

## Chapter 2

Now, the next obvious question: "If God is so all powerful – why doesn't He just step in and straighten it all out?"

Okay – there's something about God we need to keep in mind:

Yes, He is all powerful, but two more of His attributes are:



and



Just understanding these two attributes helps us understand a lot about God.

The universe runs on **justice**. The galaxies operate like clock-work.



The earth's ecosystem is a delicate but thoroughly accurate process.



Justice is a wonderful thing – but with only justice and no mercy – humanity would have perished from his very first mistake.

As we mentioned already, we put ourselves on the wrong side of justice by judging.



On the other hand – with only mercy and no justice – the world would end in chaos!

So, for us, God combined His attributes of justice and mercy.



Because of God's attribute of justice, he will not overstep the authority he has already delegated to us, even if humanity – in the meantime – has virtually handed that authority to Satan.

Also because of God's attribute of justice – God cannot allow sin to stand in His presence. That's what separates man from God.

But God's attribute of mercy couldn't allow this state of affairs to continue. He had to do something about it.



How can we describe this dilemma? Let's use a parable:  
Just imagine a father – or a mother made of fire.



...and a child made of straw.



As much as the parent loves the child – and longs to embrace him – the child can never come even close to the parent.



That would be heartbreaking for the parent.

God has infinitely more love than even a parent has for a child –



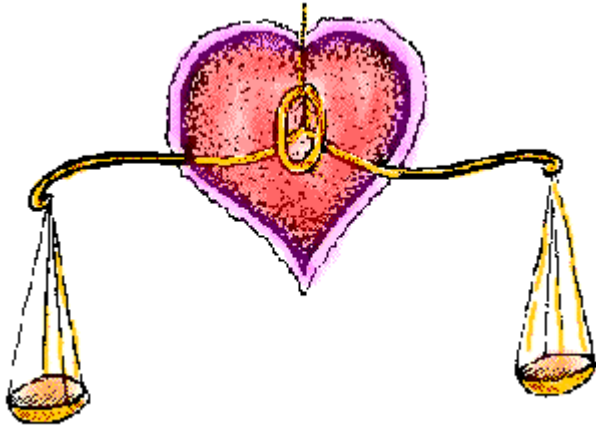
but His holy nature makes him like fire...

...and our condition makes us like straw.



Brief note: When we talk about the fear of God, we don't mean some sort of phobia. It means we understand God's holy nature, and we act according towards Him.

So – God's mercy compelled Him to find a solution whereby the demands of justice would be satisfied ...



...and humanity would be restored to Himself.

The whole Bible is the story of how God's attributes of justice and mercy came together to deliver humanity from sin...



...and thus, restore the Kingdom of God on the earth.

To study this more in depth, surf to:  
<http://tishbyte.fortunecity.co.uk/webschool/fndtnso2.html>

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God's first act of mercy was to make a covenant with humanity. Only a covenant would give God the unquestioned right to interact with us on the earth (it means He has our "permission").

Such a covenant would have to deal with sin by taking the life of a substitute.



God killed two animals and provided a covering for our nakedness.

Death was thus deferred.



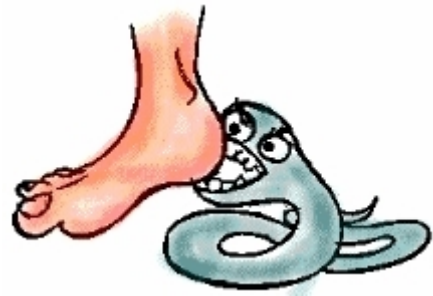
Through covenant based on substitutionary atonement, God was able to interact with humanity and begin to bring about His purpose on the earth.

A covenant must be agreed to by two parties. In this case, there was God's part of the covenant, and our part.

On God's part was the promise that the woman's offspring would deal with the problem of sin and death.



Literally, God said, "The snake (by which He meant Satan) will bruise his heel..."



...but he will crush the snake's head!"

Many other promises of God are included in the covenant – such as the promise that things would go well if we keep his commandments.

Our part of the covenant is to **believe** and **obey**:



**Believe** that God will fulfil His part of the covenant and re-establish His kingdom on the earth, and in God's promises for our everyday life which are written in God's covenant book – the Bible.



And **obey** His commandments:

"Hear oh Israel: The Lord is God, the Lord is **One**. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength."  
(the *Shema*, Deuteronomy 6:4,5)



and,

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself."  
(Leviticus 19:18)



He gave many other commandments as well, but it's been said that these two sum up the whole Torah and the Prophets.

Here are a few more:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt...  
You shall have no other gods before me...  
You shall not make for yourselves a carved image to bow down to them nor serve them...  
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...  
Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy...

Honour your father and your mother...  
You shall not murder...  
You shall not commit adultery...  
You shall not steal...  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour...  
You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's...

