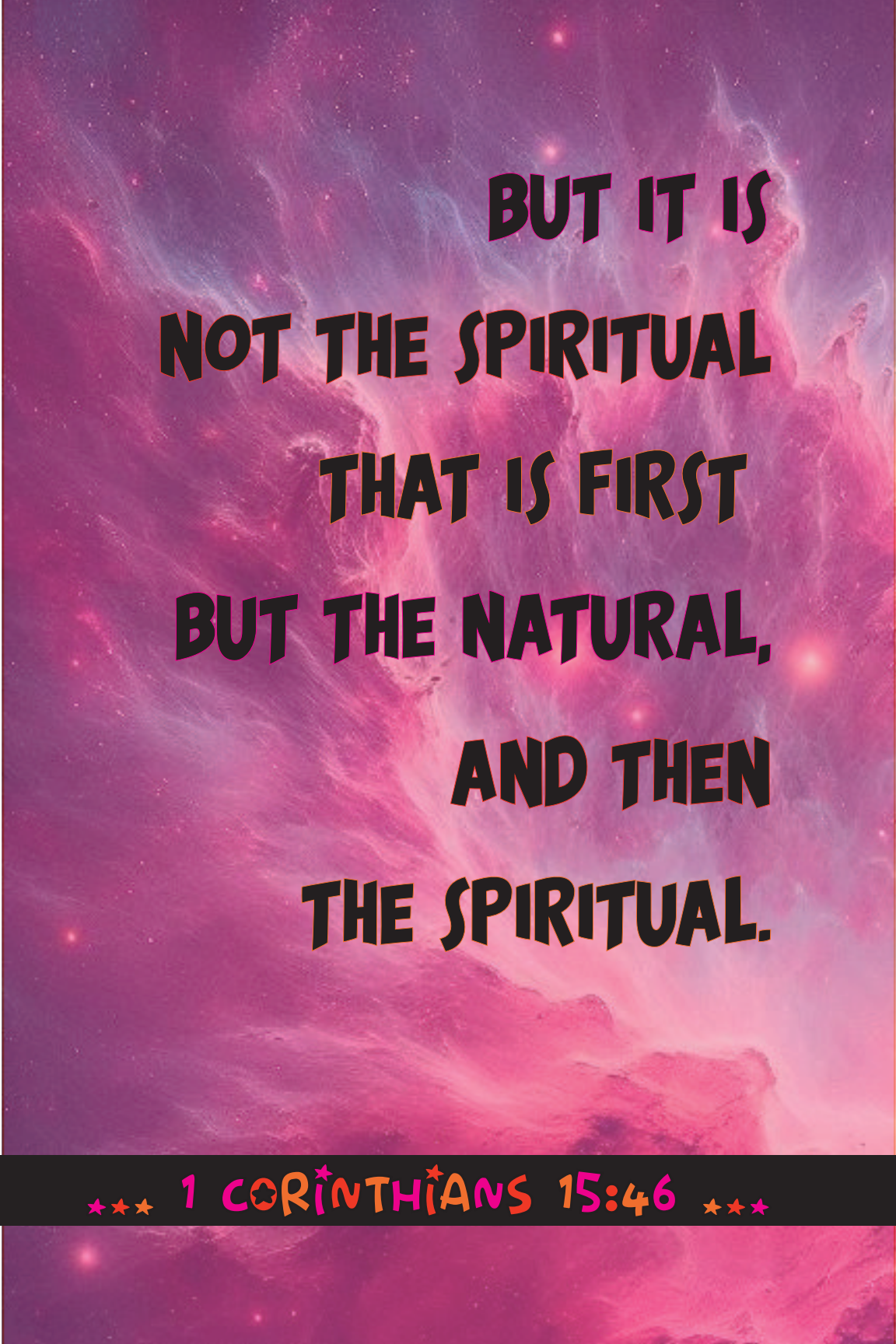


The first man was from the earth, a man of dust:
the second man is from heaven.

PLAN B



A Topical Bible Study on #2
gamez family



**BUT IT IS
NOT THE SPIRITUAL
THAT IS FIRST
BUT THE NATURAL,
AND THEN
THE SPIRITUAL.**

*** 1 CORINTHIANS 15:46 ***

Passion & Patience

Which brother are YOU?

which master do you serve?

*Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.
- Ecclesiastes 11:1*

Society treasures first things. Any investor will tell you a penny now is better than a dollar tomorrow. Our first try is our surest, our first impression is the most important, and we always live in the here and now! "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may."

But have you ever noticed God's providence comes through the second things? Wait on the Lord! He is the God of second chances & future promises. 🎵 For greater things have yet to come!

Learning from the Classics...

In Pilgrim's Progress, Christian meets Passion who wants his wealth now & his younger brother Patience who is willing to wait.

Who fairs better?

Patience.

