

Jesus of Nazareth-- The Living Word



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A Member of the Godhead Trinity

According to the Bible, the God the Son--the Living Word--always has existed in His Spirit form, just like God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All (good) things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life/Life and the Life was the Light of men." (John 1:1-4)

"He is the (exact) image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation. For, by Him all things were created that are in Heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or principalities or powers." (Colossians 1:15-16)

God the Father is our Creator and a Heavenly Paternal Figure to humanity. God the Son is like a big Brother Who came to this planet as a Man in order to ransom us from Satan's dominion. God the Holy Spirit is our Contact, Comforter, and Teacher. As God the Father sent His Son to help mankind, He in turn sent the Holy Spirit to reside within us once we individually accepted His gift of Life. Although They are Three, They form a single God also and invariably are in absolute harmony about everything whatsoever. This

consummate uniformity of infinite love, thoughts, and purpose is what bonds Them together as One--the Trinity.

Why God the Son Was Born as a Human Being

Jesus of Nazareth was (and is) mankind's re-connection to God the Father, a bond that was severed the instant the first man and woman rebelled against Him and chose to heed another voice in direct opposition to His. When the Adams (she was not called a separate name until later) impulsively disobeyed the single command that God had given them, they inadvertently did something else at the same time. Namely, they also relinquished their dominion over the earth and its other inhabitants given to them by God Himself (*Genesis 1:27-30*) to another being--God's enemy, the mutinous angel outlaw, Lucifer/Satan. (*Isaiah 14:12-15 and Luke 10:18*)

As a result, the earth and everything good on it that had been made by God (*Genesis 1:31*) instantaneously was transferred under the influence of this renegade spirit being. So, every person born from then on was conceived not only physically, but also spiritually, into Satan's kingdom. This consequence made mankind subjected to the rules that governed it: lies, hardship, lack, disease, illness, decay, and death (physical)/Death (Spiritual). God could not reverse the damage the Adams' had caused unless He broke His word that this entire planet and everything on it was His free gift to them, and therefore under their control and freewill. God was bound by the fact that He cannot lie. (*Titus 1:2, Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18, and Malachi 3:6*)

Therefore, God had no choice other than to honor His promise that the earth was the personal property of the Adams to do with as they pleased. Consequently, from the time they naively gave it to Satan, God literally was banished from His Own creation without an invitation. Even the dust of the earth did not belong to Him any longer (*Job 1:12*), so He could not just scrap the disobedient couple and start all over again. Still loving the Adams, being light and operating at that speed, God instantly devised a "Plan B" for his children to undo the damage that they had caused--a perfect person who never would disobey Him to live and die as the Adam's should have. However, in order to demonstrate fully God's love, this person would have to become a sacrifice that would enable the freedom of all of mankind. Enter His Own Son, the Lamb of God.

Although God had lost the complete freedom to walk with man (*Genesis 3:8*), be with him completely face to face (*Exodus 33:11, 20-23*), or even intervene on the earth without a summons (*Mark 6:48*), He could speak and try to influence people from a distance. Thus, He set up a way for individuals to decide to be born again, this time Spiritually. Under His "Plan B" God was able to regain what was transferred to the control of a self-seeking authority. (*Isaiah 14:13-14*) We would be able to liberate ourselves by choosing to return to being citizens of God's Kingdom, instead of the spiritually Dead one into which we had become subjects.

The separation from God did not kill the Adams' bodies or minds--the evidence being that for the first time they noticed with their eyes that their torsos were naked and could answer when God questioned them about what they had done. Likewise, they still had emotions and freewill after they transferred to under Satan's influence. Their disobedience to God's commands solely extinguished the eternal Life in their spirits. This was what God had breathed into the man and what is regenerated when a person is "born again". (*Genesis 2:7 and John 14:6-17*)

God unceasingly has desired to recover His lost children and territory from under the influences of His (and therefore our) enemy. He could not do so by using lies and deception, as Satan did. These are his own weapons and actually originated from within him. (*Ezekiel 28:15*) Therefore, God needed not only to sabotage His adversary but formulate an honest plan of recovery. Why? Because He swore an oath using Himself as collateral. This meant that if God ever went against any of His promises, He instantaneously would have to surrender Himself, as well as His entire Kingdom, to His greatest foe, something that He never will do.

