Chapter 4 - GOD'S INTERACTION WITH HUMANITY

THE NATURE OF EVERY PERSON IS SINFUL.

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5). p. 73

*God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 Every one of them has **turned** **aside**; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one (Ps. 53:2-3).* p. 73

SIN HOLDS BACK THE BLESSINGS AND HELP OF GOD

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear (Ps. 66:18). p. 74

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Is. 59:1-2). p. 74

*Your iniquities have turned these things away, and **your sins have withheld good from you** (Jer. 5:25).* p. 74

GOD SEPARATED FROM SINFUL MANKIND.

The spiritual separation between God and man was signified by a physical separation of the sacred things of God from the people.

PEOPLE WERE NOT TO TOUCH THE HOLY MOUNTAIN.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day. For *on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people*. 12 *You shall **set** **bounds** for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death* (Ex. 19:10-12). p. 74

NOT EVEN KINGS COULD ENTER THE SANCTUARY. p. 76

King Uzziah in Judah served God well. However, he became overconfident

*But when he was strong his heart was **lifted** **up**, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the Temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense (2 Chr. 26:16).* p. 76

The priests warned him to leave immediately for he had no authority to in the Temple.

Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And *while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead,* before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar (2 Chr. 26:19). *p. 76*

WE'RE ALL BORN "DEAD" TO GOD.

We are all born spiritually "dead" to God because of our sin nature. *p. 77*

*The soul who sins shall **die**. ….* (Ez. 18:20a). *p. 77*

BECAUSE OF JESUS WE CAN NOW ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD!

*Therefore brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, 20 **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh**, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 **Let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Heb 10:19-22).* *p. 77*

*For **through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father** (Eph. 2:18).* *p. 77*
("Both" refers to Jew and Gentile)

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him (Eph. 3:12). *p. 77*

GOD IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THIS WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him … (2 Chr. 16:9a). *p. 78*

He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? 10 He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? (Ps. 94:9-10) *p. 78*

*You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for Your **eyes are open** to all the ways of the sons of men, to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings* (Jer. 32:19). *p. 78*

GOD GIVES REPEATED INVITATIONS TO RETURN, AND BE FORGIVEN

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon (Is. 55:7). *p. 79*

*'**Return**, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord; I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,' says the Lord; 'I will not remain angry forever (Jer. 3:12).* *p. 79*

Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings … (Jer. 3:22a). *p. 79*

Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?', says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live (Ez. 18:23). *p. 79*