

THE  
**BONDAGE  
BREAKER**<sup>®</sup>

DEVOTIONAL

NEIL T. ANDERSON



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## **The Bondage Breaker® Devotional**

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# LIFE

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:12 NASB

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1 NASB). The Hubble Space Telescope enables us to view the extravagance of creation, and what we see is beyond our ability to comprehend. We can only marvel as we stare into space. “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands” (Psalm 19:1 NASB). The universe has supernovas, galaxies, and stars so large that if depicted on a printed page, they would render the earth a tiny dot in comparison. All of this created matter is finite, devoid of life, and did not originate from pre-existing matter. On the other hand, the Creator is living and infinite, the Mind behind the universe. How big is God?

Earth and possibly other planets have organic life in the form of plants, birds, animals, and fish. Such life is all subject to the natural law of death. It perpetuates its species by sowing seeds or by other means for the next generation before it dies. “Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7 NASB). Something new and totally different was introduced into the universe. God shared His divine and eternal life with Adam, who was created in His image and likeness. Adam’s soul was in union with God.

My response to God is:

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# WHO AM I?

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

## PSALM 8:3-4

What is man?" is an ontological question concerning the nature of "being." Five centuries before Christ, Thales of Miletus was asked, "What is the most difficult?" He replied, "To know thyself." Twenty-five centuries later, science is no closer to answering "What is man?" We know far more about the chemical makeup of the body, but that tells us nothing about who we are when absent from the body and present with the Lord. Psychology can describe but cannot unlock the mystery of the *person*. Being a carpenter, engineer, parent, or American citizen defines only what we do and where we live, not who we are. Biology is the study of plants and animals, but none bear the image nor likeness of God. Science cannot answer the most basic of all questions: Who are we, and why are we here?

The only "ology" that can properly explain who we are is theology. We are children of Almighty God, created in His image and likeness. Under God's guidance and enabling presence, we are working out our God-given destiny. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

My response to God is:

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# DEATH

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## ROMANS 6:23 NASB

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually. His soul was no longer in union with God. Death means “to be separate from,” and life means “to be in union with.” Death is the end of a relationship but not existence. Adam remained physically alive because his soul was still in union with his body, but sin had separated him from God. “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Romans 5:12). “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). Every descendent of Adam is born physically alive but spiritually dead.

Before the fall, Adam was accepted, secure, and significant. Who was Adam after the fall? What was his purpose? Adam had no choice but to find his own way in this world, relying on his own strength and natural resources. How could he not feel rejected, insecure, and insignificant? Can we make a name for ourselves and find acceptance, security, and significance by our appearance, performance, and social status? The wise King Solomon tried, and then he concluded that “all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2 NASB). “The wages of sin is death, but...”

My response to God is:

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# KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

**GENESIS 6:5-6**

Adam's sin cost him more than his life. Satan usurped his dominion, and according to Jesus, Satan became "the ruler of this world" (John 14:30). Every archaeological dig of the earliest settlements of humanity reveal pagan worship with animal and human sacrifices. Spiritism was (and still is) the dominant religious orientation in the world. Satan's rule was so pervasive that God was sorry He created mankind.

That may have been the end of human history if Noah hadn't found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The rebirth of humanity through Noah's family didn't fare much better. God had to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt. The Mosaic covenant promised blessings if they kept the law and punishment if they didn't. The fear of punishment can be a deterrent to sin, but it didn't last. So God sent prophets to call the people to repentance, but the prophets were largely ignored and even stoned for their efforts.

The kingdom of darkness will rule over those whose "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick" (Jeremiah 17:9). But God said, "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you" (Ezekiel 36:26).

My response to God is:

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# A NEW COVENANT

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people...For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

**JEREMIAH 31:33-34**

Paul said “all who rely on works of the law are under a curse” (Galatians 3:10). Not only are we cursed living under the law, but the law has the capacity to stimulate the desire to do that which it intended to prohibit (Romans 7:5). Tell a child he can’t go *there*, and the moment you say it, *there* is where he wants to go. God said Adam could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden but that one! “Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law” (Galatians 3:21).

The New Covenant is grace based. The law is within us, and the sin that separated us from God is forgiven. The Ten Commandments become promises of hope. Those who repent and live by faith under the covenant of grace will have no other gods before them, and they will not steal, commit adultery, or dishonor their parents.

My response to God is:

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# THE GOSPEL

You who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

## COLOSSIANS 2:13-15

The Old Testament reads like a tragedy of epic proportions. “The whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19), and every inhabitant is spiritually dead. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son” (Galatians 4:4). The last words of Jesus on the cross were “It is finished” (John 19:30). To be finished, He had to accomplish three tasks.

First, “the death he died he died to sin, once for all” (Romans 6:10).

Second, Jesus was resurrected so that we may have new life in Him. What Adam and Eve lost in the fall was life, and Jesus said, “I came that [anyone] may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

Third, “the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14). Satan and his demons are disarmed.

My response to God is:

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