"When God made a promise to Abraham, because He could find no one greater He swore by Himself." (Hebrews 6:13)

Since the Adams not only still possessed bodies, but souls (thoughts, emotions, and freewill), if reeducated and then presented with another chance to choose between Life and Death, it was possible that they and others in the future would pick Life. Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God and also the Son of Man, was the role model for that decision. He was a perfect example for us to imitate because He always resolved to submit His Own will to His Father's. Jesus realized that His Heavenly Father had an infinite mind over His finite human one. As a result, He based every single opinion, word, and action by submitting to the greater Authority, never Satan's. Jesus never was even swayed by any voice but God the Father's and the Holy Spirit's.

"If you abide in My Word you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32 --- Now we know from what.)

To liberate mankind from Satan's clutches, God had to get inside his kingdom and cause a division within it, just as Satan had to God's. Then the power that had stolen mankind's true heritage eventually would collapse entirely. Therefore, God repaid Satan and took back what he had stolen in the same way that Satan had gained authority over the earth in the first place, by getting what amounted to "leaven" in his kingdom. This time, however, the agent would be a flawless figure inside a corrupt one.

"A little leaven (eventually) leavens the whole lump." (Galatians 5:9)

"Another parable (Jesus) spoke to them: 'The Kingdom of God is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it all was leavened.'" (Matthew 13:33)

God's "Plan B" for mankind (the Adams being "Plan A") was to get a person who could accomplish the undertaking for Him as an earthly flesh and blood human being, not a Heavenly Spiritual One. God needed someone born on the earth who was willing, as well as capable of living without ever sinning and dying as a sacrifice for it.

"The life of the flesh is in the blood and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement or the soul." (Leviticus 17:11)

"Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.... With

His Own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once and for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For, if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God cleanse your conscience from Dead works to serve the Living God? And, for this reason He is the Mediator of the New Covenant by means of death/Death, for the redemption of the sins under the First Covenant that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance, for where there is a testament there also of necessity be the death of the testator, for a testament is in force after (people) are dead since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore, not even the First Covenant was dedicated without blood, ... and according to the Law almost all things are purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be cleansed by (the blood of animals), but the Heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these for Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands which are copies of the True, but into Heaven Itself, now to appear in the presence of God (the Father) for us. Not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with the blood of another, He then would have to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But, now, once at the end of the ages He has appeared to put away sin by sacrificing Himself and as it is appointed for (people) to die once but after that the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many...." (Hebrews 9:11-28)

God chose to begin this process through covenants when He sacrificed animals to make clothes for the Adams before they had to leave the perfect Garden of Eden. He continued to make agreements with people who listened to and followed His voice, specifically with a man named Abram, (later called Abraham). Under their mutual contract, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his long-awaited son to Him. When this took place, God became indebted to return the deed for His covenant partner. So, He sent His Own Son into the world as His sacrifice to cover all of humanity's rebellion. God's Son needed to be stronger than Satan and maintain His constant rapport with His Heavenly Father. Thus, by dying He could get into Satan's kingdom, overthrow it, and repossess every bit of God's lost territory.

"How can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his goods." (Matthew 12:29)

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public show of them, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15)

"For though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing (even) every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:3-5)

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil. For, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. Above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one, and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit--which is the Word of God--praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:10-18)

God's Son had to carry out His mission without employing any untruth whatsoever; because that was, and still is, one of Satan's weapons against God. Remember, God is absolute Truth; whatever He says happens. He does not even have access to the opposite. God's Son had to get into Satan's domain and defeat him with God's only offensive weapon--the Sword of the Spirit--His Word.

