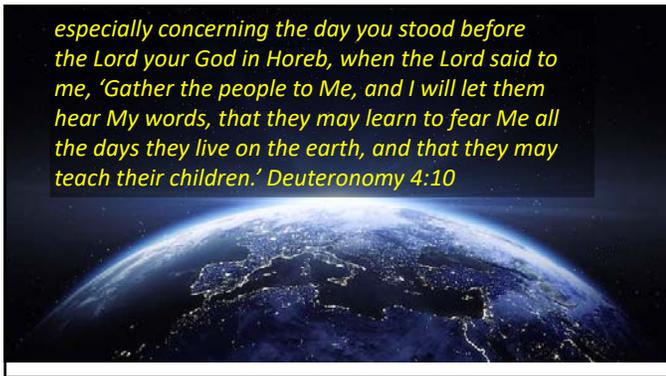
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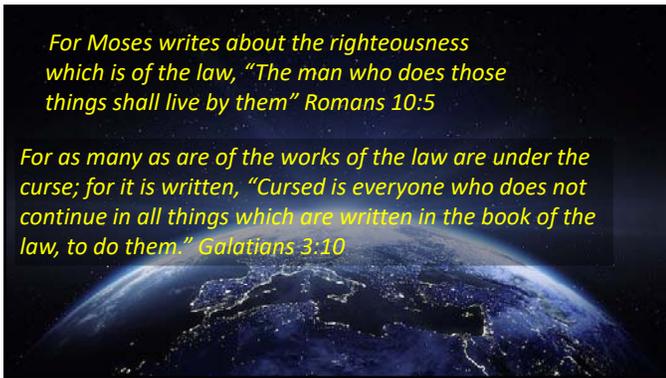
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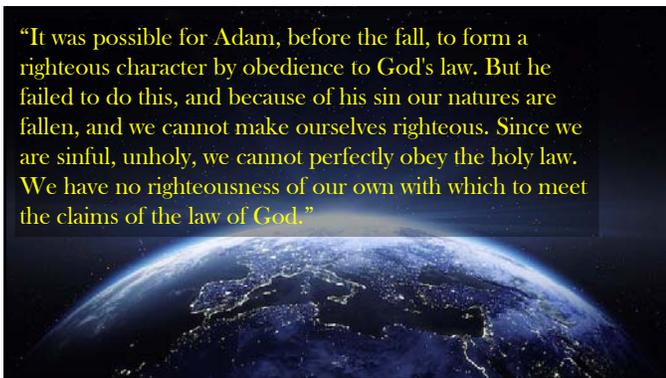
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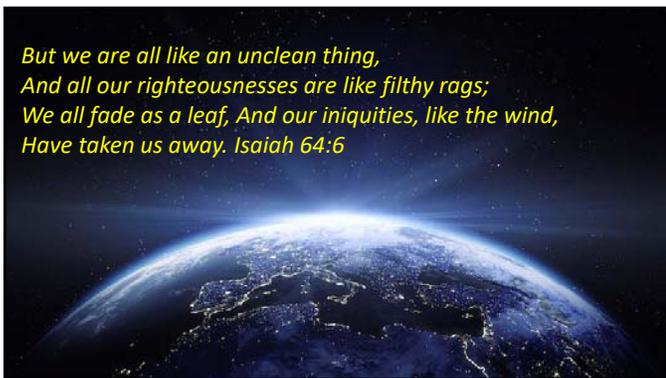
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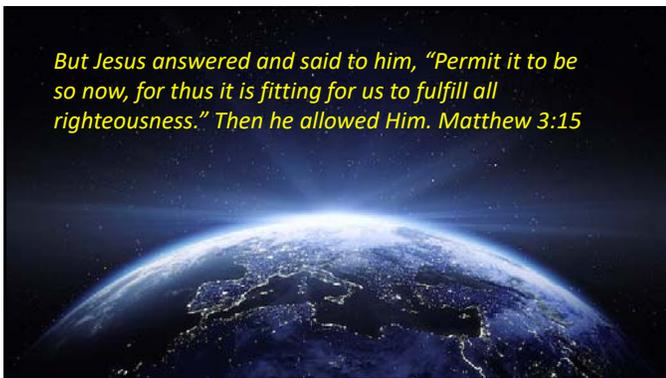
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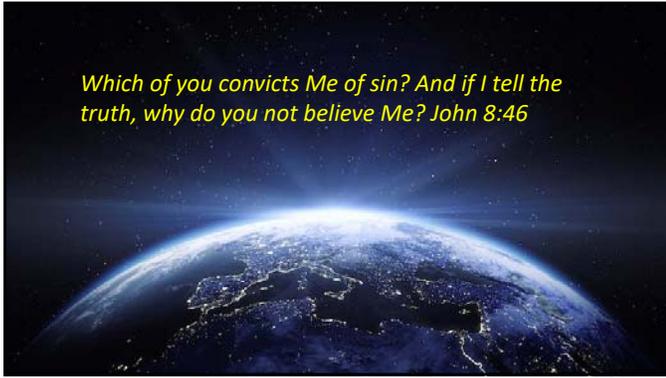
