LESSONS THIS QUARTER

INTRODUCTION
- We find that Jesus endured the same emotional, physical, and psychological trauma humans often endure to show us that we too can endure trials, setbacks, temptations, and turmoil and come out victorious.
- The chorus of “So Much God” by the Ascension Quartet, speaks about the duality of Jesus being 100% man and 100% God:
  - He was so much man that he slept in a boat;
  - Yet he was so much God that the wind ceased when he spoke.
  - He was so much man that he slept in a boat;
  - Yet he was so much God that Lazarus came forth when he cried.
  - He was so much man that he died upon a tree;
  - Yet he was so much God he arose in victory.
  - Hear it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOfnnvoCGgc

- If God is a god of love, why is there so much hate in the world?
  - Consider this. If God is a god of hate as Muslims contend, there would be no love in the world.

  Illustration. Take a 1957 Chevy in mint condition. If you add a little rust, it is no longer in mint or perfect condition, but you still have a Chevy. IOW, Love allows Hate (or rust) to exist along with it. BUT, if you only have rust, you no longer have a Chevy. IOW, if you only have Hate, you have no room for Love.
- Therefore, God is a god of love who allows free-willed humans and angels the ability to choose to hate.

Passage | Comments
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Hebrews 2:14 | Jesus Became 100% Human To Save Us 100%
- The 1st Adam blew it. Adam & Eve were given responsibility to have dominion over God’s earthly creation – BUT they preferred to do things their own way instead of God’s way.
- The 2nd Adam (Jesus) had Plan A ready to fix things – BUT, it would mean sacrificing His own life to pay the perfect price.
- First, Jesus had to become 100% human, and yet remain 100% God to fully experience our existence and be able to empathize with us at the most fundamental level.
- Second, Jesus had to successfully live the perfect life without sinning and while being tempted by the Tempter (Satan).
- Third, Jesus had to defeat the penalty of sin – DEATH, not just physical death, but spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.
- Death is personified in Satan since he tempted the first couple to reject God – and he succeeded at it.
- Jesus defeated death by paying a heavy price that was accepted by God and acknowledged by His resurrection.
- Satan “had the power of death” – What does this mean?
- Can he kill the body (physical death)?
- Can he send people to Hell (spiritual death)?
- Consider this. God holds every mentally-competent individual accountable for their own decision on where to spend eternity. Satan may receive permission from God to slay some folks (consider Job’s 10 children), but no one can blame Satan for them ending up in Hell ....... Rom 1:20

Hebrews 2:15 | Jesus Became 100% Human to Free Us 100%
- Who doesn’t fear death and the prospect of dying? God has instilled into each human being a strong will to survive.

Passage | Comments
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2:14 | Yet, for the believer, God gives us the capability to comprehend hope and peace even while going through the “valley of the shadow death” ............. Psalms 23:4

2:16 | Jesus Came to Die for Humans, Not Angels
- When did Satan fall? Was it eons before Adam’s fall or just a few hours or days before?
- Consider this. God declared His entire creation as “VERY GOOD” on Day 6, so sin was not yet present ....... Gen 1:31
- Adam was 130 years old when his 3rd son, Seth, was born, which was some time after Cain slew his brother, Abel, so the Fall of both Adam and Satan probably occurred anywhere following the 1st week after creation till about year 100. The earlier date seems most probable.
- Why didn’t Jesus have a redemption plan for Satan and the other fallen angels?
- Consider this. Unlike humans who do not have visibility into the angelic and heavenly realms and must live by faith, Satan and his minions, who had direct access to God, fully knew what they were doing, and, therefore, had no possibility for redemption.

2:17 | Jesus Became the Propitiation – Our Reconciliation to God
- Again, Jesus had to become like us (flesh & blood) and suffer like us to fully comprehend our situation with the intent of showing mercy to us.
- What is meant by becoming a “faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God”?
- Consider this. No High Priest could offer just ONE sacrifice to appease God. Only Jesus fulfilled that sacrifice.

2:18 | Only Jesus Can Empathize with Each and Every One of Us
- How does Jesus aid us when we are tempted by our own lusts of the flesh and lust of the eyes, or tempted by Satan?
- Consider this. When we submit to God in humble obedience we resist Satan, & Satan flies from us; When we draw near to God He draws near to us ....... James 4:7-8

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
- Jesus experienced all the turmoil common to man, every emotional pain imaginable, every temptation possible, so he can help us and fully empathize with each and everyone one of us – male & female, young & old, black & white, handicapped & non-handicapped.

NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 3. We are challenged with a 2nd warning of falling away from the living God due to a hardened heart.

by Dan Lietha

I’M SORRY THAT I CAN’T BE HERE, FAIRYTALE.’ I KNOW YOU’RE NOT A PERFECT MAN... ANYMORE.