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel shall (also) live by the Gospel." (I Corinthians 9:14)

Enter "Plan B"--Jesus of Nazareth--God's Own Son, born as a normal human being, employing only those spoken words that His Heavenly Father directed Him to say. Likewise, Jesus did only what He saw His Father do because Jesus was the exact representation of His Father. Remember that They are One in mind, purpose, and actions. Jesus was a "Second Adam", Who unlike the first never even wavered away from God's "Plan A" for His life. Jesus of Nazareth--the Messiah/Christ--was how God the Father repaid His debt to Abraham's willingness to donate his son to Him. Jesus gave up His life as a perfect Sacrifice for all of humanity, One which satisfied every single one of the requirements of the Law, as well as obliterated its curses for everyone who accepted His offering thereby ending all opposition between us and God, forever.

"Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Romans 10:4)

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us." (Galatians 3:13a)

"Who Himself bore our sins in His Own body on the tree, that we having died to sins might live for righteousness--by Whose wounds you were healed." (I Peter 2:24)

Jesus was a genuine Man. As such, God the Father's Only Son no longer was indestructible, as He was in Heaven. Therefore, through Jesus, God finally was able to uphold His side of the agreement that He had made with Abraham centuries before when He asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, to Him in covenant as His partner. As soon as Abraham accepted the conditions of the arrangement, the way was set up for God to

exchange the offering by giving His Son to Abra(ha)m and his descendants. The second covenant under the blood of Jesus also included the *rest* of the world.

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like (Moses) from among their brethren and will put My words in His mouth and He shall speak to them all that I commanded Him." (Deuteronomy 18:18)

"The first man was of the earth made of dust. The Second Man is the Lord from Heaven.... and as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly Man." (I Corinthians 15:47, 49)

Not only was Jesus able to restore Himself, Abraham, Adam and Eve into God's perfect will. With one brilliant and powerful stroke, Jesus also reinstated every single person ever born who likewise accepted His blood sacrifice for themselves, too, both before He was resurrected from death/Death, or later.

"But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death/Death, crowned with glory and honor that He by the grace of God might taste Death for everyone, for it was fitting for Him for Whom are all things, and by Whom all things, in bringing many sons to glory to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through suffering. For, both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.... Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death/Death He might destroy him who had the power of death/Death--that is the devil--and release those who through fear of death/Death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For, indeed, He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren that He be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God to make propitiation for the sins of the people, for in that He Himself has suffered being tempted He is able to aid those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:9-18)

"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are he called according to His purpose, for whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the Firstborn of many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

"You received the Spirit of adoption by Whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we also may be glorified together." (Romans 8:15b-17)

The Scriptures clearly demonstrate that every single person born after the Adams but previous to Jesus was unable to exist without sinning. Accordingly, since He was God's only Son, His Father had no back up "Plan C"--another Child to sacrifice--so it was a one shot deal for everyone involved. In order for Him to become a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, this Son to be capable of succumbing to the human frailties and death that He could not do from or in Heaven. God the Father prepared a foundation for His Son's birth by

searching for people throughout centuries who would mimic His Words with the faith that He could and would do what He promised. In this way He got more and more of His creative authority back into the earth. In the fullness of time, His faith and patience finally culminated in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth--God's Word as a human being.

"I will walk among you and be your God and you shall be My people" (Leviticus 26:12)

"For thus says the Lord God, 'Indeed, I Myself will search for My sheep and search them out.'" (Ezekiel 34:11)

"Unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Child is given." (Isaiah 9:6a)

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

"Let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus, Who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has given Him the Name which is above every name. That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow--of those in Heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth--and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-8)

First, God the Father needed a human female to carry His Seed to term, thus generating the Baby who would be the product of a *supematural* Father and a natural mother. The Holy Spirit impregnated a woman willing to conceive and deliver God's Son as a seeable and touchable human Infant. When the Holy Spirit conceived the Child in a woman called Mary, He did so with both God the Father's full dictate and blessing, as well as her own consent. She was impregnated, not by a man's imperfect seed, but by God's perfect Seed. Satan's first revolt, against God Himself, caused him to be banished from Heaven and he fell to the earth. The one against God's Son eventually would send him to hell. (Hint: Don't mess with someone else's kid, especially if that Someone is God.)