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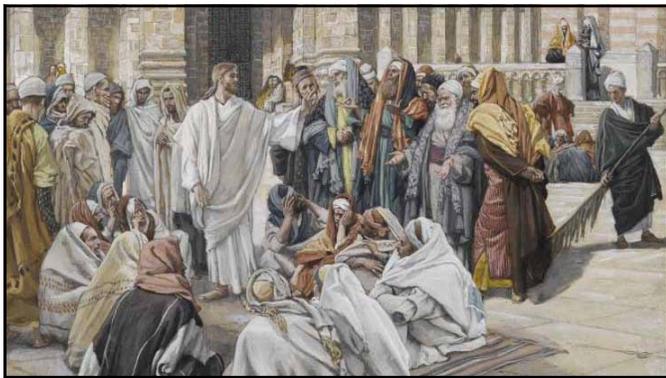
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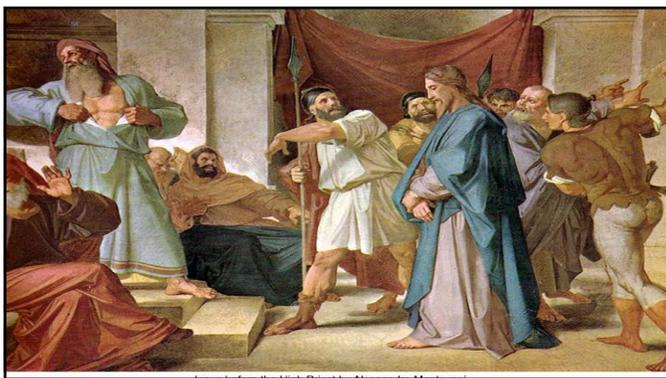
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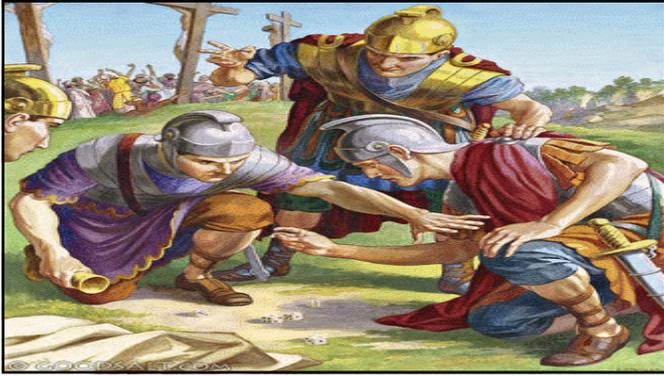
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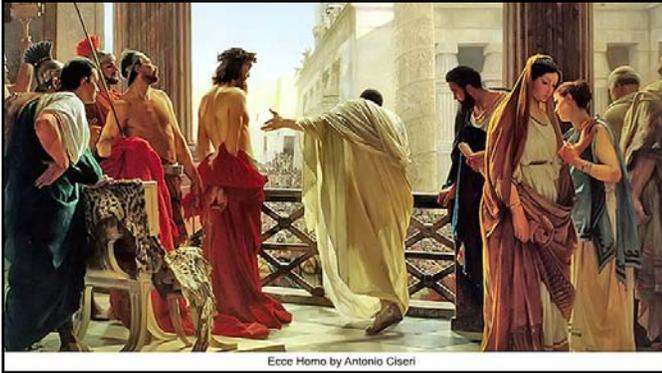
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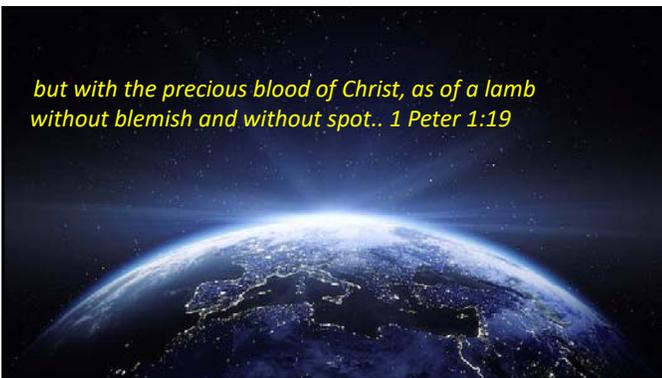
