

## You've Got God-mail

### *Is God Trying To Tell Us Something? Reading His G-mail – G-mail #4*

**H**ave you ever barricaded yourself inside a prevarication? You know, trapped in a lie? Stewing in your own juice? Dreading the fear factor of dining on crow?

Untruth is an ill-fitting garment, isn't it? It's like taking the batting title, on steroids. Like stylin' like a global peacemaker but raking off millions in "Oil for Food" bribes. Or telling a whopper trying to cover your gambling assets, hoping this fib would throw the *dawgs* off your scent. Or like giving birth, then pretending to find the newborn in a ditch, but accusing the car ahead of tossing "baby Johnny" out the window.

Or as seemingly guileless as whispering to your Valentine that you're the answer to all her dreams... when, you big blowhard, you even flunked the North Dakota tryouts for "ElimiDATE," but landed a guest shot on "Animal Planet" instead.

We've been sifting through the idea of worldviews, and how having one shapes our thoughts, decisions, actions and future. We learned from Jeff Kemp that a worldview encompasses (1) our **Origin** (where everything came from), (2) our **Problem** (why so much evil and suffering), (3) our **Solution** (what's the fix for our dilemma), and (4) our **Purpose** (does life have meaning).

And, just think, you chose this brainiac discussion instead of closing a big sale today in a cold call, over a salmon lunch at Ray's!

As with words, our worldview brings consequences. Thus, we want our worldview to be right, in perfect sync with reality.

Earlier we posed this question: "Let's say you're God, and you have seven essentials that you want mankind to know. What are they?" You waxed creative and came up with some beauts including suggesting that God would say to us, "Have a nice day!"

Perhaps these seven e-messages from God will help us each form, or solidify, our own individual worldview.

### *"You've Got God-mail"*

**(G-mail #1) "I'm here. Accept no substitutes."**

**(G-mail #2) "I made everything, you included."**

**(G-mail #3) "Like it or not, I'm in control."**

As to Origins, God unwraps all He wants us to know about Himself and His plan for us in arguably the finest epic ever, unfolding from Creation to the end of this world as we know it.

The New Testament letter written to Jewish Christ-followers runs down some key planks in the biblical worldview. **Let's read Hebrews 1:1-12 and 3:3-4 (p. 888).**

800 years before this Hebrews letter, one of God's Old Testament prophets spoke of the future coming to earth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, the Jews' Messiah. **Let's read Isaiah 45:18-24 (p. 545).**

**DISCUSSION: God doesn't stutter in declaring, "I'm here. I made it all-including you, and I'm in control." QUESTION: What then is "the main thing" we're to do about that?**

Proving that being "very *religious*" can also mean being "very *misguided*," the 1<sup>st</sup> century Sadducees and Pharisees rabidly hated Jesus, intent on proving themselves right and the "God-right-in-front-of-them" wrong. **Let's read Matthew 22:34-40 (p. 736).**

We all have a worldview choice: we can be theists (believing God exists) or secularists (there's no God, no Intelligent Design, just random accidents). David, the singing shepherd boy who became Israel's second king, wrote many songs about his personal worldview. **Let's read one in Psalm 104:1-35 (p. 450).**

**(G-mail #4) "You're born as a sinner, sentenced to suffer God's wrath. So, Jack, you need a Savior."**

Created in God's image, Adam and Eve began life in paradise, sinless, having a spiritual dimension, in direct, amicable touch with the Lord of the Universe. Their job: raise a family, manage God's creations, and do NOT eat fruit from "the tree of knowledge of good and evil," for that'd bring *DEATH*, a word we would've never heard.

The Bible says: God exists, as does Satan aka Lucifer, the Devil, the Serpent, the Wicked One. Who *is* this hell's angel anyway?

- He (Lucifer) and all the other rebellious angels were **booted** from heaven (Revelation 12:7-12).
- He's a **liar**. **Let's read Genesis 3:1-24 (p. 2).**
- He's an **accuser** (Job 1:6-12; Zechariah 3:1-2).
- He's **disguised** as "an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14).
- He's a **tempter** (Matthew 4:1-11).
- He **rules** all demons (Matthew 12:22-32).

- He's a mind **manipulator**, replacing our thoughts of God's primacy with thoughts of our own importance (Matthew 16:22-23).
- His angels admit Jesus is God and bestow **madness** (Mark 5:1-20).
- He's a life **controller** (Luke 22:1-6).
- He **needs God's OK** to access God's people (Luke 22:31-32)
- He's an **evil influence** (Acts 5:1-11).
- He's the **archterrorist** (1 Corinthians 5:1-5).
- He's **doomed** to destruction by God (Romans 16:19-20).
- He tries to **emulate** God by presenting the ultimate fake Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3:3).
- He **martyrs** Christ's believers (Revelation 2:8-11).
- Those who don't follow Christ are being **misled** by Satan who'll be caged during the 1,000-year millennium. His final, eternal home will be the **lake of fire**. **Let's read Revelation 20:1-15 (p. 921).**

**DISCUSSION:** How do most people regard Satan and sin?

**DISCUSSION:** If God really exists, and so does a literal Satan, as God takes great pains to include in the Bible, what implications does that have for you and me?

**DISCUSSION:** What do you see going on now, or in the past, that could be attributed to Satan?

### **Who Made This Hellacious Mess We're In?**

Knowing that authentic love must be voluntary, not coerced, God wired the universe using this operating system. So, as Jeff Kemp is explaining to us, the heavenly being known as Lucifer, a radiant "angel of light," forfeited his unblemished position of leadership in heaven, out of his runaway pride and thirst for equality with God. He was banished from God's presence to roam the galaxies in exile, sentenced to pay for his arrogance always.

Our forefather's/mother's prideful disobedience tainted the gene pool, so every human is a born sinner, and must face everlasting spiritual death, i.e., never ever being in God's presence in the next life, while being tormented forever in that lake of fire God dug not for us, but for Satan and his ratpack of demons.

**DISCUSSION:** How could life be different if we lived a God-focused instead of a self-focused life?

### **"Is There A Pony At The Bottom Of This Pile?"**

Because of God's "amazing grace," He chose not to leave anyone estranged from Him, stuck with a one-way ticket to hell's canyon. **Let's read this "good news" (2 Corinthians 5:14-21):**

14 Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we've all died to the old life we used to live. 15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they'll live to please Christ who died and was raised for them. ...

17 What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They're not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! 18 All this newness of life is from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God's given us the task of reconciling people to him.

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, *no longer counting people's sins against them.* This is the wonderful message he's given us to tell others. 20 ... We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!" 21 *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

Since we've all drunk Adam and Eve's apple Kool Aid, we've all been invited by God to receive His total and lasting forgiveness for our sins, paid for in full by Christ on the cross. His forgiveness, and your fresh start, merely await your *accepting* it on *faith*, believing God's promise.

Now's really the best time to do it. Just tell God silently: "God, this seems too easy for me, but You went to a lot of trouble for this. Your Son Jesus paid the ultimate price for me. I'm humbled by your gift of love and grace. I am a sinner, and I do need a Savior. And right now I wholeheartedly say 'yes' to You. Thank You for giving me a clean slate. Come into my life and take the wheel. Amen."

His Deal

[www.HisDeal.org](http://www.HisDeal.org)

[george@HisDeal.org](mailto:george@HisDeal.org)

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