If the Father could have impregnated another woman with His Seed earlier He likely would have done so because He did not like the delay in restoring humanity to His Kingdom. If more people had listened to and obeyed His voice sooner, He would not have had to wait as long as He did until Jesus was born. It was not just we who suffered, but He did, too, by being Universal and constantly having to watch as we floundered.

"Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I will not see him?" says the Lord." (Jeremiah 23:24)

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

Not only did God the Father plan, wait, and finally be at liberty to carry out His desires, He did so knowing full well that His strategy required His Son to die a horrific mortal death. He still gave Jesus to us after repeatedly witnessing what we did with some of His other gifts, chiefly among them the earth itself. We had not appreciated it and almost immediately and carelessly turned it over to someone else to control. It is vital to recognize that God's Son--Jesus of Nazareth--did not reside on the earth with special immunity, nor did He live as a distinct case outside of the dictates of the Law--its cursings as well as its blessings. If He had ever sinned, He, too, would have reaped the consequences of His rebellion, all of them.

*"Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this Law."
(Deuteronomy 27:26)*

"But it shall come to pass that if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes. ... that all these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:45a)

"All of you stand today before the Lord your God... that you may enter Covenant with the Lord your God and into His oath which the Lord your God makes with you today... I make this Covenant not with you alone... but... as well as with him who is not here with us today." (Deuteronomy 29:9-15)

The Scriptures state that even a single sin-- any act of disobedience against God allows enough imperfection to keep anyone at all within the realm in which we were born physically, and out of God's Kingdom. That is precisely how flawlessly Jesus had to exist. As a person, Jesus would have the same fate as any other sinner if He ever chose to rebel and go against His Father's wishes and directions.

"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 this Book of the Law to do them.'" (Galatians 3:10)

In addition, since Jesus is God--a part of the Trinity--if He sinned on even one occasion then Satan would triumph over the entire Godhead. When He died Satan would win the age-old battle to be like God that he instigated centuries ago. It even is possible that Jesus' punishment for disobedience would be worse than other human beings, due to His knowledge, calling, and responsibility. If He failed not only would He be condemned forever but we would, too.

God the Father's plan of redemption never had been tried before and there could be no dress rehearsal. With this in mind God the Son still agreed to be born, live, and die as a human being. He passed every test and resisted every temptation that Satan set before Him, always keeping conformity between His Father and Himself. Even when His cousin John the Baptist was beheaded and Jesus wanted to be alone for awhile He did not have the luxury of doing so. People followed Him and He had to forget His personal feelings and minister to *their* needs in favor of His Own. (And we have the nerve to think of our lives as having pressures.)

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, for we shall receive a stricter judgment." (James 3:1)

God ingeniously got His word back into the earth through infinite patience. His final strategic act to complete all prophecies was the simple birth of a human baby Who would change the entire world forever.

"I (Jesus) did not come to judge the world; but to save the world." (John 12:47a)

"He who believes and is baptized (by the Holy Spirit) will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 15:16)

How God Prepared Jesus' Earthly Parents

Before involving the woman, God sent His Personal angel to disclose part of the plan in which she would play a prominent role to redeem mankind. God did not just impregnate her without first advising her of the situation, as well as obtaining her consent to use her body. Consistently throughout the Bible God never ever utilized anyone for anything until they allowed Him access to themselves. Unfortunately, too many times people rebelled against His voice, which started undesirable chain reactions whose consequences often lasted over generations, maybe even until today, and beyond.

"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to Your Word.' And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:38)

The woman who birthed, nurtured, and raised the Son of God did so knowing that her decision in all likelihood might ruin her social life, possibly even causing her to become outcast from her family and friends. She was betrothed to a man who under the Law could discard her. Being pregnant meant that not only her fiancé, but also all other people, would think that she no longer was a virgin. They would scorn her because she must have been with another man intimately while still unmarried. In that society Mary's acceptance of God's Seed was a very courageous thing to do.