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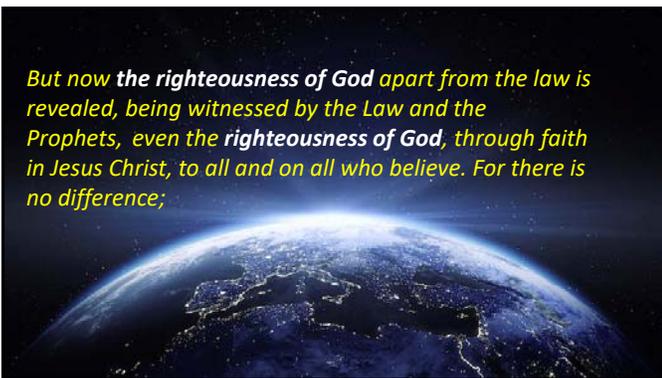
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for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

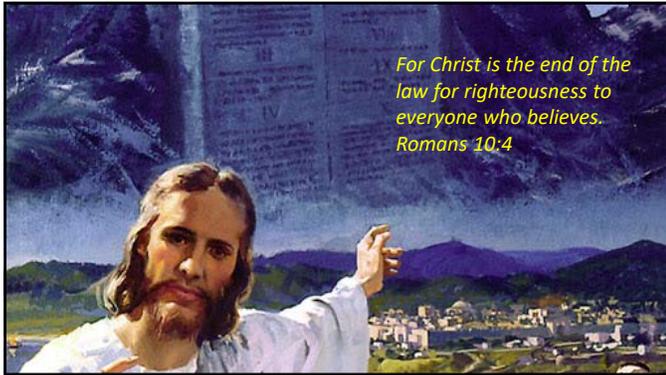
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to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus Romans 3:21-26

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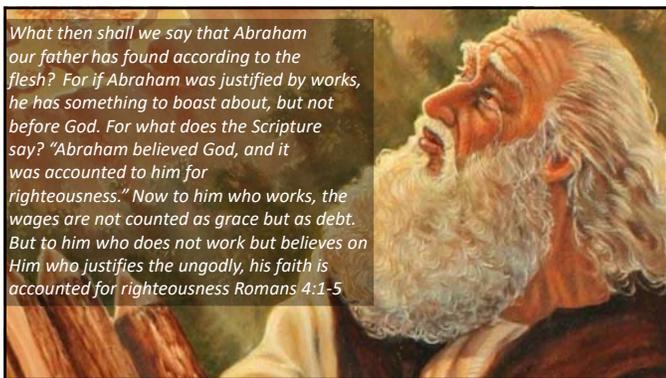
