

LOST
(Part 2 of 6)

Man would rather believe that the world just evolved by impersonal forces from embryonic (an organism in its early stages of development) beginnings in a primeval sea of chemicals. It is easier to believe this and to change the glory of God into an image made like corruptible man and to birds and four footed beasts and creeping things. It is easy for man to suppress the truth, because they do not want to change their behavior. To admit the existence of a God who created them, would imply moral responsibility to that God, and this they refuse to do. Man refuses to do this because he has rejected the natural or general revelation that has been freely given to him. Therefore, God considers man lost and dead in sin.

Second, man is considered lost and dead because of his rejection of special revelation. Special revelation is the Bible, God's written word. Paul said to young Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16). We refer to the Bible as special revelation, special because, in it God communicates to man in a language that man can understand. He wanted to speak in a language capable of being understood by man. This was the advantage that the Jewish nation had over all other nations. To them were committed the laws of God, but the Jewish nation rejected this special revelation. Paul said to the Church of Rome, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed [put in their trust] the oracles [laws] of God" (Romans 3:1-2). The Jews had the advantage of special revelation; yet, this could not save them because they were unable to keep the law. The law only increased their responsibility and showed them their inability to live up to God's standard.

Israel knew more about God and His revealed law than the ungodly Gentile nations that surrounded her, but she rejected this special revelation (God's law). She broke the law of God at its very inception; she refused to repent under the preaching ministry of the prophets; and in conclusion, she rejected the very Messiah (Jesus) toward whom the Old Testament pointed. If she (Israel) had only investigated special revelation she would have understood that the law of God was designed to lead her to Christ. Concerning the design and intent of special revelation Paul explained it best when he spoke to the Galatians: "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [custodian, instructor] to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster [custodian, instructor]. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as

many of you as have been baptized [Spiritual baptism, which places you into the body of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:13), not water baptism.] into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:21-29).

Today men within Christendom and even throughout the world fall under the same indictment as ancient Israel. The New Testament containing the significance of Christ's work of redemption combined with the Old Testament gives man God's special revelation of Himself and His program for all ages. But what does modern man do? He regards God's special revelation (the Bible) as just another piece of ancient literature, containing primitive religious concepts. He feels that it is not worth wasting his time investigating its teaching. Therefore, man is considered lost and dead because of his rejection of special revelation.

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