"For first must give place to last, because last must have his time to come, but last gives place to nothing, for there is not another to succeed."

As you read the stories of the unjust steward, the Pharisees' reaction, and the rich man & Lazarus, consider this first world & the coming second world.

**READ:
LUKE 16**

THINK & CHAT!

HOW DO YOU VIEW SECOND THINGS?

LUKE 16:1-13

The unjust steward is managing wealth to chase financial security and fleeting reputation in this world. How can we invest towards divine purposes & eternal rewards?

Can you serve God & mammon?
Do they have any overlap?

LUKE 16:19-31

How did Lazarus view worldly things?

What was the rich man's sin?

Abraham was a legendarily rich man in life, so much so that the land could not support both him and his nephew's wealth. How can he talk about the rich man this way, saying, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things?"

Are Moses and the Prophets sufficient for convicting us to prepare for the next world?

LUKE 16:14-18

Why did the Pharisees take offense at the unjust steward?
How do riches & rewards appear in the Law and Prophets vs. John the Baptist's herald of the Kingdom of Heaven?

How does a point-blank equation of remarrying after divorce to adultery challenge a self-serving approach to the Law in this world?



1 TIMOTHY 6:17-20

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.

MALACHI 3:13-15

“Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

PROVERBS 11:4

“Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

James 1:22 says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves," so you gotta do it! After all, if Moses and the Prophets aren't enough for you, what more could Lazarus from the dead tell you?

Live it!

Another Seed Instead of Abel

...Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a
better word than the blood of Abel.

- HEBREWS 12:24

**EVE'S FIRST HOPES WERE DASHED
AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT THE LORD
GOD NEVER FAILED HER.**

Though sin left her with the curse of pain in childbearing, she

rejoiced in the Lord's help during Cain's birth. Could this be her promised seed to bruise the serpent's head? Tragically, any hope she placed in Cain or his brother Abel would fall flat after the temptation of sin leads to murder.

BUT OUR GOD TURNS EVIL TO GOOD!

Abel's spilled blood cried out to God from the ground, and He appointed another seed instead of Abel - one whose spilled blood would become a new covenant.

**GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING!
WAIT ON THE LORD.**

As you read the story of Cain and Abel, consider the differences between the pairs:

Cain & Abel, Abel & Seth, and
Abel & Jesus.

**READ:
Genesis 4**

THINK & CHAT!

BLOOD CALLING FOR BLOOD!

WHY DID GOD NOT BEGIN THE LINE OF CHRIST THROUGH RIGHTEOUS ABEL? WHY DELAY UNTIL SETH'S BIRTH?

**GENESIS 4:3-5
& HEBREWS 11:4**

HOW DID CAIN & ABEL'S OFFERINGS DIFFER?



GENESIS 4:17-24

ADAM & EVE WATCHED SIN PROGRESS IN THE WORLD AFTER TAKING ONE SON & EXILING THE OTHER.

DOES YOUR FAITH FALTER WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE GOD MOVING?

GENESIS 4:10-11

DOES BLOOD SPEAK?

WHAT IS ABEL'S BLOOD SAYING?

HEBREWS 9:11-28

WHAT DOES JESUS' BLOOD SAY?

MATTHEW 23:34-35

“ Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

GENESIS 50:20

“ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

LEVITICUS 17:11-14

“ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood. “Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life.

DON'T TAKE JESUS' BLOOD FOR GRANTED!

Hebrews 10:26-31 stresses that deliberately sinning profanes the blood of the covenant & outrages the Spirit of grace. Instead draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith!



LITTLE SISTER

←-CONSECRATING A NEW PEOPLE

Moses encountered 1 אָמ וְחַד 1 אָמ and delivered His law which would define the identity of the children of Israel. Their father Abraham was promised to be a blessing to all families of the earth, though, not just Israel. How can Gentiles be justified when they are strangers to the law, covenants of promise, scriptures, & divine revelations?



The same way Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses, and the great cloud of witnesses were commended: **faith!**

They died before they received the promise of a better country. They merely greeted it from afar and acknowledged they were strangers & exiles on the earth, while God was preparing a city for them in the next world all along. And it's open for everyone with faith like Abraham!

BUILDING A NEW TEMPLE->

We have a little sister,

and she has **no breasts**.

What shall we do for our sister

on the day when she is spoken for?

If she is a wall,

we will build on her a battlement of silver,

but if she is a door,

we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

- SONG OF SOLOMON 8:8



READ: GALATIANS 3

As you read Paul's letter, consider marriage to the Law vs. marriage to Jesus.

THINK n CHAT

Paul wrote to the church of Galatians to challenge the false doctrine arising out of infiltrators who insisted Gentile converts must observe Jewish law, especially circumcision.

Paul's message was received through a revelation of Jesus Christ, not a man's gospel, so he speaks with authority.