When Mary determined that it was indeed God's messenger who spoke to her, the choice to accept His Seed was a monumental decision, one from which she could not escape afterward if she ever changed her mind. Once she was expecting, she could not hide her condition for very long. Nor could she abort the Child that was God's Son if she ever regretted the arrangement. Mary had to be convinced that she was in the hands of a Father Who not only told her the complete truth about His will, but would take care of her life as well as the entire situation around her.

"Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary and having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women,' but when she saw him she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and

shall call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest... and of His Kingdom there will be no end.'

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I do not know a man?" and the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore also, that Holy One Who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren, for with God nothing is impossible.'

Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your words,' and the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:26-39)

God would not have impregnated Mary without her consent because He never would have nullified her freewill to disobey Him. Although some translations of the Bible read as if she had no choice in the matter that interpretation is inconsistent with His nature. For example, even though Jesus was confident that two sisters would want Him to bring their brother back from the dead He asked both of them individually beforehand if they would give Him their permission to do so.

Likewise, the Scriptures inform us of how God instructed Mary's promised husband Joseph to act. For, he was to raise a Child that was not his own by blood. And, it is clear that when Mary told him Whose Baby it was he did not believe her at first. Joseph loved her, but he initially did think that she had been unfaithful because He fully intended to break off their engagement, although secretly so as not to embarrass her. God the Father prepared not only Jesus' mother for what was to come, He also got His adoptive father ready to be a parent to His Child. God did not neglect the emotional needs and reactions of either individual. He convinced them both that He, and not another human man, indeed was the Child's Father. No matter how the situation looked Joseph finally was assured that Mary always had been faithful to him.

"Now, the birth of Jesus, (the) Christ, was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband being a just man and not wanting to make her an example was minded to put her away secretly, but while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit and she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His Name, Jesus (meaning Savior), for He will save His people from their sins.'

So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled by the prophet saying, 'Behold, the virgin shall be with Child and they shall call His Name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God is with us'. Then Joseph being aroused from sleep did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took her to wife and did not (make love to) her until she had brought forth her First born Son and he called His Name, Jesus." (Matthew 1:18-25)

Jesus' Childhood

God the Son is Deity, a member of the Holy Trinity. And, just like God the Father, God the Son IS. In Heaven He is Self-Existent as well as Eternal. However, He left His

Heavenly privileges and position to be born as a natural human being grew and developed exactly as we do. Jesus of Nazareth was a normal person without any special or divine authority carried over from Heaven. He had no supernatural power here unless He followed the already written Word of God without flaw. He lived under the authority of God's Law to mankind--the Ten Commandments. Jesus walked the earth as the Son of God but also as the Son of Man, identifying Himself as one of us. He was completely human and able to understand us in every way conceivable. He experienced first hand, not vicariously, the hardships of life on earth under Satan's dominion.

As mentioned, the principal part of God's strategy had been to make Himself indebted to one of us. Under the terms of His covenant with Abra(ha)m, God had to be disposed to return any favor outlined under the bond between them that He Himself had initiated. Since there was no time limit stipulated God waited until the time was fully ripe for His Son to be born to repay His debt. Meanwhile, with the aid of increasingly more people listening to His directions He slowly prepared the world for His Son's birth and ministry. Finally, one day God returned His owed favor to Abraham by sacrificing His Only Son to that man and his descendants. God the Father freely gave us Jesus as a Second Adam to redeem His creation as a second chance for each of us to choose to be who we should have been all along.

"When the fullness of the time had come God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.... that we might receive adoption as sons, and because you are sons God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba (Daddy), Father!'" (Galatians 4:4-6)

Apparently, the previous covenants that God had devised with other people had not been even remotely sufficient to undo the Adams' mutiny. These contracts always were inadequate because the persons involved were not able to comprehend the magnitude and extent of their predicament. God needed to covenant Himself with someone who would commit every single thought, word, and action of his entire existence towards achieving the goal of reuniting us to Him.

