

Daniel Perrin – L2: The Genesis Foundation – Monday, April 7: Understanding God's Love

1. "God IS Love"
 - a. **1 John 4:7-8** –
 - b. **1 John 4:16** – *God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*
 - IS = Perpetually / Before Creation / After Creation / Into Eternity
 - c. **Patriarchs and Prophets, opening words of ch. 1** – *God is love.* [1 John 4:16](#). *His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. "The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity," whose "ways are everlasting," changeth not. With Him "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." [Isaiah 57:15](#); [Habakkuk 3:6](#); [James 1:17](#). Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love.*
 - d. **Great Controversy pg. 678** – *The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.*
2. **SO ... Love Motivates ALL prophecy** – Stands BEHIND as the driving force
 - a. WHY did God communicate to us in symbols?
 - b. WHY are the symbols sometimes confusing?
 - c. WHY did God inspire the writing of prophecy that would be difficult?
 - ANSWER: Because He IS LOVE! — Because He loves You!
 - d. WHY did God give Bible prophecy at all?!?
 - BECAUSE ... He loves you
 - e. WHY did God use Hebrew symbols, knowing that the Hebrew nation would not continue to be the vehicle by which divine truth would be presented to the world?
 - BECAUSE ... He loves us.
 - f. WHY are there 7 seals / 4 horses / 7 trumpets / 7 plagues
 - ALL for love. NOT human love. God's love — That doesn't change.
 - g. As soon as we ascribe any other purpose or motivation, we will arrive at a wrong conclusion as to the purpose of Bible prophecy
 - YES, we can flesh out HOW those things demonstrate God's love, but the underlying foundation is Love
3. Every human expression of the word "love" will be inadequate
4. First mention of the word "Love" in the Bible.
 - a. First appearance of a word or concept (BY DIVINE INSPIRATION) establishes a framework for Biblical understanding ALL THROUGH God's Word
 - NOT in the Garden of Eden (perfect love between man and God — Neither is it at the first marriage)
 - b. You might expect that IF God IS love — something would be SAID about it in ch.1/vs.1
 - God operates a lot by demonstration and inspiration
 - Telling isn't going to get it through to you — Let me *SHOW* you:
 - c. SO, God's love is DEMONSTRATED in creation — everything provided for / planned perfectly / intricately / no detail overlooked
 - God's love is on display in the Sacrifice for sin that is implied in the garments of skin (Genesis 3:21).
 - d. THEN, the *WORD* finally shows up at *just the right time*
 - When it is illustrated in such a way as to require no explanation
 - It's one thing to learn about something with words / It's entirely different to learn by experience
 - Particularly an emotional / major / crisis Experience
 - e. Genesis 22 — ALMOST 2,000 years of human history in the PREVIOUS 21 chapters

5. You know the story of Genesis 22, how God called Abraham to sacrifice his Only ... Begotten ... Son
 - a. Abraham (AND ISAAC) were participating in an acted out drama of the sacrifice of the Son of God
 - *THEY* were acting it out in faith: step ... by ... step
 - b. But the word “love” is not used in the context of how much *GOD* loves *US*. Here it is:
 - **Genesis 22:1–2** – *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”² Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”*
 - c. Love is first described in human language in this relationship: Father and Son (FATHER to SON)
 - “YOUR SON”: Abraham could claim God meant his servant “Eliezer.” After all, in **Genesis 15:2**, when Abram was still childless, he had adopted Eliezer to be the heir of his household.
 - BUT God said, YOUR ONLY SON: Abraham could claim that God meant (WHO?) — Ishmael
 - God then names ISAAC ... BY NAME.
 - d. We would think that there is no way around naming Isaac by name.
 - BUT God went a step further , taking away ALL DOUBT
 - “WHOM YOU LOVE” — this detail, reaching INTO Abraham’s heart, identifies the one God chose beyond a shadow of doubt
 - e. It wasn’t just about the right name — To illustrate the love of the HEAVENLY Father, Abraham (the Father) had to give his son (WHO HE LOVED)
6. Love doesn’t originate in person to person
 - a. It starts with Love from the Father to the Son
 - b. THEN: God loves US enough to GIVE Who He loves!
7. This takes us to the First Use of the word “Love” in the gospel of John – **3:16**
 - a. Repeat it with me right now wherever you are in the King James Version: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - These words of Jesus are the gospel — God ... so ... loved ... the world ... that ... He ... gave
 - b. The last paragraph of the lesson describes the beautiful connection between Genesis 22 and John 3:16 where Jesus seems to be pointing Nicodemus BACK to Abraham and Isaac as He describes God’s love
 - God gives HIS only begotten son / Abraham gave HIS only begotten son
 - Abraham (through faith) received isaac back from the dead (**Hebrews 11:19**) / God’s Son (Jesus) was raised from the dead — promising power over sin.
8. This is Love: The giving of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for sin
 - a. A gift of immeasurable value BECAUSE He is the One the Father loves
 - b. THIS is the Love that Stands behind all prophecy
 - c. BUILT on the Sacrifice of Jesus ... which IS the Love of God — God IS Love
 - d. SO, you can say it this way: God could NOT give Bible prophecy WITHOUT giving His Son
 - There would be nothing to prophesy
 - There would be no foundation