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LOVE OF THE SAVIOR

1 Peter 1:20 says, *"For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you..."* This passage speaks about Jesus and how God planned to save the world through Jesus. I would like to do a study of the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:19 says we can know the love of Christ. The Bible also says that His love surpasses knowledge. The more we understand this love, we can *"be filled up to all the fullness of God"* (Eph. 3:19). If you want to be filled up with God's fullness, you must seek to understand the love Christ has for you. I want to focus on His work as our redeemer and consider a few prophecies together that demonstrate His love. First, we must establish that Jesus has always been. Jesus is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the Eternal

Word (Jn. 1:1-5). He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega (Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:11, 16-17, 22:13). The Bible tells us that before God created the universe and mankind, He formulated His scheme of redemption to save man (1 Pet. 1:19-20). Jesus would fulfill the plan (Eph. 1:10). Christ would be the sin offering, peace offering, guilt offering, and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Heb. 9:26; Eph. 2:14; Jn. 1:29, 36). Christ would be the redeemer to buy man back when he sinned. Jesus went about His work of creating the universe, knowing He would have to put on flesh, live among His creation, and die a gruesome death for the sin of the creature created in His likeness. We read nowhere of Jesus arguing with God about His plan. We read nowhere of Jesus in anger or fear creating

the world. Jesus knew that He would be God's chosen instrument to buy mankind from sin. Man and woman sinned in the garden (Gen. 3:6). That sin separated mankind from fellowship with God. Man was at enmity with God (i.e., not on speaking terms). Man was dead in sin. Helpless to save himself. Darkened. Separated. There was hope, though. Genesis 3:15 says, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."* Here we have a promise of the Messiah. Jesus would be the Messiah, the redeemer. Jesus, being God and being omnipresent, is fully aware that man sinned in the garden. He now knows the mission He must complete. Jesus had on His mind that *"in the fullness of time,"* He'd be born of a woman and put on flesh to lay His life down for you and me (Gal. 4:4). Imagine the kind of love Christ has for us. Jesus continued in His glorified state, operating in the Old Testament. Jesus was the spiritual Rock that was with Israel (1 Cor. 10:4). The Spirit of Christ was working with the prophets predicting the sufferings that He would go through (1 Pet. 1:11). Jesus knew the reason He'd have to come to earth to lay His life

down was crime (i.e., sin) against Him, yet Christ would continue helping man and being active in the Old Testament. This type of love truly surpasses human knowledge. This love is a type of love that no man could concoct in His own mind. This is the divine love Christ has for you and me. Jesus was aware of what Isaiah 53 said. Jesus knew He'd be *"pierced through for our transgressions"* (Isa. 53:5). Jesus knew that by His scourging we'd be healed. Jesus knew He'd be *"crushed for our iniquities."* It was on His mind. He knew He'd have to leave God's side in all His glory at some point and live among sinful man. As we know, Jesus did come to earth and lay His life down on the cross (Jn. 19). Now, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7). And, *"He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall"* (Eph. 2:14). The love of Christ surpasses knowledge, and God wants you to know about that love (1 Cor. 2:9-12). Submit to the benevolent King through faith, repentance, and baptism, and the blood of Christ will save you (Mk. 16:16; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 6:3; Jn. 8:24). Your sins can be washed away, and you can have

fellowship with Christ and God (1 Jn. 1:9-10). – Jordan Lawson

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings,” Gen. 3:1-7. Let us stay vigilant in our battle with satan and keep our eyes open for his devices. When a team is scheduled to face an opponent, typically they will spend the week watching game film on their opponent, to learn

how they move and operate so they can be prepared to defend them. Genesis 3 is our “game film” on Satan. One of the most devastating tricks of deception he uses, is that of distraction. The devil craftily tricked Eve into dwelling on the one tree she was forbidden to eat from to distract her from enjoying the freedom she had to taste the abundant goodness of God in every other tree He had given her. Watch out for this trick. Satan will attempt to take our focus away from the abundance of goodness He has freely provided to us. Let us stay vigilant to avoid the trap by remaining thankful, praising God for all He has provided, and enjoying the goodness of His provisions. If he can succeed at distracting you, he will then proceed to filling your mind with doubt about God’s intentions. He will persuade you to wonder just how good God could actually be when it seems he is depriving you, shielding you, denying you other potential enjoyment. Don’t fall for the trick. Remember, God’s “No’s” are in place to protect all of His “Yes’s” that we might fully enjoy them to their richest level of abundance. When we give in to the temptation to disregard God’s “No’s” we end up spoiling and often even losing many of God’s “Yes’s” He has provided for us to enjoy. – Daniel Ruegg

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



King Eglon of Moab

Professor Tom Meyer told Express.co.uk a 1933 British excavation in Jericho may have found artefacts related to King Eglon of Moab. King Eglon, as described in the Book of Judges, was the ruler of Moab who together with Ammon and Amalek lead an assault on Israel. Professor Meyer said: "A British archaeologist has likely discovered the palace of the famous and fat King of Moab, Eglon, who was assassinated by the Israelite judge Ehud. "During the Biblical period of the Judges, around 1300 BC, King Eglon of Moab controlled the coveted Medeba Plateau in modern-day Jordan and used the plateau as a launching pad to push west to rule over the villages in Israel near Jericho as well as north and west of Jerusalem. "King Eglon used Jericho as a home base to collect supplies from the raids in the region." In 1933, British archaeologist John Garstang may have uncovered the palace of King Eglon in the ancient city of Jericho. The palace would have only measured 40ft by 48ft but it would have been extremely lavish. The discovery was dated by to the year 1,300 BC, which would place it around the time of King Eglon's rule. Professor Meyer said: "He also found a tantalizing clue: a very rare cuneiform tablet. "Though the tablet doesn't mention King Eglon by name, it testifies that the owner of the palace was a high-ranking government official. "No other structures were found near the palace dating to the same time period which fits with the curse Joshua put upon anyone rebuilding the city of Jericho about 100 years earlier." Professor Meyer believes the two discoveries paired together with the biblical account of Eglon's rule support the Bible's historical track record. He said: "Garstang's claim of the discovery of King Eglon's palace once again strengthens confidence in the historical accuracy of the Biblical record." A key element of King Eglon's account is that of his assassination at the hands of Ehud, a left-handed Israelite Judge, who killed the king at his palace. Ehud's actions were spurred by Eglon's oppression of the poor to feed the rich. Professor Meyer said, "Ehud was from the tribe of Benjamin and came from a long line of warriors. He personally led the convoy to deliver the taxes payable to King Eglon with the intent of assassinating the king. Ehud, a left-handed Benjamite – meaning son of my right hand – cleverly hedged his bets that the king's secret service would not pat him down on his right thigh where his weapon was hidden; a right-handed man would keep his weapon on his left thigh. Ehud succeeded in smuggling his weapon into King Eglon's palace. Special attention is given in the biblical account to the heavy-set physical stature of King Eglon: being a fat ruler was a sign of health and wealth in the world of the Bible."