Those who believed God – and kept the commandments out of a love and fear of God were able to live in victory over any interference from Satan.



They were protected by the blood of the covenant.



Living in obedience to the covenant while enjoying the benefits was the next best thing to actually living in the Kingdom of God. As such, the people of Israel, with whom God had made the covenant, enjoyed a golden age under the reigns of King David and his successor, King Solomon. The nation prospered during this time beyond

imagination.

Later, as the nation began to decline, God spoke to various people. He revealed more of His plan to them. Some of it had to do with their immediate time, but a lot had to do with the future.



They proclaimed what they heard to others...





...and they wrote it down.  
Their writings are recorded  
in the Bible.



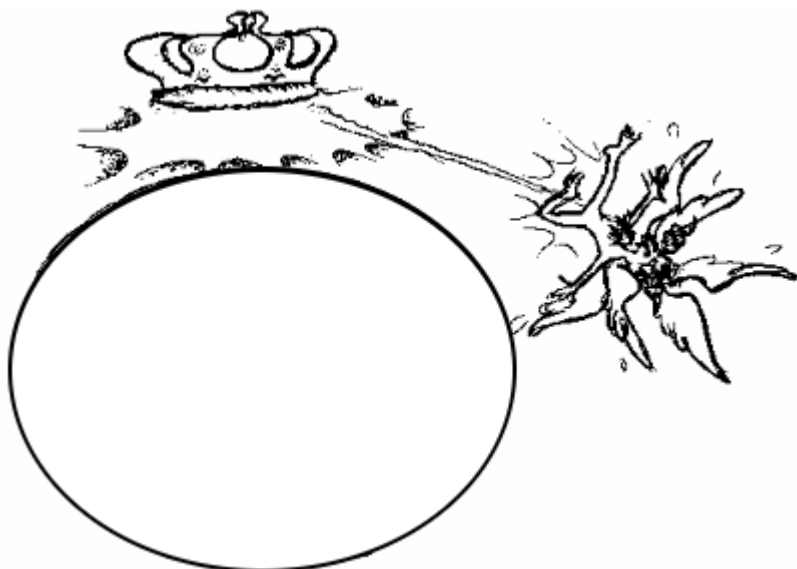
The golden age of King David and King Solomon became the point of reference by which these prophets predicted the coming of a future king, who would re-establish the Kingdom of God.

This specially anointed king (or Messiah) would be born of the royal line of King David;

He would be born in King David's home town of Bethlehem.



God would make a New Covenant with humanity which would decisively deal with our sins. Messiah would bring to an



end Satan's kingdom of evil and restore everything to the way things were intended to be.

Everyone who loved God and read the Bible expected this man to come and deliver them from their hardships.



To study this more in depth, surf to:  
<http://tishbyte fortunecity.co.uk/webschool/fndtns02.html>  
You can learn about the prophecies concerning Messiah at:  
<http://tishbyte fortunecity.co.uk/webschool/fndtns04.html>

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suddenly, one day a man showed up on the scene making a very bold statement. This caught everyone by surprise.



This man began to prove that he was bringing in God's kingdom by starting to tear down Satan's kingdom piece by piece:



He cast out demons



Satan's kingdom was shaken!

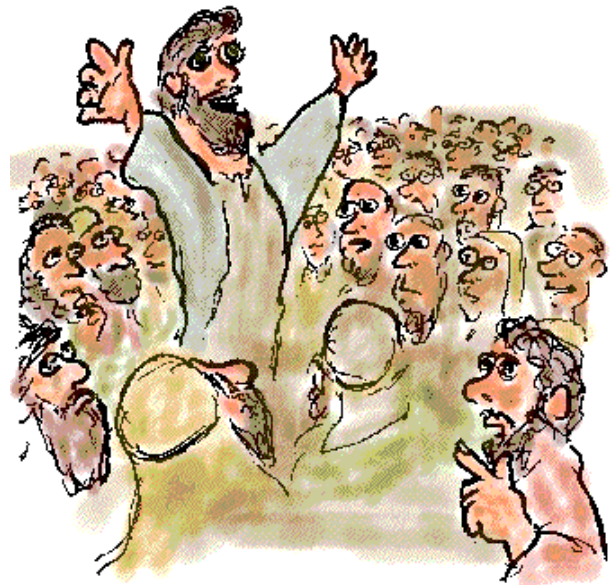
He healed the sick...



He raised the dead...

...and many other things.

Many people came to hear him teach...



...but he was a different kind of teacher than the rest.

The other teachers taught from the book of the covenant – but they always depended on other teachers' interpretations



...but this man was different...



... Some people said:



But others said:



Yet others said:



Who was this man?

Why was Satan so afraid of him?

Why did so many good things happen when he was around?

Why were so many people so upset?

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