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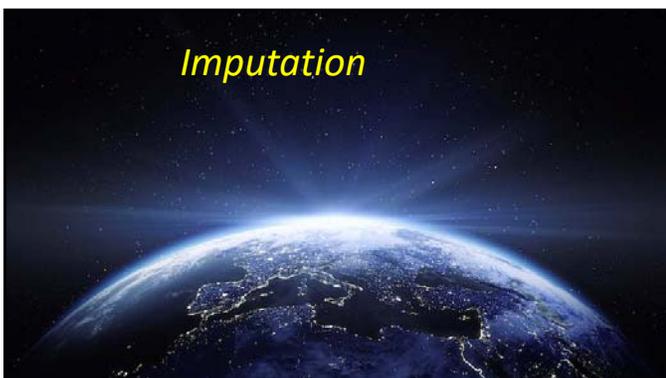
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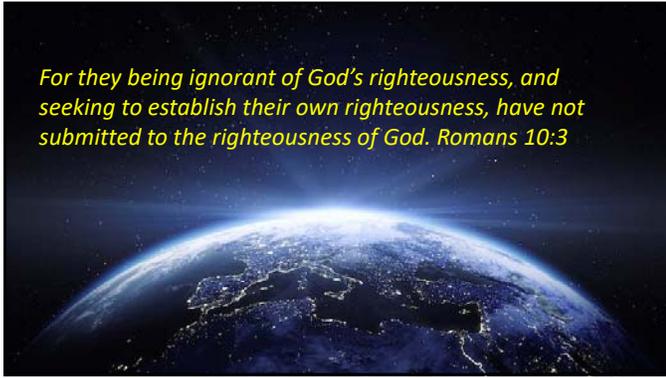
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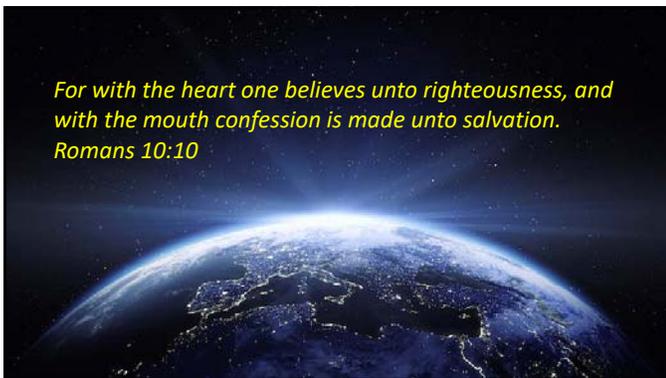


Imputation

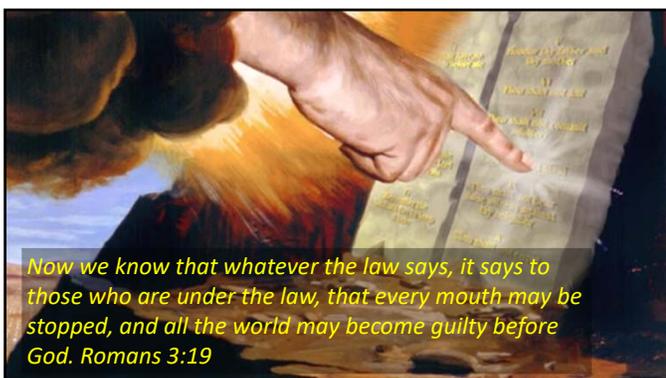
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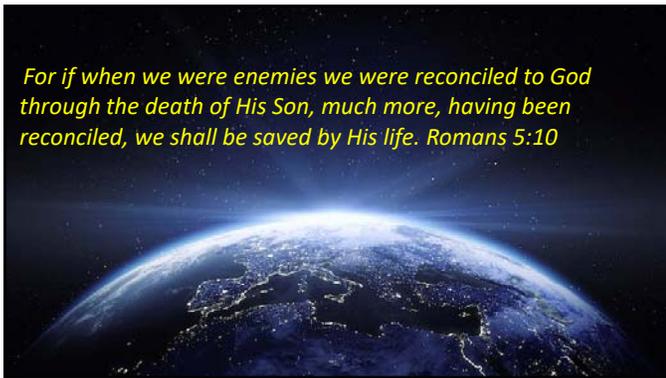