As well as having the potential to conquer Satan's entire kingdom, the circumstances required someone with whom God the Father could communicate even as early as childhood. This person's training had to begin early in life like any great athlete, musician, dancer, etc. After all, this individual had the knowledge and wisdom of the entirety of the previous centuries of the Scriptures to master before He was authorized and baptized even to begin His ministry.

"And the Child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover and when He was twelve years old they went to Jerusalem according to the custom of the Feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned (home) the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem and Joseph and His mother did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So, when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem seeking Him.

Now, so it was after three days they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers both listening to them and asking questions, and all who heard

Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So, when they saw Him, they (also) were amazed and His mother said to Him, 'Son, why have You done this to us? Look, your father and I have sought You anxiously,' and He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?' but they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart." (Luke 2:40-51)

The Bible does not reveal much about Jesus' childhood. What it does share though shows that He was indeed a bona fide human being, and cognizant of Whom He was by the time He was twelve years old. No one in the temple, and probably none of His relations, with whom He traveled to Jerusalem, remarked about anything distinctive about His countenance. Likewise, while Jesus was a child, He was under the normal authority of and obeyed both of His earthly parents, as well as His Heavenly One.

When Jesus stayed behind at the temple in order to learn and discuss the Scriptures, evidently the people there accepted him, too. He was with them for three days straight and the testimony shows that the adults with whom He was speaking merely thought of Him as sort of a Child prodigy. They were quite impressed with His understanding of the Scriptures and the manner in which He taught them, as well as listened. However, no one in the temple remarked about Him doing anything supernatural at all that astonished him or her. Additionally, Jesus grew like a regular human boy. In other words, He increased in height and weight as well as knowledge and wisdom. He likewise matured mentally and was much liked in the neighborhood. Only His mother seemed to take note of His being anything than a delightful, albeit very intelligent, normal kid.

"And, Jesus increased in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

His Baptism and Temptation

When Jesus was led to begin His public ministry, He was about thirty years old. Both He and His Heavenly Father not only had waited patiently for centuries for the time to be ripe so that He could be born, They had waited an additional three decades for Him to be prepared sufficiently in order to leave His earthly family and embark on His principle mission--to spread the Gospel, or "good news", about God His Father and His Kingdom. Jesus first was baptized--given the authority and power to fulfill His objective.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him and John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You and You are coming to me?' 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.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water and, behold, the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him and suddenly a Voice came from Heaven saying, 'This is My Son, in Whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:13-17)

Immediately afterwards, God's Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness expressly to face Satan, His adversary. It is critical to recognize that when Jesus was being tempted to sway over to Satan's kingdom He only quoted the Old Covenant in order to free Himself from *all* enticement. Jesus never used any special influence or abilities that He did not tell others to employ when they ran into similar circumstances.

"Then Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness (in order) to be tempted by the devil and when He had fasted forty days and forty nights; afterward He was hungry.

Now, when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread,' but He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took Him up to the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down, for it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over You.' and 'In their hands they will bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan, for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord, your God and Him only you shall serve.'

Then the devil left Him and, behold, angels came and ministered to Him."
(Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus had the ability to sin and rebel against His Father, if He had wanted to at any time during His 33 years as a Man. How can we know this? If He really lived as a true human being then Jesus could have sinned. If it was impossible for Him to disobey His Father, then why was He lead by the Spirit into the wilderness expressly to see if He would succumb to any trial or temptation? If Jesus of Nazareth did not have the same freewill to disobey God that we do why was He tested? It makes that ordeal a complete waste of valuable time.

If Jesus were not able to sin He should have started His travels forty days earlier--a considerable segment of a mere three year ministry. Remember, He already had been baptized and authorized, so what would be the point of His squandering time in the wild? He came here to teach about God's Kingdom and to heal people, not to play with rocks. God did not send Jesus to this planet only to waste Their efforts. Therefore: (1) God's Son really was a true human being, (2) He really could have sinned, and (3) He had to be fully prepared for what lay ahead. (Which, by the way, made His life even more difficult, as well as extraordinary.)