EXODUS 19:5-6

Did the children of Israel obey God's voice & keep His covenant?

galatians 2:15-21
& romans 7:1-6
& ephesians 2:11-22

Why can't the Law justify any of us?

How do you die to the Law?

romans 7:7-25

What did the Law teach us until Christ came?

ephesians 4:17-32

The sign of the Law might be circumcision, but what is the sign of faith?

Should we follow the practice of circumcision?



GALATIANS 6:12-17

It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

ROMANS 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

JOHN 10:16

"...And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ..."

1 CORINTHIANS 6:16-19

” For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

LIVE IN FREEDOM

As in **1 Corinthians 12-13**, We are the same body, partakers of the same promise, and are made to drink of the same Spirit.

And **Ephesians 2-3** says there is no Israel & Gentile - we are one man in place of two, reconciled through the cross. We are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit, just as our older sister hoped for.

So pray for those still in bondage and use your spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ. And above all, abound in love for God & your neighbors.



The Second Adam

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust,
we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

– 1 Corinthians 15:49

When God saw the man He had made, he was very good. Before long, however, Adam's disobedience brought a curse to the ground, and death entered the world. But God didn't leave Adam without hope - He dropped a hint at an offspring after Adam who would conquer the serpent.

Over generations, prophets painted a clearer image of who this offspring would be.

- Psalm 2:7 (Hebrews 1:5) calls Him God's begotten son.
- Psalm 110:1 (Matthew 22:41-45) describes Him with mysterious wording, "Jehovah says to my Adonai: 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'" Later in verse 4 (Hebrews 5:5-6), David calls Him priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
- Isaiah 42:1-6 (Matthew 12:15-21) says He will be a light for all nations and establish justice in the earth.
- Isaiah 25:8 says He will swallow up death forever, and Hosea 13:14 asks death, "Where is your sting?" Paul attributes both to Jesus' victory in 1 Corinthians 15:55-56.

It becomes clear this Offspring would be the Son of God, come to save all nations and defeat death forever. The more closely we draw near to this Second Adam, the more certain our faith will become!

As you read, consider the dual quality of the cosmology represented in Adam & Christ: death & resurrection, earth & heaven, natural & spiritual, living & life-giving, weakness & power, law & freedom.

Read:

1 Corinthians 15

Think & Chat!

What is the relationship between earth & heaven?

1 Cor 15:35-49

Is resurrection not a future marvel but a mundane daily occurrence? Is the same divine power at work with perennial crops?

Will the natural be replaced by the spiritual? What form will our resurrection bodies take?

1 Cor 15:58

How does a steadfast & immovable belief in the resurrection change your day-to-day life?

What kind of work should we abound in, knowing this life will soon be replaced with an imperishable one?

1 Cor 15:50-55

Do you have to die to receive this resurrection body? What of those alive at the last trumpet? Enoch & Elijah?

How does our Lord Jesus Christ give us victory over the law, the power of sin? What does "power of sin" mean?



John 11:25-26

”” Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die..."

John 5:25-29

”” “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

John 3:3-8

”” Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Ephesians 1:7-10

”” In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

What will the *new heaven* & *new earth* be like?

Like [1 Corinthians 15:35-49](#)'s description of our resurrection bodies. [Isaiah 65:17-25](#) & [Revelation 21-22](#) are full of spiritual mystery surrounding the new heaven & new earth. Some things, we just aren't meant to fully understand yet! Temper all your investigation, pondering, and elaborate man-made charts & theological systems with some [1 Corinthians 13](#):

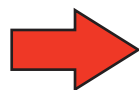
...And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

The Law asks so much of us. (Just ask Adam, who was only given one!) And the mysteries are so numerous, and there are so many spiritual gifts and good works to strive after. No one but our New Adam can fulfill the requirements, bear our curse, defeat death, and go sit at the right-hand of God.

All of those are great things, though! So what earthly pursuits are lasting?

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



1 **Corinthians 14** more specifically addresses what we should do then with our understanding of spiritual mysteries and other spiritual gifts we desire, though they exist dimly for only the short breath of our lives:

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Building each other up is not so different from using your gifts to love each other. Maybe it's not easy, but it is simple! So simple Jesus summed up stacks of law books with a simple command: **love**.

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

It's not to say don't dig deep & study, but never lose sight of the passionate love and resurrection power of Jesus. We are called to abandon ourselves, the world, and everything we used to value and live to love our Lord God and those around us. The gospel isn't so complicated after all!

After all, it's how our loving & gracious God Himself lives. Let's conclude on **John 3:16-21**.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."



A Topical Bible Study on #2



Thus it is written:

"The first man Adam became a living being";
the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

But it is not the spiritual that is first but
the natural, and then the spiritual.

The first man was from the earth, a man of
dust; the second man is from heaven. As was
the man of dust, so also are those who are of
the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also
are those who are of heaven. Just as we have
borne the image of the man of dust,

We shall also bear the
image of the man of heaven.