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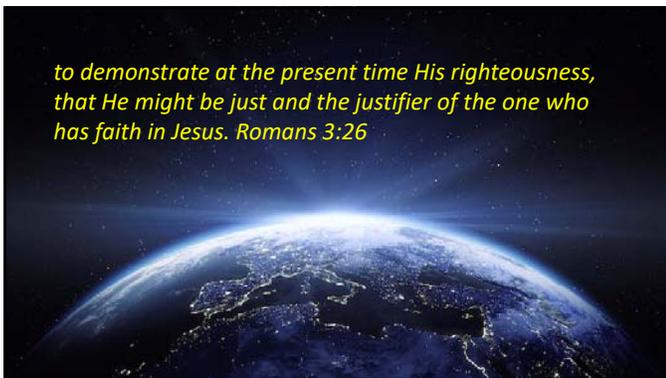
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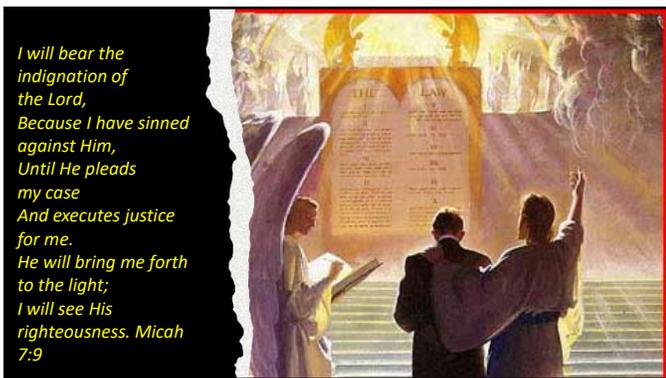
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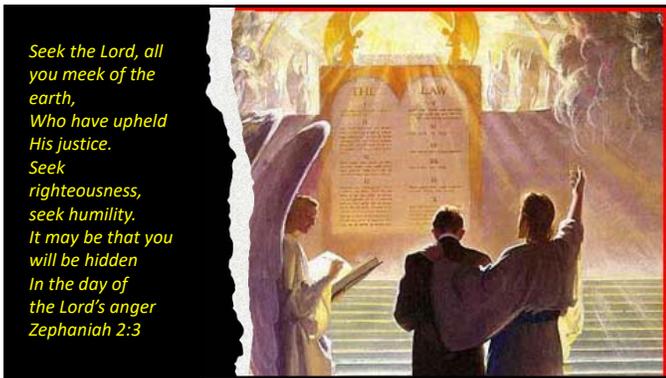
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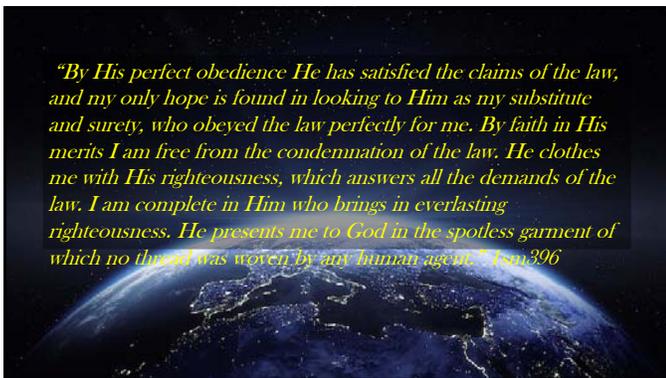


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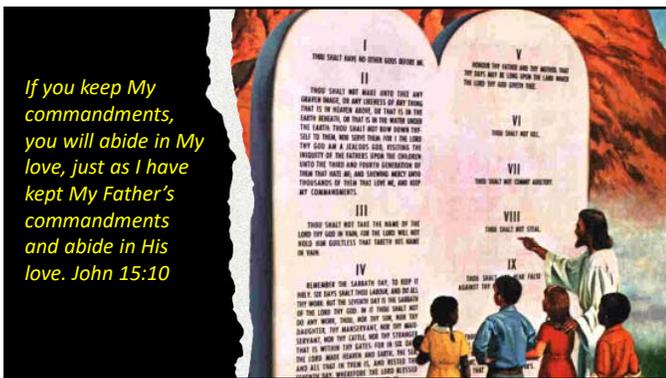
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