As much as Satan tried he never could influence Jesus' spirit, soul, or body, even when He was about to starve. Jesus never buckled under any of his tests; even those designed to tempt Him with power, fame, or wealth.

"The ruler of this age is coming but he has nothing in Me." (John 14:30)

The Son--the Exact Likeness of His Father

Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be a perfect image of His Heavenly Father, with the same total love, faith, authority, and power. Jesus never refused to heal a single person who approached Him; nor did He ever tell that individual to come back and ask Him again later. Jesus demonstrated that God did not reach us through physical or mental suffering. He proved this by alleviating any kind of distress in people as soon as possible, even on the Sabbath. He said that the Holy Spirit Who came here after Him would be the Teacher of the Church, not anything else (like affliction).

People do not feel closer to God because of their misery. Often they blame a bad circumstance, other people, or even Him for causing it (as Adam did). The Bible never says that Jesus of Nazareth (or anyone else) learned to have more faith in God from hardship. What it does state though about suffering is that Jesus learned submission to His Father's will from those adversities that He experienced.

"Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." (Hebrews 5:7)

Jesus never was too tired at the moment, or even just plain did not feel like taking the time away from what He really preferred to be doing in order to pause and help a single person no matter who they were. Accordingly, if Jesus is exactly like His Father, and Jesus always wanted to heal people, then God wanted to heal them, too. Since Jesus and the Father never change, They still have to desire the same for us today.

Jesus of Nazareth, through the power of God's anointing from the Holy Spirit, was on-call 24 hours a day. The only things that were necessary for any individual to accept being healed by Him were for that person to come to Jesus, acknowledge His authority, and receive from Him. While He lived like a human being an individual needed to draw near to Him physically. Now, back in Heaven with God the Father in a spiritual body again, Jesus is everywhere and They both are accessible at any given moment through the Holy Spirit.

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me you would have known My Father also.'" (John 14:6-7)

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Helper will not come to you but if I depart I will send Him to you." (John 16:7)

The Scriptures record that Peter, probably the most emotional of Jesus' original twelve intimate followers, was the first of them to have a revelation that He was indeed the long awaited and prophesied about Messiah/Christ--the Savior of His people. Peter had traveled with Him for some time and was close by when He cured multitudes of people from innumerable ailments. Evidently, Peter watched intently and savored these things his heart until he knew indisputably Who Jesus WAS. (Remember though that this man also denied even knowing Him later. Peter was a normal person just like you and me; he was not any more special to God than we are.)

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples,

saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

He said to them, 'But, who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ--the Son of the Living God!'" (Matthew 16:13-16)

When Peter answered he must have almost shouted somewhat in triumph, like most children in a classroom with the right answer to a question. Jesus' direct inquiry clearly caught His disciples completely off guard. The others reasoned among what to tell Him which would not offend, yet also not be too committal just in case they were wrong and He was not Who they hoped. Peter, however, blurted out what his heart already had revealed to him: His Friend, Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Savior that the Hebrews had been awaiting for centuries.

"God, Who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son--Whom He has anointed heir of all things. Through Whom He also made the world, Who, being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His Person...." (Hebrews 1:1-3a)

"I and My Father are One." (John 10:30)

When Jesus stated that He and the Father were One, it was in reference to Their total union in agreement concerning everything. Jesus never, ever, stated that He was His Father; rather, that They always were identical in perpetual accord in how They thought, what They said, and, likewise, what They did or wished. Jesus never ever claimed that He and His Father shared the same body, whether in Heaven or on earth. We can see this quite plainly when Jesus went to be baptized in order to begin His public ministry. All three of the Trinity were present, yet separate in appearance and form.

Obedient until the Completion of His Mission

What must it have been like for God the Father to watch His Only Child grow and develop into manhood aware of what eventually had to happen to Him? Did He ever wanted to change His mind about our value as He saw His only real Son at that time reviled by so many people? That God even allowed Jesus to finish His mission on earth by dying on the cross with its unconditional, unwavering love is almost unimaginable. Likewise, the fact that Jesus completed His Father's work when He really did not want to and had to suppress His personal desires to the point of being a sacrifice for something that He did not deserve is astonishing also. Yet, He did.

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, praying, 'O My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless not as I will but as You will....' Again, a second time He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done....' So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time saying the same words." (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44)

Jesus did not wish to have to endure the pain of the ordeal on the cross; He was not masochistic. Even He asked His Father if there were any other way for Him to accomplish His mission without dying in what was considered to be the most horrific execution at that time. Despite this, Jesus bent His Own will to His Father's, knowing that it was the best course of action. Remember that Jesus never was ill throughout His entire life. Any and all physical agony and suffering that He endured was to get us out of Satan's clutches. And, it only was while He hung on the cross.

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:8)

Jesus acutely was aware of the physical pain that He would have to endure by being nailed to and dying on a cross. He had lived 32-33 years in that society and comprehended the anguish that He either had seen or heard about concerning that method of death. Jesus certainly was capable of understanding misery. He had traveled for around three years in a very public ministry walking around and delivering others from it.

Jesus was no idiot either; He did not want to die in that particular manner. However, evidently He needed to be so insulted and tortured in order to completely satisfy and break the curses of the Law. Still, although Jesus fully understood what pain it would cause Him, He accepted His obligation to be accused of fictional crimes, ridiculed, beaten, tortured, and then nailed to a big wooden cross for *our* sake. Jesus knew what was required of Him--and He did it because He knew the value of God's infinite wisdom over His Own as a human being. Jesus recognized that if His Father, Whom He had served so absolutely faithfully, told Him that this was the only way in which to free mankind from Satan's bondage, then it was the only way.

"Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...." (Hebrews 12:2)

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled said, 'I thirst.' Now, a vessel of sour wine was sitting there and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So, when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' and bowing His head He gave up His spirit." (John 19:28-30)

As He died, Jesus pronounced that He successfully had completed the mission He was born to achieve. He accomplished what the first Adam had been supposed to do. When Jesus died and Satan thought that he finally had defeated God the Father by killing His Son, his triumph was short-lived. For, once he took Jesus into the foundation of his kingdom, probably to gloat, Jesus was fully equipped to obliterate it. Afterward, Satan retained no more power over mankind than whatever we let him deceive us into believing. Additionally, after God raised Jesus from the dead/Dead He went to His followers and instructed them to carry on with the work that He had started, for both God and themselves.

"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you when I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me,' and He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to

rise from the dead/Dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sin should be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:44-47)

"All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you, and Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will (remain) condemned. And, these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents and if they drink anything deadly it will by no means harm them. They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.' So, after the Lord had spoken to them He was received up into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (the Father) and they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord (through the Holy Spirit) working with them and confirming the Word through accompanying signs. Amen." (Mark 16:15-20)

Why does the Bible say that both God and Jesus went to all this trouble for humanity? Love. Complete, never-ending love--a love that has existed, exists, and will exist for all time, a love that never fails. As to how that ties in with the premise of this book--sickness versus health--Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit certainly still have to want us all to be healthy and strong. They want this to become reality for all of us enough for a Father to sacrifice His Only Son in order to attain it. There is no other rational conclusion.

"When we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the unGodly,... but God demonstrates His Own love for us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.... Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world and death/Death through sin, and thus death/Death spread to all men because all sinned....

But, the free gift is not like the offense, for if by one man's offense many died much more the grace of God and the grace of the gift of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.... Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men--resulting in condemnation--even so, through One Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men resulting in justification. For, as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners so also by One Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover, the Law entered that the offense might abound, but where sin abounded grace abounded much more so that as sin reigned through death/Death. Even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life/Life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." (Romans 5:6-2)